

IMPACT

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A Weekly Publication of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Ekklesia Containing Life-Changing Sunday School Lessons and BMA's Preaching Materials

Our Memory Verse

“And the people blessed all the men, that willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.”

—Nehemiah 11:2—



STRAIGHT FROM THE BELOVED PASTOR'S HEART

NEHEMIAH THE BUILDER

LESSON NO. 11 THE STEWARDSHIP OF NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 11

The word **stewardship** according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary means “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” In 1 Peter 4:10, the word **steward** is rendered as one who dispenses his gifts and possessions (material and spiritual) to minister to others especially to those in the household of faith. In this chapter, we see Nehemiah taking the role of a responsible and careful chief steward of Israel’s spiritual, political, economic and social life.

When a believer decides to commit and give his life to the Lord and His service, he understands that God is now the One in charge and in control of his life (1 Cor. 6:19-20). He no longer lives for his own but for God and others. And this is the kind of life Nehemiah had pursued and attained to gain.

1. He gave his life and all to the Lord to build not just the walls of Jerusalem but the entire city as a whole (v.1).
2. He led a rag-tag but committed men to build the walls (vv.2-36).
3. He took with patience and firmness the mockeries, insults and even threats of those who opposed him and his leadership. He believed that God was the one who put him there and he just needed to focus on his task (4:1-6). God will take care of all his critics.
4. He generously gave his resources and led the people

to do the same (10:32-37; 12:44).

5. He finished the walls and gave God all the glory (12:27).
6. He distributed the whole city to the people who built the walls and appointed leaders as the city’s stewards (11:2-36).
7. He made a census of the people and assigned them to important responsibilities (11:16-17; 7:2).

CONCLUSION

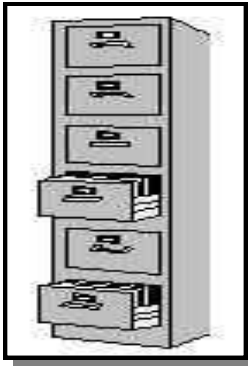
What is required of us as God’s stewards? The Lord would like us to grow and become established cheerful givers and faithful stewards of all the various gifts, talents, abilities and capacities He entrusted to our care that we may be able to minister to His people and meet the needs of our growing and expanding ministries (1 Cor. 4:1-2; 1 Peter 4:10).

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 King James Version (KJV)

*4 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.
2 Moreover it is required in stewards,
that a man be found faithful.*

1 Peter 4:10 King James Version (KJV)

*10 As every man hath received the gift,
even so minister the same one to another,*



The BMA

Dr. Benny M. Abante's
PREACHING MATERIALS

**NOTHING SHALL OUR MOUTH SPEAK
BUT THE BLESSING OF THE WORD
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.**



**THROUGH THE BIBLE
IN A YEAR**

CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:

MARCH 21	JOHN 15:1-13
MARCH 22	2 PETER 3:10-18
MARCH 23	JEREMIAH 6:13-20
MARCH 24	LUKE 9:1-6
MARCH 25	PHIL 4:6-9
MARCH 26	JOB 38:1-11
MARCH 27	PSALM 121

To memorize one (1) verse in every chapter, tokens shall be awarded to those who can recite all memory verses after

Contd. from p. 1

NEHEMIAH

By Chuck Swindoll

Who wrote the book?

Jewish tradition identifies Nehemiah himself as the primary author of this historical book. Much of the book is written from his first-person perspective. Nothing is known about his youth or background; we meet him as an adult serving in the Persian royal court as the personal cupbearer to King Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 1:11-2:1). This prestigious position reveals something of Nehemiah's upright character. Though he remained in Persia after the exiles had been allowed to go home, he was highly interested in the state of affairs in Judah (his brother Hanani [1:2] had returned there earlier). The book of Nehemiah could be read as a sequel to the book of Ezra, and some scholars believe the two were originally one work. It is possible that Ezra compiled Nehemiah's original accounts with other material to create the book of Nehemiah. However, most scholars believe the book was written by Nehemiah.

Where are we?

The book of Nehemiah opens in the Persian city of Susa in the year 444 BC. Later that year, Nehemiah traveled to Israel, leading the third of three returns by the Jewish people following their seventy years of exile in Babylon. (The previous chapter on Ezra describes the earlier two returns.) Most of the book centers on events in Jerusalem. The narrative concludes around the year 430 BC, and scholars believe the book was written shortly thereafter. Nehemiah is the last historical book of the Old Testament. Although the book of Esther appears after Nehemiah in the canon, the events in Esther occurred in the time period between Ezra 6 and 7, between the first and second returns of the people

to Israel. The prophet Malachi was a contemporary of Nehemiah.

Why is Nehemiah so important?

Nehemiah was a layman, not a priest like Ezra nor a prophet like Malachi. He served the Persian king in a secular position before leading a group of Jews to Jerusalem in order to rebuild the city walls. "Nehemiah's expertise in the king's court equipped him adequately for the political and physical reconstruction necessary for the remnant to survive."¹ Under Nehemiah's leadership, the Jews withstood opposition and came together to accomplish their goal. Nehemiah led by example, giving up a respected position in a palace for hard labor in a politically insignificant district. He partnered with Ezra, who also appears in this book, to solidify the political and spiritual foundations of the people. Nehemiah's humility before God (see his moving intercessory prayers in chapters 1 and 9) provided an example for the people. He did not claim glory for himself but always gave God the credit for his successes.

What's the big idea?

Nehemiah recorded the reconstruction of the wall of Jerusalem, Judah's capital city. Together, he and Ezra, who led the spiritual revival of the people, directed the political and religious restoration of the Jews in their homeland after the Babylonian captivity. Nehemiah's life provides a fine study on leadership. He overcame opposition from outsiders as well as internal turmoil. He exercised his administrative skills in his strategy to use half the people for building while the other half kept watch for the Samaritans who, under Sanballat, threatened attack (Nehemiah 4-7). As governor, Nehemiah negotiated peace among the Jews who were unhappy with Persian taxes. He