



The Book of Nehemiah

Session 1: Introduction

Prepare for Discussion on May 27

We can't jump into Nehemiah without reminding ourselves of who these people are whom Nehemiah leads in rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem.

1. Use the verses below to describe the history/identity of these people:

- Genesis 12:1-7 (to Abraham) • Exodus 19:3-6 (to Moses)
- 2 Samuel 7:12-16 (to David) • 1 Kings 9:1-9 (to Solomon)

God called out this people, multiplied them, redeemed them from slavery in Egypt, gave them His law, and made them a great kingdom in the promised land. Yet in Nehemiah we find they've fallen very far.

2. Review the Northern Kingdom of Israel's fall in 2 Kings 17:5-15 and the Southern Kingdom of Judah's fall in 2 Chronicles 36:11-21. How would you sum up what led to these kingdoms being destroyed?

God promised to use His people to bless all the nations of the world.

3. Look through Isaiah 44:24-45:7 and Jeremiah 25:11-12. What parts of God's plan are revealed in these verses?

Now we're ready to see Ezra and Nehemiah in context. From a human perspective, at this period of history a Persian king frees the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem. In fact, history shows us that Cyrus permitted many captured peoples to return to their own homelands.

4. Read 2 Chronicles 36:20-23 and Ezra 1:1-5. From the larger perspective of God's plan, what is happening here?

5. As you've moved through this introduction of Nehemiah, what stands out to you about God? What difference will this make in your life this week as you focus your thoughts on Him?