



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## Old Testament Survey

### Lesson 41 – Nehemiah, the King’s Cupbearer, and Malachi, the Last Prophet (Nehemiah, Malachi)

#### Nehemiah, the Cupbearer of Artaxerxes I

Twelve years after Artaxerxes I (465-424 BC) gave Ezra permission by to lead a group of Jews to Jerusalem and instruct them in God’s Law, Artaxerxes’ cupbearer, Nehemiah, also received permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city. Thus, Ezra and Nehemiah lived at the same time and worked together. Ezra was the spiritual leader and teacher of the people. Nehemiah was the governor appointed to direct the rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls and to protect the people from their enemies. Ezra returned to Jerusalem in 458 BC. Nehemiah returned in 446 BC

Read all the chapters of Nehemiah. As you read, notice how often Nehemiah turns to God in prayer for help and guidance. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

#### Chapter 1 – Nehemiah Hears Bad News from Jerusalem and Prays to God

Nehemiah’s brother Hanani tells him about the sad conditions in Jerusalem (vv: 1-3).

**“The survivors...are there in great distress... The wall of Jerusalem is broken down”** (v. \_\_\_)

Nehemiah confesses the sins of the people and prays to God for help (vv. 4-11).

**“Let Your servant prosper this day...and grant him mercy in the sight of this man”** (v. \_\_\_)

**“For I was the king’s cupbearer”** (v. \_\_\_)

#### Chapter 2 – Artaxerxes I Permits Nehemiah to Go to Jerusalem in 445 BC

Artaxerxes I sees Nehemiah’s sadness and permits him to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls and gates (vv. 1-8).

Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem; Sanballat and Tobiah, the enemies, are grieved (vv. 9-11).

Nehemiah inspects the walls of Jerusalem by night (vv. 12-16).

Nehemiah resolves to build the walls of Jerusalem despite opposition (vv. 17-20).

Nehemiah: **“Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem”** (v. \_\_\_)

**“They (Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem) laughed at us and despised us”** (v. \_\_\_)

#### Chapter 3 – The List of the Builders and What They Did

Note the names of the gates of the city: the Sheep Gate, the Fish Gate, the Old Gate, the Valley Gate, the Refuse Gate, the Fountain Gate, the Water Gate, the Horse Gate, the East Gate, and the Miphkad Gate. All these gates and the walls and towers between them were repaired.

#### Chapter 4 – The Building Continues Despite the Opposition

Sanballat and Tobiah make fun of the building (vv. 1-3).

**“If even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall”** (v. \_\_\_)

Nehemiah prays and builds with the people (vv. 4-6).

**“The people had a mind to work”** (v. \_\_\_)

Sanballat and his allies try to stop the Jews by force (vv. 7-12).

Nehemiah supplies his builders with weapons, and so the enemy plot fails (vv. 13-15).

Some Jews hold weapons; others build with weapons in one hand (vv. 16-23).

**"Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

#### Chapter 5 – Trouble among the Jews: the Oppression of the Poor by the Rich

The poor Jews complain that the rich Jews are making slaves of them (vv. 1-5).

Nehemiah rebukes the unjust moneylenders, and they promise to restore what they have taken (vv. 6-13).

Nehemiah: **"Please, let us stop this usury!"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Nehemiah himself sets a good example by acting unselfishly (vv. 14-19).

#### Chapter 6 – The Building Is Completed Despite Continuing Opposition

Sanballat and his allies try to trap Nehemiah and accuse him of rebellion (vv. 1-9).

Sanballat: **"You and the Jews plan to rebel... You are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Nehemiah: **"No such things as you say are being done"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Sanballat hires a false prophet to frighten Nehemiah (vv. 10-14).

Nehemiah finishes the wall in 52 days (vv. 15-19).

**"They (the enemies) perceived that this work was done by our God"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

#### Chapter 7 – Officers Are Appointed and the List of Returned Jews Is Found

#### Chapter 8 – Ezra Reads the Law and the People Dwell in Booths in the Seventh Month

Ezra reads the Law and others help him explain it to the people (vv. 1-8).

**"They gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Nehemiah proclaims that day to be a day of holy joy to the LORD (vv. 9-12).

The Jews dwell in booths, as the Law commanded (vv. 13-18). They had not done this for a long time.

#### Chapter 9 – The Great Day of Fasting, Prayer, and Confession

The people come together to fast and pray and worship (vv. 1-3).

The Levites confess the sins of Israel's history (4-37).

Creation (vv. 5-6)

Abraham (vv. 7-8)

Moses (vv. 9-22)

Joshua (vv. 23-25)

Afterwards (vv. 26-37)

**"You have dealt faithfully, but we have done wickedly"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

The people renew their covenant with God (vv. 38).

#### Chapter 10 – The People Sign the Renewal of the Covenant

#### Chapter 11 – A List of the People Dwelling in Jerusalem and Judea

#### Chapter 12 – A List of Priests and Levites and the Dedication of Jerusalem's Walls

Two large thanksgiving choirs were appointed, one to go one way, the other to go the other way.

**"They offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

### Chapter 13 – Nehemiah's Second Trip to Jerusalem after 433 BC

The Jews separate all the mixed people from themselves (vv. 1-3).

After 433 BC Nehemiah puts a stop to various illegal practices:  
the non-payment of tithes and dues to the Levites (vv. 4-14);  
the profaning of the Sabbath by work (vv. 15-22);  
the marrying of heathen wives (vv. 23-31).

**"Eliashib the priest...was allied with Tobiah"** (v. \_\_\_)

**"I threw all the household goods of Tobiah out of the room"** (v. \_\_\_)

Three times Nehemiah says: **"Remember me, O my God"** (v. \_\_\_\_\_)

### Malachi, the Last of God's Old Testament Prophets

The prophet Malachi rebuked the same type of sins as Nehemiah, so it is evident that Malachi and Nehemiah lived at the same time (445-420 BC). God did not speak through any other prophet after Malachi until the days of John the Baptist. After Malachi there was the silent period of waiting for the Messiah – the Messenger (Angel) of the Covenant – of whom Malachi said: **"The Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant,"** and: **"The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings."**

Read all the chapters of Malachi. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

### Chapter 1 – The Ingratitude of God's People to Their Loving LORD

The LORD has shown His great love to Israel (vv. 1-5).

The people dishonor God by giving Him the leftovers as offerings (vv. 6-8).

The Gentiles will one day glorify the name the Jews despise (vv. 9-14).

**"My name shall be great among the nations"** (v. \_\_\_)

### Chapter 2 – The Corrupt Priesthood and the Sins of Intermarriage

Malachi rebukes the corrupt priests (vv. 1-9).

Malachi rebukes the Jews for their marriages with heathen wives (vv. 10-12).

Malachi rebukes the Jews for divorcing the wives of their youth (vv. 13-17).

### Chapter 3 – Malachi's Prophecies of the Coming of the Messiah

Two messengers will come: one to prepare the way, the other will be the Angel of the Covenant (v. 1).

The Angel of the covenant, or the Angel of the LORD, is **JESUS** Himself.

The Messiah will come as Redeemer, Sanctifier, and Judge of His people (vv. 2-6).

**"I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed"** (v. \_\_\_)

Malachi calls on the people to repent of their robbing of God (vv. 7-12).

Malachi calls on the people to repent of their false religious attitude (vv. 13-18).

### Chapter 4 – God Promises Judgment, Healing, and to send John the Baptist

**"All the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble"** (v. \_\_\_)

**"I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great...day of the LORD"** (v. \_\_\_)

## Questions

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1. Why was Nehemiah afraid when King Artaxerxes noticed his sadness?
2. What did Nehemiah determine to do after he inspected the city of Jerusalem?
3. How did the enemies of the Jews try to hinder Nehemiah's project?
4. Give several examples of Nehemiah's prayers that are recorded in his book.
5. List in order the events in Israelite history mentioned in chapter 9.
6. What role did Ezra play when the project was completed?
7. What makes the last chapter of Nehemiah so disappointing?
8. Name some of the sins of the people that the prophet Malachi rebuked.
9. Why can we conclude that the Angel of the LORD mentioned in the Old Testament is the Son of God, Jesus Himself?
10. Who is the Elijah that God sent to prepare the way for the Messiah?
11. In what way is the coming Messiah like the sun in the sky?