

# ✠ Unsheathing the SWORD ✠



## Nehemiah

**MEMORIZATION – Nehemiah 8:10b – “Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”**

### Chapter 1

1. Do you think Nehemiah’s prayer sounds like the prayer of a faithful follower of the Lord?
2. What is Nehemiah’s royal job?

Extra credit: What does a cupbearer do?

### Chapter 2

1. Nehemiah works for what king?
2. In verse four what does Nehemiah do as he answers the king’s question?

### Chapter 3

1. The wall is rebuilt by sections. Make a note of a few of the familiar names of people or places. And notice a mention of “girl power.”

### Chapter 4

1. Again Judah's neighbors are angry over the rebuilding of the walls. The Jews (circle one):

- a) pray
- b) work with all their heart
- c) post a guard day and night
- d) have half of the men work while the other half are armed guards
- e) work while armed
- f) work from sun up until the stars come out
- g) all of the above

## **Chapter 5**

1. Nehemiah is upset by the business practices of some of the nobles and officials. "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_?" It's about the witness to the Gentiles. Think about how this fits in with God's plan of salvation for all.

2. True or false: The officials and nobles follow through on their promise to return the property in question.

3. Nehemiah tries to act properly in his role as governor. He does not tax the people for his food allotment. How many Jews and officials eat at his table? Compare this number to Solomon's day when his wives and concubines alone numbered 1,000 and ate at the king's table.

## **Chapter 6**

1. True or false: Shemaiah, Noadiah and other prophets are very supportive of Nehemiah.

2. How many days does it take to complete the wall?

## **Chapter 7**

Extra credit: Nehemiah finds the genealogical record. Compare Nehemiah 7:5-69 to Ezra 2:1-67.

## **Chapter 8**

1. True or false: Ezra and Nehemiah are contemporaries.
  
2. Picture the gathering of the people in Jerusalem in the square before the Water Gate. The Book of the Law of Moses is read.
  - a) It is read aloud from daybreak till \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) The people listen \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_ the scribe does the reading.
  - d) The people can see and hear because a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ is built for the occasion.
  - e) As the book is opened the people \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.
  - f) Ezra praises the Lord and the people respond “\_\_\_\_\_! \_\_\_\_\_!” and worship the Lord.
  
3. Match the person with their occupation.
 

Nehemiah	_____	a) priest and scribe
Ezra	_____	b) governor
  
4. The returned exiles celebrate the Feast of Booths (commemorating the desert wandering after the Exodus). When had the Israelites last celebrated the Feast like this?
  
5. For how many days does Ezra read from the Book of the Law?

## Chapter 9

1. In case you've forgotten – here's a great way to review the history of the people Israel. Carefully read what the Levites “preach” to the people in 9:5-37.

## Chapter 10

1. Who put their seals on the agreement (circle one)?
  - a) Nehemiah the governor
  - b) priests
  - c) Levites
  - d) leaders
  - e) all of the above

2. True or false: According to verse 29 the agreement is that these people will follow the Law of God.

### **Chapter 11**

1. True or false: There are exiles settling in Jerusalem from all twelve tribes of Israel.

### **Chapter 12**

1. There is a great celebration to dedicate what?

Extra credit: Think about this very special time when the Israelites are trying so desperately to live according to the Lord's plan. Can you think of any other time in Israel's history when people and priests were dedicated to obeying the Lord's will?

### **Chapter 13**

1. Oops! It looks like this dedication to worship of the Lord didn't last long.

a) Review chapter four (especially verses three and seven) and chapter six (especially verses one, 12, 14 and 17-19) for background on Tobiah. In the reading, is he a worshiper of the Lord?

b) Where are "all the Levites and singers responsible for the service?"

c) Merchants are bringing their goods into Jerusalem and selling them on the Sabbath. How does Nehemiah "fix" this?

d) Intermarriage with foreigners continues to be an issue. This sounds harsh (curses, beating, pulling out hair!), but according to verses 26-27 marrying foreign women is considered "being \_\_\_\_\_ to our God."

2. This is the beginning of yet another problem for the returned exiles. They clearly see the fall of their nation as a result of their disobedience to God. The majority are dedicated to following the Lord faithfully. Remember that these people had taken an oath regarding the very issues Nehemiah later had to reform. (See chapter ten.)

So what should obedience look like? In the coming years rules and regulations expand until practically every aspect of life has a written rule to govern it and the actual “heart” of faith is lost. It is to that legalistic religious power system that Jesus comes to bring a true understanding of “saving faith.”

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