

“REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM”

The Book of Nehemiah

Who wrote The Book of Nehemiah?

Like The Book of Ezra, The Book of Nehemiah was written by someone identified as “the Chronicler.”

How did The Book of Nehemiah get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The Book of Nehemiah is named for the man who oversaw the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and introduced necessary administrative reforms to the Jewish community during the Restoration

When did these events take place?

The events in The Book of Nehemiah happened between 445 and 432 B.C.

For more about The Book of Nehemiah:

See page 414 in the Fireside Catholic Youth Bible.

A century ago, it was common for rural communities to have a town square with the most important building right in the middle. Often times, this was the courthouse. As the center of activity and a place of importance, it gave the community an identity and became a "signature site" that everyone easily recognized. To the Jewish community, the temple was that place. Especially in Jerusalem, since the reign of David and Solomon, no one building was more important.

That's why Nehemiah is so important in Bible history. Although a layman, Nehemiah was an upright and holy man. In fact, he knew in his heart that before he was to start restoring the city, he needed God's blessing before proceeding. He also knew that he needed the blessing of the King he worked for to get the time off to do the job. When he received both, Nehemiah went to work. It only took 52 days for him to oversee the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. Even though he faced opposition from both Jews and Gentiles, he saw to it that the temple was rebuilt soon afterwards.

The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah are the only record of how the Jewish people recovered from their exile in Babylon. Their stories reveal two men of strong faith and devotion who together restored the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish way of life. Without them, neither would have survived.

Interesting Fact: Nehemiah was the cupbearer for King Artaxerxes. A cupbearer's responsibility was to sample all the drinks and taste all the food before the king ate and drank it to ensure that it was not poisoned.

Bonus Point: Who occupied the only “pulpit” mentioned in the Bible?