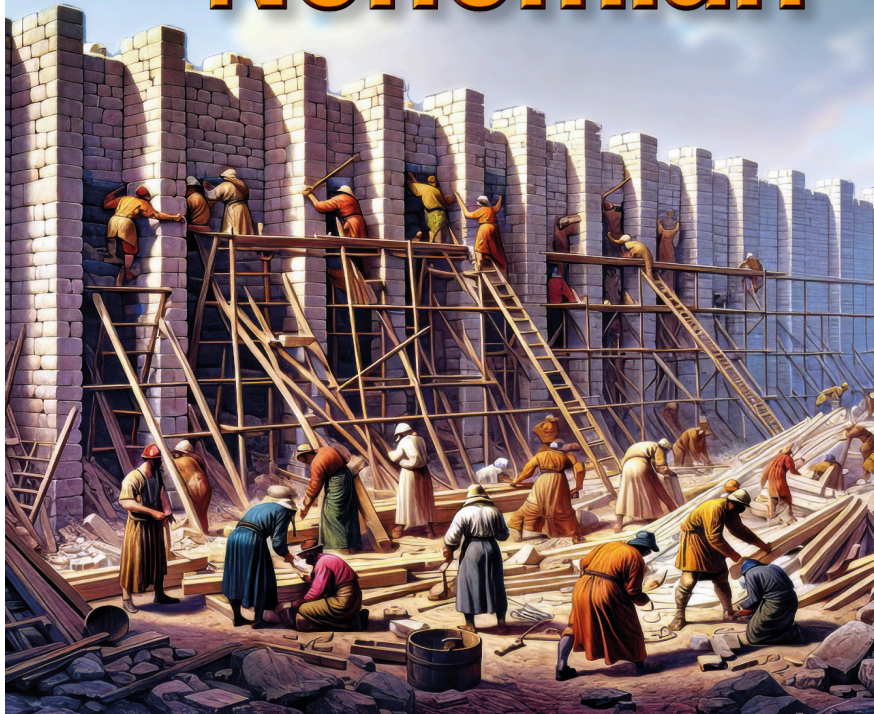


Ezra & Nehemiah

City Life Church



Ezra and Nehemiah give us a wonderful account of a crucial period in the history of God's chosen people. As a result of their disobedience and rebellion against God, they had found themselves living in Babylon, in exile. It was a strange land to them, in which they had to toil under tyrannical masters with very different beliefs and values to their own, and they were treated very badly. After 70 years, through a miraculous change of heart of the ruler Babylonian ruler, Cyrus, they were allowed to return to their beloved Jerusalem, to the land God had promised to them many many years before.

Many had got used to their lives in exile and chose to remain in captivity, and not to return, even though this was the promise of God upon their lives. Some did make the long journey back to Jerusalem – you get a snapshot of the emotional roller coaster that this was in Psalm 126. The reality was that they then had the even longer and harder journey once they had returned and started to rebuild the temple and the city (with its Godly governance and rule). All this is what is described in Ezra and Nehemiah.

As you read through these books (that should be read as one) you will see that key moments of decision on the journey are marked by times of worship, prayer and fasting, as were significant moments of challenge or breakthrough. Let's keep this in mind as we read and meditate upon these books during our time of prayer and fasting and seek the Lord for what he is saying to us at this time.

Day 1	Ezra 1	King Cyrus helped the exiles who returned
Day 2	Ezra 2	The List of the Exiles Who Returned
Day 3	Ezra 3	Rebuilding the Temple and the Altar
Day 4	Ezra 4	Opposition to the Rebuilding
Day 5	Ezra 5	Tattenai's Letter to King Darius
Day 6	Ezra 6	The Decree of Darius
Day 7	Ezra 7	Ezra Comes To Jerusalem
Day 8	Ezra 8	List of the Family Heads Returning With Ezra
Day 9	Ezra 9	Ezra's Prayer About Intermarriage
Day 10	Ezra 10	The People's Confession of Sin
Day 11	Nehemiah 1	Nehemiah's Prayer
Day 12	Nehemiah 2	Nehemiah Sent to Judah
Day 13	Nehemiah 3	Builders of the Wall
Day 14	Nehemiah 4	Opposition to the Rebuilding
Day 15	Nehemiah 5	Nehemiah Helps the Poor
Day 16	Nehemiah 6	Further Opposition to the Rebuilding
Day 17	Nehemiah 7	The List of the Exiles Who Returned
Day 18	Nehemiah 8	Ezra Reads the Law
Day 19	Nehemiah 9	The Israelites Confess Their Sins
Day 20	Nehemiah 10	The Israelites Confess Their Sins
Day 21	Nehemiah 11 - 13	The New Residents of Jerusalem, Dedication of the Wall, Nehemiah's Final Reforms

