

Nehemiah Chapter 5

In 2:11-18 Nehemiah arrives at Jerusalem, discovers the city walls in ruin, and convinces the leaders of the people to rebuild them. Chapter 4 tells how neighboring nations threatened them so that they had to work with a saw or hammer in one hand and their sword in the other.

What did the people complain about to Nehemiah? [1-5] How did Nehemiah respond? [6]

In verses 6-13 Nehemiah convenes a big meeting. Who attended and what was the purpose of the meeting? Did Nehemiah accomplish what he intended?

Why does Nehemiah blow his own horn so much in verses 14-19?

Nehemiah Chapter 8

The wall has been finished (chapter 6). “Now the city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt. ... The priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers and the temple servants, along with certain of the people and the rest of the Israelites, settled in their own towns.” [7:4,73]

Why did all the people of Israel assemble at the Water Gate plaza in Jerusalem? [1-6] How did the people respond to the reading of the book of the law of Moses? [6-9] What prompted their celebration? [10-12]

What happened on the next day? What prompted the week-long party? [13-18]

Nehemiah Chapter 10

“So today we are slaves! In the very land you gave to our ancestors to eat its fruit and to enjoy its good things – we are slaves! Its abundant produce goes to the kings you have placed over us **due to our sins**. They rule over our bodies and our livestock as they see fit, and we are in great distress! Because of all of this we are entering into a binding covenant in written form; our leaders, our Levites, and our priests have affixed their names on the sealed document.” [9:36-38]

What did the people of Israel separate themselves from? For what purpose? [28]

Who was included in this oath and proclamation? What did they commit themselves to? Did God accept or ratify their agreement?

Next week: Esther chapters 3, 4, and 9