



Ezra-Nehemiah


- One Book,
- One Message

“The Masoretic tradition regarded the books of Ezra and Nehemiah as one book and referred to it as the Book of Ezra. This was also the Greek tradition, and the same Greek name, Esdras, was given to both books. The division into separate books does not occur until the time of Origen (fourth century C.E.) and this division was transferred into the Vulgate ... It was not until the 15th century that Hebrew manuscripts, and subsequently all modern printed Hebrew editions, followed this practice of dividing the books ...”

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/ezra-and-nehemiah-books-of>

Ezra-Nehemiah

- **three returns to Jerusalem** in fulfilment of Jeremiah's prophecy of the end of the 70 years captivity (Jer 29:10), and Daniel's prophecy of the walls of Jerusalem being rebuilt over a troubled 49 year period (Dan 9:25).
- **The first return** under Zerubbabel led to the building of the second temple.
- the return of Ezra the priest and scribe.
- **The third return** of Nehemiah and his small group led to the building of the wall, and completes the process of restoration.

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- **Cyrus 557-530 BCE.** conquers Babylon 539 BCE
 - Altar built, temple foundation laid, 537 BCE
 - **Cambyses 530-522 BCE.**
 - **Darius I 522-486 BCE.**
 - Temple finished, 516 BCE.
 - **Xerxes I (Ahasuerus) 486-465 BCE.**
 - Esther 479 BCE
 - **Artaxerxes I 465-424 BCE.**
 - Temporarily halts rebuilding of Jerusalem, ca. 464-458 BCE,
 - Ezra goes to Jerusalem 458 BCE.
 - Nehemiah to Jerusalem 445 BCE.

70 weeks prophecy of Daniel 9

Commands to rebuild Jerusalem

7th Artaxerxes

458 BC



AD 33

20th Artaxerxes

445 BC



AD 46

458 BC

7



62



AD 26

.5



.5

AD 33

- Ezra 1:9-11: list of returned vessels
- **Ezra 2:1-70: list of returned exiles**
- Ezra 7:1-5 genealogy of Ezra
- Ezra 8:1-14: list of Ezra's companions
- Ezra 8:24-27: weight of gold and silver
- Ezra 10:18-44: list of men who separated from foreign wives
- Neh 3:1-32: list of builders of the wall
- **Neh 7:5-72: repeated list of returned exiles**
- Neh 8:4,7: list of assistants to Ezra
- Neh 9:4-5: names of levites leading worship
- Neh 10:2-29: list of signatories to the pledge
- Neh 11:3-36: list of settlers and settlements
- Neh 12:1-26: list of priests and Levites
- Neh 12:32-42: list of those walking the wall

Royal edicts and correspondence

- Ezra 1:2-4 Cyrus' edict
- Ezra 4:7-16 Letter to Artaxerxes from local rulers
- Ezra 4:17-22 Letter from Artaxerxes to local rulers
- Ezra 5:6-17 Letter to Darius from local rulers
- Ezra 6:3-12 Letter from Darius containing
 - Ezra 6:3-5 Decree of Cyrus
- Ezra 7:12-26 Letter from King Artaxerxes
- Neh 6:6-7 Letter from Sanballat

Memoirs

Ezra Memoirs (Ezra 7:27-9:15)

Nehemiah Memoirs (Nehemiah 1:1-7:5 13:4-31)

- “Ezra-Nehemiah advocates the primacy of the written word showing **the power of documents to generate events and shape history** ... Ezra-Nehemiah’s presentation of the events is **unique in the Bible and in antiquity** in the extent to which it employs reproduced documents to narrate the history of the period. Some 85% of the book is an overt amalgamation of documents”.

Oxford Encyclopaedia of books of the Bible, 2011

Ezra 4-6 - Explaining the reverse chronology

Official **archival searches** are referred to in each of the four letters: Ezra 4:15, 4:19, 5:17, and 6:1.

"The officials named in 4:7 were apparently the keepers of a major **archive** ... They had been asked by Artaxerxes to search their archive for records relating to the rebuilding of Jerusalem ... around the time when Nehemiah reopened the question of Jerusalem's wall. The issue had been left hanging by Artaxerxes' decree that the work on the wall be stopped, that is, suspended "until I give the order." Before issuing that decree, **Artaxerxes had ordered a search of the archives** (Ezra 4:19), and it seems reasonable to assume that **a new search would be necessary before a new decree could be issued** allowing the work to resume. In the course of their search, Bishlam and his colleagues found four relevant letters. They copied them onto a new roll, which they sent to the king”.

Bishlam's Archival Search Report in Nehemiah's Archive: Multiple Introductions and Reverse Chronological Order as Clues to the Origin of the Aramaic Letters in Ezra 4-6, Richard C. Steiner, Journal of Biblical Literature, Vol. 125, No. 4 (2006), pp. 641-685

- Nehemiah's own (?) archive note - beginning a "flash forward"

Ezra 4:6. And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they unto him an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

- Introduction to an archival search report from Nehemiah's time that includes a report of a previous search made by Bishlam et al.

7 And in the days of Artaxerxes wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their companions, unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing [embedded] of [in] the letter was written [in part] in the Syrian tongue, and [in part translated] interpreted in the Syrian tongue [from Persian].

- Introduction to Bishlam's archival report explaining what he had found - a letter from Rehum et al.

8 Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort:

- The heading of the letter of Rehum and Shimshai in the archival register-roll.

9 Then (where the date was originally written) wrote Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions ...

- [Archive note](#)

11 This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king;

Letter 1.

“Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time ...

- [Archive note explaining second letter \(written by Bishlam or Rheum?\)](#)

17 Then sent the king an answer unto Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions that dwell in Samaria, and unto the rest beyond the river,

Letter 2.

“Peace, and at such a time. 18 The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me ...”

- [Official archive note of action taken](#)

23 Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power.

- [Flash forward ends and chronology resumes at the time of Darius - v 24 possibly an archive note/memorandum](#)

24 Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia ...

- Continuation of the record of the archive search

- Archival heading (written by Bishlam or Rihum?)

5:6 The copy of the letter that Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and his companions the Apharsachites, which were on this side the river, sent unto Darius the king: 7 They sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus;

Letter 3

“Unto Darius the king, all peace. 8 Be it known unto the king, that we went into the province of Judea, to the house of the great God ...”

- Bishlam or Rheum's archive search note

6:1 Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. 2 And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written:

Letter 4

3 “In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem ... 6 Now therefore, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence: 7 Let the work of this house of God alone ...

- “Ezra-Nehemiah’s presentation of the events is unique in the Bible and in antiquity in the extent to which it employs reproduced documents to narrate the history of the period ... Ezra-Nehemiah’s mode of presentation places documents, and climactically the written Torah, as the decisive impetus for the events that transpire. **Ultimately, the Torah, rather than priests or kings or prophets, becomes the authoritative source for communal life**”.

Quoted in Tamara C. Eskenazi, The Structure of Ezra-Nehemiah and the Integrity of the Book, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, Vol. 107, No. 4 (1988), pp. 641-656.

Import of lists and documents

- The names of individuals are known to the God of heaven and can be recorded in the Book of Life
- The documents give evidence of official sanction for the work
- Provide evidence of the continuity of possession of Jerusalem by the Jews
- Indicate the ways of providence at work in a non-miraculous age
- Emphasise the power of the written word to influence events and people

The symmetrical structure of Ezra-Nehemiah

A. the return under Zerubbabel and list of returnees (Ezra 1-2) and celebration and keeping of the commandments of the Torah (3:1-6)

B. building the Temple and opposition (Ezra 3:7-6:22)

C. Ezra's return (Ezra 7-8)

D. Purification of the community (Ezra 9-10)

C'. Nehemiah's return (Neh 1-2)

B'. Building the Walls and opposition (Neh 3-7:3)

A'. the return under Zerubbabel and list of returnees (Neh 7:4-72) and celebration and implementation of the commandments of the Torah (Neh 8-13)

Import of structural parallels

- The symmetry created by repetitions emphasise the unity of the book
- Ezra 4 gives a “flash forward” to the times of Nehemiah, so binding the two records together
- this is reinforced by the shared events and descriptions
- work begun by Zerubbabel completed by Nehemiah when Jerusalem becomes the “holy City” (Neh 11:1)
- the central focus of the scroll is restoring separation from the world

Ezra	First Return	Third Return	Neh
3:1	people gathered themselves together as one man	all the people gathered themselves together as one man	8:1
3:2	stood up ... and builded	let us rise up and build	2:18
3:2	as it is written	as it is written	10:34,36
3:4	kept the feast of tabernacles as it is written	they found written ... dwell in booths	8:14
3:6	first day of the seventh month	first day of the seventh month	8:2
3:10	with trumpets ... with cymbals	cymbals ... trumpets	12:27,35,
3:10	ordinance of David	the commandment of David	12:24
3:11	praising and giving thanks	to praise and to give thanks	12:24

Ezra	First Return	Third Return	Neh
3:12	wept ... joy	wept ... mirth	8:9, 12
3:13	the noise was heard afar off	the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off	12:43
4:1	adversaries	adversaries	4:11
4:3	we ourselves together will build	we his servants will arise and build	2:20
4:4	weakened the hands	their hands shall be weakened	6:9
4:5	hired counsellors	hired	6:13
5:1	the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah	the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets	6:14

Ezr a	Zerubbabel	Hezekiah	2 Chr	Neh
1:3	house of the LORD God of Israel	house of the LORD ... LORD God of Israel	30:1	10:35
1:4	house of God	house of God	31:13	8:16
2:65	singing men ...	the singers sang	29:28	10:39
3:1	seventh month	until the seventh month	31:7	8:2,14
3:1	people gathered themselves together	people gathered themselves together	30:3	8:1
3:1	as one man	with one heart	30:12	8:1
3:2	as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God	as it is written in the Law the law of Moses the man of God	31:3 30:16	8:14
3:10	sons of Asaph	sons of Asaph	29:13	11:22
3:11	sang praising and giving thanks	to sing praise ... to give thanks and to praise	29:30 31:2	12:24

Ez	Zerubbabel	Hezekiah	2 Chr	Neh
3:12	for joy	with gladness	29:30	8:12
3:13	the noise was heard afar off	their voice was heard ... unto heaven	30:27	12:43
4:2	let us build	Also he ...built up all the wall that was broken ...	32:5	2:17
6:17	all Israel ... twelve he goats	all Israel ... seven he goats	29:21	7:73
6:18	courses	courses	31:2	11:36
6:19	kept the passover	to keep the passover	30:2	
6:20	priests and Levites purified together, all of them were pure	until the priests sanctified ... levites ... sanctify themselves	29:15 30:15	12:30
6:22	unleavened bread with joy	unleavened bread with great gladness	30:21	

Ezra	Zerubbabel	Josiah	2 Chr
2:65	singing men and women	singing men	35:25
3:4	as it is written	as it is written	35:12
3:9	set forward the work	overseers ... workmen	34:10-12
3:10	sons of Asaph	sons of Asaph	35:15
6:18	set divisions, courses	divisions	35:5
6:18	in their course	after your courses	35:4
6:19	kept passover 14th day first month	they killed the passover on the 14th day first month	35:1
6:20	priests and Levites purified together	and sanctify yourselves	35:6
6:21	to seek YHWH	to seek after the God of	34:3
6:21	LORD God of Israel	The LORD God of Israel	34:23
6:22	unleavened bread seven days	unleavened bread seven days	35:17

Ezra 7:1 **Ezra**

the son of Seraiah,

the son of Azariah,

the son of Hilkiah,

2 The son of Shallum,

the son of Zadok,

the son of Ahitub,

3 The son of Amariah,

the son of **Azariah**,

Six names missing

the son of **Meraioth**,

4 The son of Zerariah,

the son of Uzzi,

the son of Bukki,

5 The son of Abishua,

the son of Phinehas,

the son of Eleazar,

the son of **Aaron**

the chief priest:

1 Chronicles 6:4-15

7 **Meraioth** begat **Amariah**,

and Amariah begat **Ahitub**,

8 And Ahitub begat **Zadok**,

and Zadok begat **Ahimaaz**,

9 And Ahimaaz begat **Azariah**,

and Azariah begat **Johanan**,

10 And Johanan begat **Azariah**,

(he it is that executed the priest's office in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem:)

A. 7: 6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in **the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given:**

B. and the king granted him all his request, **according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.**

C. 7 And there **went up ... unto Jerusalem**, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. 8 And he **came to Jerusalem** in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

C'. 9 For upon the first day of the first month **began he to go up** from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month **came he to Jerusalem**,

B'. **according to the good hand of his God upon him.**

A'. 10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek **the law of the LORD**, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

58 years after second temple completed
15 years after Haman

Psa 45:1
Pro 22:29
Isa 16:5



Ezra 7:6-10

This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a **ready** scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given ... For Ezra had prepared his heart to **seek** the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Ezra 7:6-10

This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a **ready**

04106 ryhm mahiyr from 04116;

AV-ready 2, diligent 1, hasting 1; 4

scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel
had given ... For Ezra had prepared his heart to **seek**

01875 darash

AV-seek 84, enquire 43, require 12, search 7, misc 18; 164

the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel
statutes and judgments.

7:12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. 13 I make a decree,

a.- *permission to return and worship* - “that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee”.

b. - *freewill offerings and treasury funding to buy offerings, and vessels for service* - vv15-20 “for the service of the house of thy God, those deliver thou before **the God of Jerusalem**”

21 And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree

b'. - *treasury funding for the temple and tax exemption*- “to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of **the God of heaven**, shall require of you, it be done speedily ... 23 Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven”

a'. - *authority to appoint Jewish law officers and teachers* - “25 And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not”

- Ezra the priest, the scribe, **even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD**, and of his statutes to Israel (Ezra 7:11)
- Ezra the priest, **a scribe of the law of the God of heaven** (Ezra 7:12)
- according to **the law of thy God which is in thine hand** (Ezra 7:14)
- Ezra the priest, **the scribe of the law of the God of heaven** (Ezra 7:21)
- Ezra, after **the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand** (Ezra 7:25)

Ezra		Deuteronomy
7:10	and to do it, and to teach	Deut 4:1,14
7:11	Of “the words”	Deut 1:1
7:11	“commandments” and “statutes”	Deut 4:40
7:25	Wisdom of thy God	Deut 4:6

Men of understanding

- Ezra 8
- 16 ... men of understanding (biyn - understand 62, understanding 32, consider 22, prudent 8, perceive 7, regard 6, discern 3, instruct 3, misc. 27; 170)
- 17 And I sent them with commandment unto Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say unto Iddo , and to his brethren the Nethinims at the place Casiphia that they should bring unto us ministers for the house of our God
- 18 And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding (sekel -understanding 7, wisdom 3, wise 1, prudence 1, knowledge 1, sense 1, discretion 1, policy 1; 16) of the sons of Mahli

Ezra	Ezra	Hezekiah/Josiah	2 Chr	2 Chr
7:6	scribe	scribe		34:15
7:6	the hand of YHWH his God	the hand of God	30:12	
7:9	1 st day 1 st month began	began 1st day of the 1st month	29:17	
7:10	Prepared his heart to seek	Prepareth his heart to seek God	30:19	35:4
	the Law of the LORD	the Law of the LORD	31:4	34:14
7:28	I was strengthened	encouraged	31:4	35:2
8:16	men of understanding (biyn)	taught (biyn)		35:3
8:18	a man of understanding (sekel)	that taught the good knowledge (sekel)	30:22	
	forsaken	forsaken	29:6	34:25
8:28	Holy unto the LORD	Holy unto the LORD		35:3

Ezra			2 Timothy
7:6	ready (<i>Mahir</i> - quick)	study (<i>Spoudazo</i> - speed)	2:15
8:16	Elnathan ... Nathan	the gift of God	1:6
8:16,18	men of understanding	understanding	2:7
8:18	the good hand of God upon us	putting on of hands	1:6
8:22	I was ashamed	I am not ashamed	1:12
8:24	Sherebiah, Hashabiah	commit thou to faithful men	2:2
8:25	the silver, and the gold, and the vessels	vessels of gold and silver	2:20
8:28	vessels are holy also	sanctified	2:21
8:29	keep them	that which was committed keep	1:12

A. Ezra 9:1 ... the people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations ... 2 yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in **this trespass.**

B. 3 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle ... 4 Then were assembled unto me **every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel ...**

C. 5 And at the evening sacrifice ... **I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,**

D. ***6 Ezra's prayer ...***

C'. 10:1 Now when **Ezra had prayed ...**

B'. 10:2 And Shechaniah ... said unto Ezra ... 3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, **and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God ...**

A'. 10:5 Then arose Ezra ... for he mourned because of **the transgression** of₃₈ them that had been carried away.

A. Ezra 9:6 ... and **our trespass** is grown up unto the heavens.⁷ Since the days of our fathers have we been **in a great trespass** unto this day ...

B. 8 And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, **to leave us a remnant to escape ...**

C. 10 And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments, 11 Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness. 12 Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.

B'. 13 ... **so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?** 15 O LORD God of Israel, thou art righteous: **for we remain yet escaped,**
A'. behold, we are before thee **in our trespasses ...**

Ezra	Ezra	Hezekiah/Josiah	2 Chr	2 Chr
9:1	abominations	abominations		34:33
9:3	Rent my garment	he rent his clothes		34:19
9:6	I am ashamed	the levites were ashamed	30:15	
9:7	Confusion of face	shame of face	32:21	
9:8	Remnant to escape	the remnant of you that are escaped	30:6	
9:11	filthiness	filthiness	29:5	
9:11	uncleanness	uncleanness	29:16	

Ezra's prayer	
9:1 Not separated themselves	1 Kings 8:53
9:1 According to the abominations	Deut 20:17-18
9:2 Mingles themselves	Psa 106:35
9:2 Taken of their daughters	Ex. 34:16
9:3 Rent my garment	2 Kgs 22:11,19
9:4 Trembled at the words	Isa 66:2, 5
9:6 Ashamed and blush	Jer 8:12
Over our head	Psa 38:4
9:7 The days of our fathers	Psa 106:6
Confusion of face	Dan 9:7,8
9:8 A nail in his holy place	Isa 22:23

Ezra's Prayer	
9:10 Forsaken commandments	2 Kgs 17:16
9:11 which ye go to possess it	Deut 4:5
9:12 Give not ...	Deut 7:3
Nor seek their peace	Deut 23:6
That ye may be strong	Deut 11:8
9:14 Join in affinity	Deut 7:3
angry ... consumed us	Deut 9:8, 20
9:15 Thou art righteous	Dan 9:14

9:15 We cannot stand ...	Psa 130:3
Shechaniah's response	
10:2 Yet now there is hope	Psa 130:5
10:3 Tremble at the commandment of our God	Isa 66:2,5
10:4 Arise ... be of good courage	2 Chr 32:4

(Psalms 130:3-7)

3 If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O LORD, **who shall stand?** 4 But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do **I hope ... 7 Let Israel hope** in the LORD”.

lessons

- distinctive identity of the body of Christ is the key ecclesial issue.
- we must not be overwhelmed by disappointments
 - there is hope.
- value of a friend alongside to encourage.
- pray for forgiveness as well as confession.
- The Word expounded can lead to conviction and repentance.
- love of scripture and high aspirations are not enough.
 - we must deal patiently with messy situations.
- Leaders who were in the wrong showed humility and personal sacrifice in reversing their policy.
- It was a work of time to undo the damage.

Ezra and Nehemiah

Two different characters united in in faith and purpose



Ezra and Nehemiah

*Two **different** characters united in faith and purpose*

Ezra

Priest

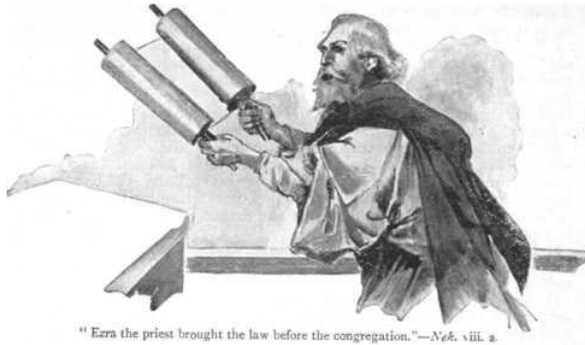
Scholar

Refused guard

Crushed by disappointment

Pulled out his own hair

Introvert



Nehemiah

Prince

Administrator

Accepted guard

Pressed on

Pulled out hair of others

Extrovert



a. Nehemiah 1:1 The words of **Nehemiah** the son of Hachaliah.

b. 2. **And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year**, as I was in Shushan the palace ...

c. 3 ... the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, **and the gates thereof are burned with fire.**

d. 4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, **and prayed before the God of heaven,**

Nehemiah's prayer

a'. 1:11 For I was **the king's cupbearer.**

b'. 2:1 **And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year** of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him ...

c'.... why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, **and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?**

d'. 4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? **So I prayed to the God of heaven.**

A. Neh 1:5 And said, **I beseech thee, O LORD** God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments: 6 **Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant,** which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel **thy servants ...**

B. 7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

C. 8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: 9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

B'. 10 Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

A' . 11 **O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants ...**

Nehemiah's Prayer 1:5-11

v5	The great and terrible God	Deut 7:21;10:17		Dan 9:4
v5	Keepeth covenant	Deut 7:9		Dan 9:4
v6	Open eyes Hear prayer		1 Kgs 8:28,29	Dan 9:17,18
v6	Day and night		1 Kgs 8:59	
v6	We have sinned		1 Kgs 8:47	Dan 9:4
v7	Dealt corruptly			Dan 9:5
v8	If ye transgress	Deut 4:25-27		

Nehemiah's Prayer 1:5-11

v9	But if ye turn	Deut 4:29 30:2,3		
v9	Cast out	Deut 30:4		
v9	The place	Deut 12:21		
v10	Redeemed by great power	Deut 7:8, 9:26		
v10	Strong hand		1 Kgs 8:42	
v11	Ears be attentive		2 Chr 6:40	Psa 130:2
v11	To fear thy name	Deut 6:13	1 Kgs 8:43	

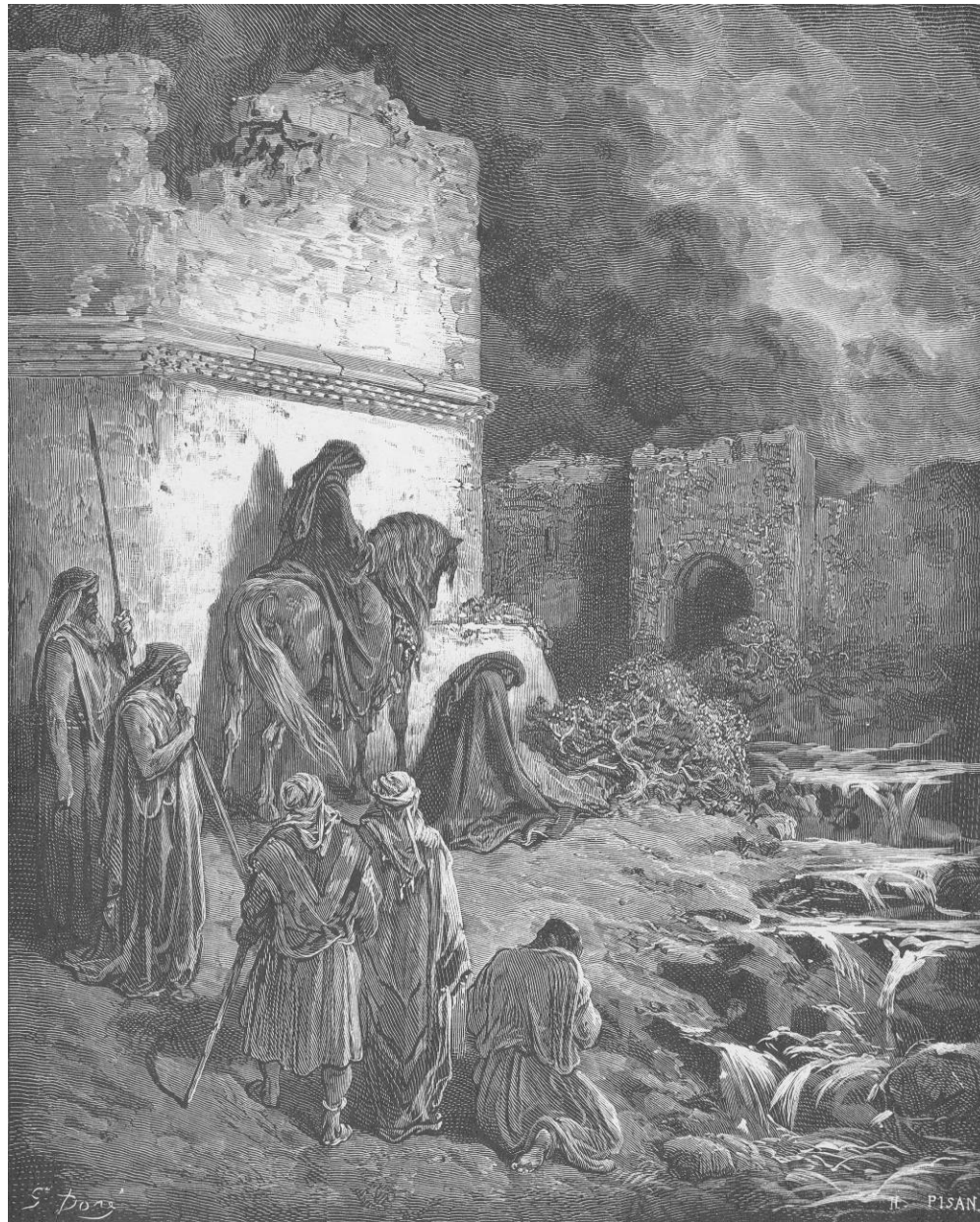
A. Neh 2:11 So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. 12 And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; **neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.**

B. 13 And I went out by night **by the gate of the valley**, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.

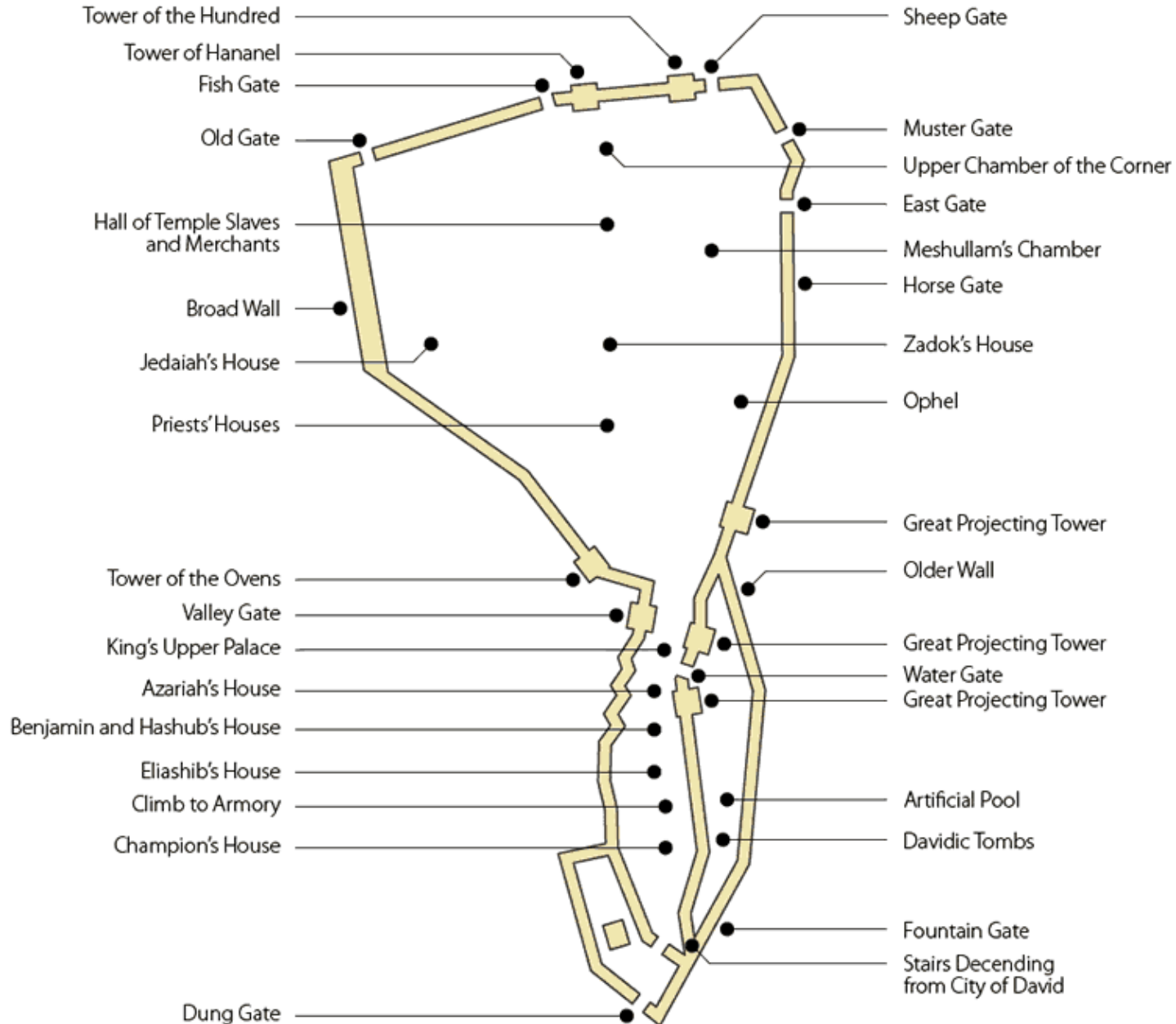
C. 14 Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass.

B'. 15 Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered **by the gate of the valley**, and so returned.

A'. 16 **And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.**



Jerusalem's Wall in Nehemiah's Day



A. 2:17 Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and **let us build up the wall of Jerusalem**, that we be no more a reproach.

B. 18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also **the king's** words that he had spoken unto me.

C. And they said, Let us rise up and build.

So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

B'. 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against **the king**?

A'. 20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; **therefore we his servants will arise and build**: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, **in Jerusalem**.

lessons

- the Lord will use different personalities and characters to work together to further His purpose
- pray without ceasing in all situations
- pray in the language and thought of scripture
- the motivation of the providential hand of God
- necessity of resolve - strengthen hands
- no procrastination in the face of opposition

The parable of building the walls

Do good in thy good pleasure
unto Zion: build thou the walls of
Jerusalem.

(Psalms 51:18)

... but thou shalt call thy walls
Salvation, and thy gates Praise.
(Isaiah 60:18)

... Let all things be done unto
edifying.

(1 Corinthians 14:26)

g3619. οἰκοδομή **oikodomē**;
feminine (abstract) of a
compound of 3624 and the
base of 1430; architecture,
i.e. (concretely) a structure;
figuratively, confirmation: —
building, edify(-ication, -
ing).

AV (18) - edifying 7,
building 6, edification 4,
wherewith (one) may edify 1;

LEEN & KATHLEEN RITMEYER

JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF NEHEMIAH



The Parable of the Walls - ecclesial application

Walls

separation
safety
watch

Building

- edification

Tower

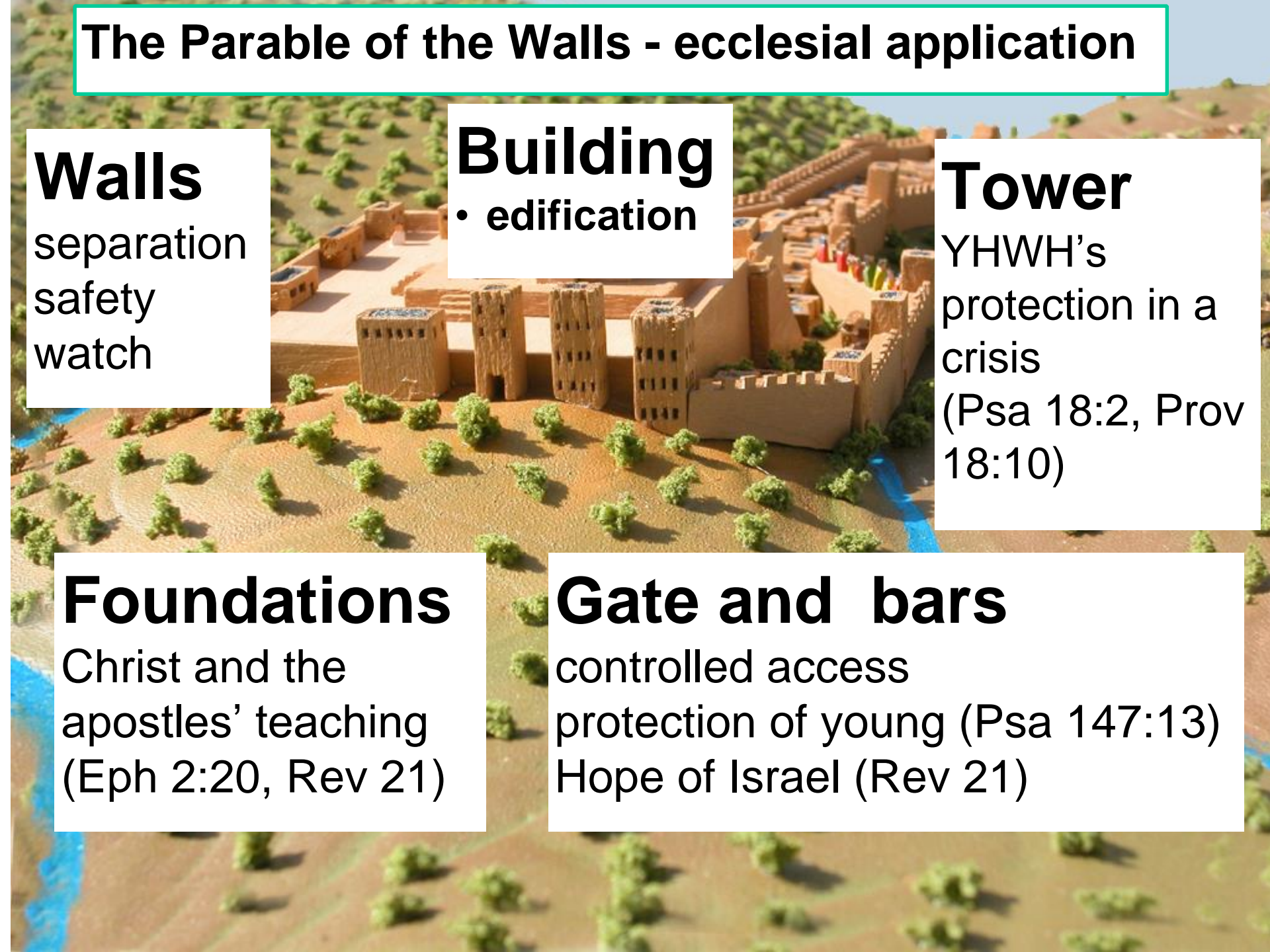
YHWH's
protection in a
crisis
(Psa 18:2, Prov
18:10)

Foundations

Christ and the
apostles' teaching
(Eph 2:20, Rev 21)

Gate and bars

controlled access
protection of young (Psa 147:13)
Hope of Israel (Rev 21)



- THE FOUNDATION -- That the book currently known as the Bible, consisting of the Scriptures of Moses, the prophets, and the apostles, is the only source of knowledge concerning God and His purposes at present extant or available in the earth, and that the same were wholly given by inspiration of God in the writers, and are consequently without error in all parts of them, except such as may be due to errors of transcription or translation.

- **33. -- Examination of Applicants for Immersion.**
- There is, of course, a need for ascertaining whether an applicant for immersion understands and believes the truth. The validity of immersion depends upon believing the truth. In apostolic times, this belief was evidenced by the simple admission that Jesus was the Christ.
- The case stands differently now when nominal believers in Christ associate with their historical belief, doctrines subversive of the scheme of truth which centres in his name. It is no longer sufficient for a man to say he believes in Christ, unless the statement mean that he believes the truth concerning Christ. The simple confession of belief in Christ does not bring with it the guarantee it did in apostolic times, that the doctrines embodied in Christ are received. The apostacy has held sway for centuries, and still reigns with undiminished power; and through its influence, there exists around us a state of things in which, while, so far as words go, there is universal profession of belief in Christ, there is an absolute and virulent rejection of the truth of which Christ is the embodiment ...

- **“33. -- Examination of Applicants for Immersion.**
- At the same time, we must beware of an attitude savouring of priestly arrogance. We must distinctly recognise that the efficacy of the candidate's immersion in no way depends on the administration or sanction of those who may examine him. We cannot impart validity to immersion by compliance, nor can we vitiate it by withholding countenance, but, as a matter of order and self-protection, we are bound to ascertain (and in these days to apply the test rigidly) whether a man applying for immersion believes the truth of the gospel or not.



Broken walls? - Loss of ecclesial integrity leaving the flock vulnerable - lost sheep, wolves ...

Gates burned? - no control over fellowship or influences

How?

- Doctrinal errors
- Adoption of spirit of the age (humanism, relativism) - social works/community church, alternative lifestyles (social media)
- Moral issues
- Materialism and Sloth - indifference to error, taking the easy route, stopping preaching and youth activities, shortcuts to Bible study and poor exposition.



Building and repairing the walls

- find the foundation- clear, rubble, build and repair.
- rediscovery of zeal for sound exposition and exhortation (1 Cor 14:3)
- renewed efforts for ecclesias to build together and join the walls
 - on the same foundation (Eph 2:21)
- spirit of love and caring (Eph 4:16)
- healing spiritual hurt (Rom 14:19)
- wholesome conversation (Eph 4:29)

lessons

- only one foundation to build on
 - we cannot repair with different doctrinal basis e.g.theistic evolution, “weak inspiration” of the Word, different views of the Atonement.
- may have to clear the rubble first
- difference between “rubble” and Sanballat
- If no cooperation between groups there is no wall, only “towers”
- all can participate - brothers and sisters
- some shirk and some do extra and some work earnestly
- focus on positive building - edification - to protect the flock

1. Report that the building work on the wall had begun.

A. Neh 4:1 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat **heard that we builded the wall**, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews ...

2. Report that the work is progressing well.

4:7 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, **heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up**, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, 8 And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it ...

3. Report that the breaches in the wall were filled.

A. 6:1 Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, **heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein**; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) ...

4. Report that the work was completed.

A. 6:15 **So the wall was finished**... 16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies **heard thereof**, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God ...

Nehemiah 3:1-7:73

A.3:1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, **and they builded** the sheep gate ...4:1 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat **heard that we builded the wall**, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews ...

B. 4:7 ... **heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up...**

C. 5:1-19 ... ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God

...

B'. 6:1... **heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein ...**

A. 6:15 **So the wall was finished...** 16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies **heard thereof ...**they perceived that this work was wrought of our God ...

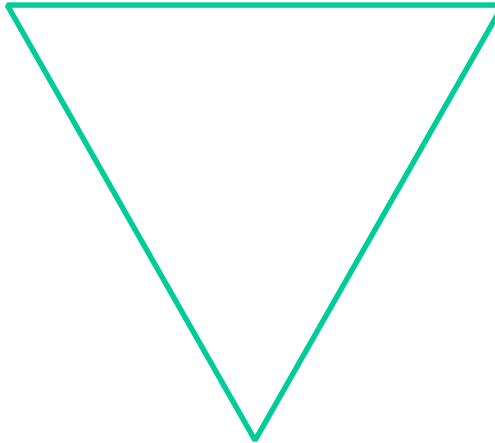
The Challenge	The Response
1:3 bad news from home	1:4 prayer
2:2 fear of the king	2:4 prayer
2:10 opposition	2:20 no compromise
4:1-3 ridicule	4:4-5 prayer + build
4:7-8 threats	4:9 prayer and set a watch
4:10 brethren complaining	
4:11 conspiracy to threaten the community	4:13-14 set defences and encourage 4:15- build and defend 4:19- strength in fellowship
6:1-2 targetting the leader with offers to discuss	6:3-4 persistent refusal to be trapped
6:5-7 false allegations	6:8-9 rebuttal and prayer
6:10 trap to discredit Nehemiah as a coward	6:11-14 refusal and prayer

Neh. 5			Lev. 25
v2	sons and daughters	family	v10
v5	brethren	If thy brother	v25
v5	children	his children with him	v41
	servants	bondservant	v39
	bondage	bondmen	v42
v7	usury	usury	v36
v8	redeemed	redeem	v25
v8	sold heathen	sell unto stranger	v47
v8	sell brethren	not be sold	v42
v9	walk in the fear of God	fear thy God	v17, 36, 43
v11	restore lands	ye shall return	v10
v12	we will restore	ye shall return	v13 68

Isaiah 58			Leviticus
v1	cry	proclaim	25:10
v1	trumpet	trumpet	25:9
v3	afflicted our soul	afflict your souls	23:27
v6	loose	liberty	25:10
v7	own flesh	nigh of kin	25:49
			Nehemiah
v2	forsook not	leave off	5:10
v7	own flesh	our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren	5:5
v12	the repairer (masons) of the breach	there was no breach	6:1

Leviticus 25

Nehemiah 5



Isaiah 58

lessons

- keep building despite problems
- ignore ridicule and discouragements
- there may be conspiracy within - keep working
- everyone should have a sword **and** trowel
 - brothers and sisters
- watch for danger day and night
- ecclesias are responsible to provide mutual aid
- pray without ceasing
- wise as serpents and harmless as doves
- building without the spirit of love is pointless
- be an example of love and good works

The symmetrical structure of Ezra-Nehemiah

A. the return under Zerubbabel and list of returnees (Ezra 1-2) and celebration and keeping of the commandments of the Torah (3:1-6)

B. building the Temple and opposition (Ezra 3:7-6:22)

C. Ezra's return (Ezra 7-8)

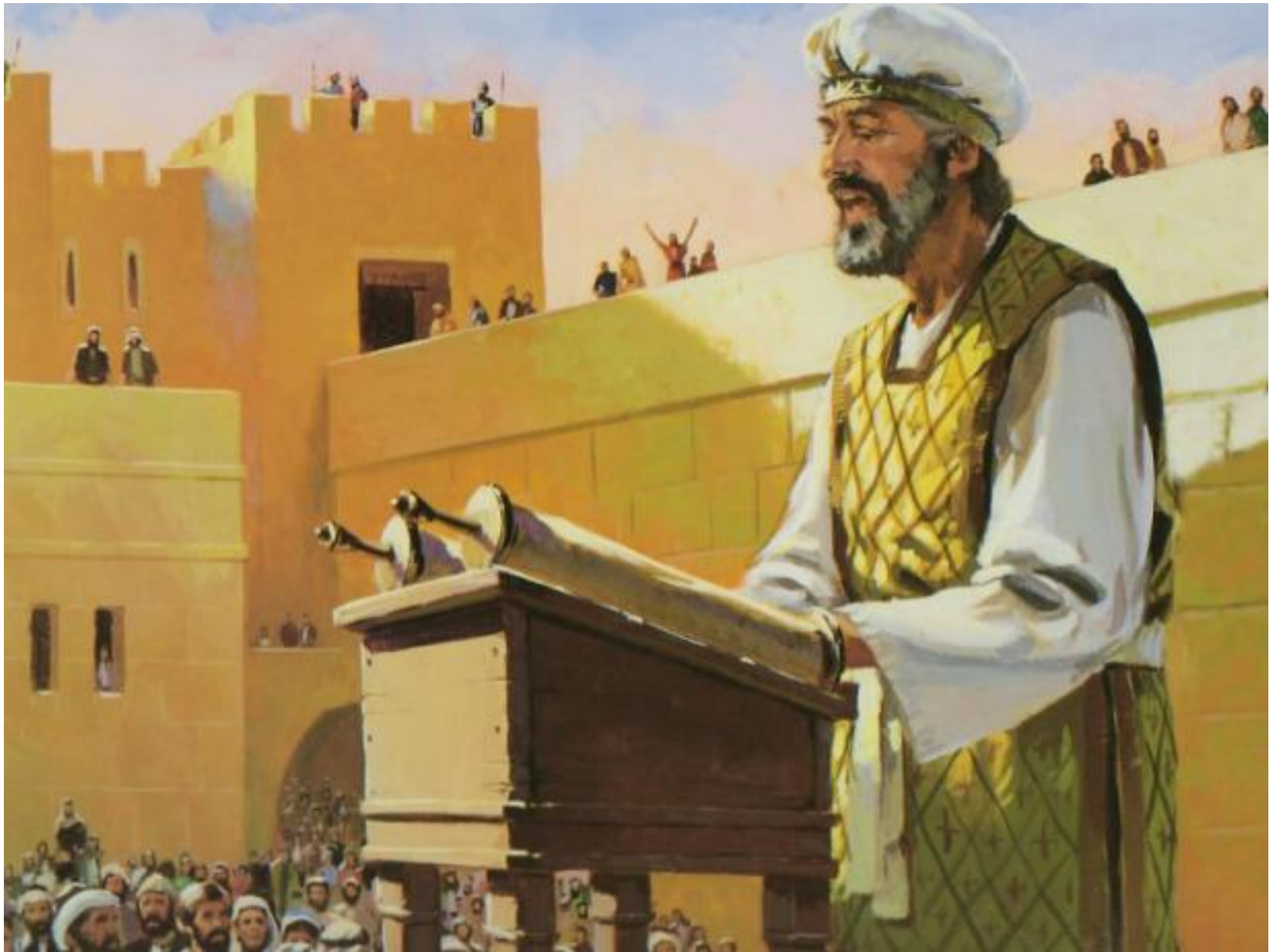
D. Purification of the community (Ezra 9-10)

C'. Nehemiah's return (Neh 1-2)

B'. Building the Walls and opposition (Neh 3-7:3)

A'. the return under Zerubbabel and list of returnees (Neh 7:4-72) and celebration and implementation of the commandments of the Torah (Neh 8-13)

7:73-8:12	8:13-18	9:1-10:39
First day of seventh month	13 And on the second day	1 Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month
1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man	were gathered together the chief of the fathers	the children of Israel were assembled with fasting
3 And he read therein	unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law.	3 and read in the book of the law
8 caused them to understand the reading.	14 And they found written in the law	4 and cried with a loud voice unto the LORD their God.
12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions,	16 So the people went forth ... and made themselves booths	38 And because of all this we make a sure covenant



Nehemiah 8

A.(1) And **all the people** gathered themselves together as one man ... and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of **the law** of Moses ... **and all that could hear with understanding ... and those that could understand;**

B. and the ears of **all the people** were attentive unto the book of the law.

C.(4) And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood,...

D.(5) And **Ezra opened the book** in the sight of **all the people;**

E. *(for he was above all the people;)*

D'. and **when he opened it, all the people** stood up:

C'.(6) And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God.

B'. And **all the people** answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands:and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

A'. (7) Also Jeshua ... **caused the people to understand the law:** and the people stood in their place.

A. Neh 8:8 **So they read** in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, **and caused them to understand** the reading.

B. 9 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and **the Levites** that taught the people, said unto all the people, **This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep.** For all the people wept, **when they heard the words of the law.**

C. 10 Then he said unto them, **Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions** unto them for whom nothing is prepared: **for this day is holy unto our LORD: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**

B'. 11 So **the Levites** stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, **for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved.**

C'. 12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, **and to make great mirth,**

A'. **because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.**

A. Neh 8:13. And on **the second day** were gathered together ...

B. 14. And they found written in the law which the LORD ... by **Moses**,

C.14. that the children of Israel should dwell in **booths** ...

D.15 And ... publish ... in all their cities

E.15. **Go forth** ... to make **booths**,

F. 15. as it is written

E'16. So the people **went forth** ... and made
... **booths**,

D'. every one upon the roof of his house

C'17 And all the congregation ... made **booths**, and sat under
the **booths**:

B'. 17 for since the days of **Jeshua** the son of Nun unto that day had not
the children of Israel done so.

A'. 18. ... from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of
God. And they kept the feast seven days; and **on the eighth day** ...

A. Abraham promised the land - Neh 9:7 Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram ...

B. 9 And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red sea ... 12 Moreover **thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar** ...

C. 16 But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, 17 And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: *but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness*, and forsookest them not. 18 Yea, when they had made them a molten calf, and said, This is thy God that brought thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations; 19 Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness:

B'. the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day ...

A'. God fulfils His promise to Abraham - 23 Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land

A. 25 ...vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance ... and delighted themselves **in thy great goodness**.

B. 26 Nevertheless they were disobedient ...

C. ... 29 **And testifiedst against them**, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law:

D. yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments,

E. *(which if a man do, he shall live in them;)*

D'. and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear.

C'. 30 ... **and testifiedst against them** by thy spirit in thy prophets

B'. ... 34 Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them.

A'. 35 ... and **in thy great goodness** that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land ...

A. *Entering into a covenant* - 9:38 And because of all this **we make a sure covenant**, and write it; and our

B. **princes**,

C. **Levites**,

D. and **priests**, seal unto it.

E. 10:1 Now those that sealed were, **Nehemiah**, the Tirshatha, the son of Hachaliah,

D'. and Zidkijah ... these were the **priests**.

C'. 9 And the **Levites** ...

B'. 14 *The chief of the people* ... 28 And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding; 29 They clave to their brethren, their nobles,

A'. *The covenant* - and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes;

The covenant

Separation: 10:30 And that we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons:

Sabbath: 31 And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day:

Seventh year of release: and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.

temple tax: 32 Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God ...

Fire wood: 34 And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law:

Firstfruits: 35 And to bring the firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the LORD ...

11:1 ... to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city ...

A. *resident in Jerusalem before and after repopulation* - 3 Now these are the chief of the province that dwelt in Jerusalem:

B. *resident outside before the repopulation* - but in the cities of Judah dwelt every one in his possession in their cities, to wit, Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants.

C. *the repopulation of Jerusalem* - 4 **And at Jerusalem dwelt certain of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin.**

a. **Of the children of Judah ...**

b. **7 And these are the sons of Benjamin ...**

c. **10 Of the priests ...**

d. **15 Also of the Levites ...**

B'. *resident outside after the repopulation* - 20 And the residue of Israel, of the priests, and the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, every one in his inheritance

A'. *resident in Jerusalem before and after repopulation* - 21 But the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel: and Ziha and Gispa were over the Nethinims ...

Nehemiah 12:1-26

Now these are **the priests and the Levites that went up with Zerubbabel**

7 ... These were the chief of the priests and of their brethren **in the days of Jeshua.**

8 Moreover the Levites ...

10 And Jeshua begat **Joiakim, Joiakim** also begat Eliashib, and Eliashib begat Joiada, 11 And Joiada begat Jonathan, and Jonathan begat Jaddua.

12 **And in the days of Joiakim were priests,** the chief of the fathers: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah ... 22 **The Levites** in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua, were recorded chief of the fathers:

also **the priests,** to the reign of Darius the Persian. 23 The sons of Levi, the chief of the fathers, were written in the book of the chronicles, even **until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.** 24 And the chief of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brethren over against them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, ward over against ward. 25 Mattaniah, and Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, Akkub, were porters keeping the ward at the thresholds of the gates. 26 **These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.**

A. Neh 12:1 These are **the priests and the Levites** ...

B. 27... to celebrate the dedication with **gladness**, with thanksgivings and with **singing**, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. 28 And the sons of the **singers** gathered ...

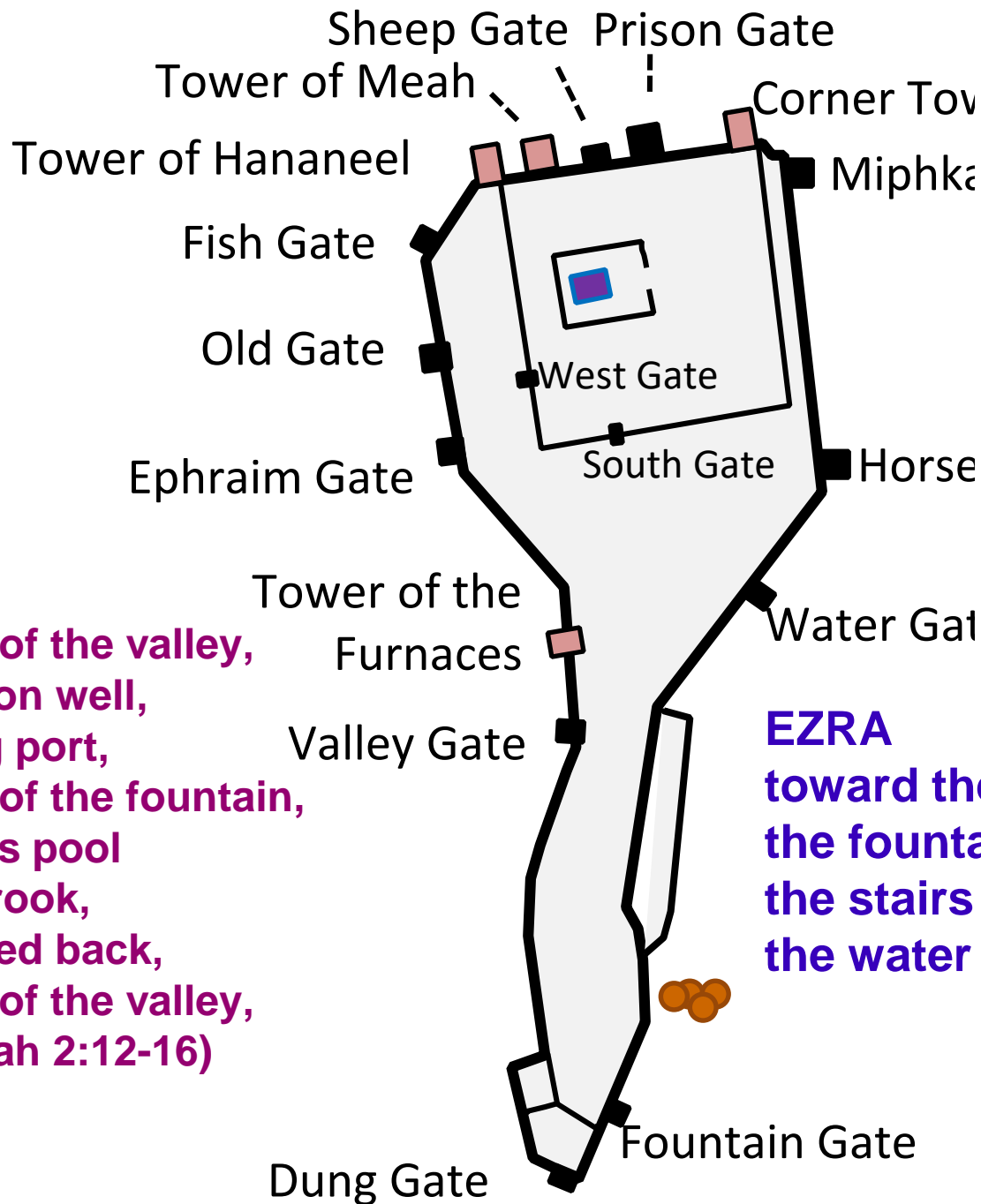
C. 31 Then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great choirs that gave thanks. **One** went to the south on the wall to the Dung Gate ... And Ezra the scribe went before them.

D. *37 At the Fountain Gate they went up straight before them by the stairs of the city of David, at the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, to the Water Gate on the east.*

C'. 38 **The other** choir of those who gave thanks went to the north ... and they came to a halt at the Gate of the Guard.

B'. ... 42 ...And the **singers** sang with Jezrahiah as their leader. 43 And they offered great sacrifices that day and **rejoiced** ...

A'. 44 ... the portions required by the Law for **the priests and for the Levites** ...



Nehemiah
the tower of the furnaces
the broad wall
the gate of Ephraim
the old gate
the fish gate
the tower of Hananeel
the tower of Meah
the sheep gate
the prison gate.
in the house of God

the gate of the valley,
the dragon well,
the dung port,
the gate of the fountain,
the king's pool
by the brook,
and turned back,
the gate of the valley,
(Nehemiah 2:12-16)

EZRA
toward the dung gate
the fountain gate
the stairs of the city of David
the water gate

Ezra	First Return	Third Return	Neh
3:1	people gathered themselves together as one man	all the people gathered themselves together as one man	8:1
3:2	stood up ... and builded	let us rise up and build	2:18
3:2	as it is written	as it is written	10:34, 36
3:4	kept the feast of tabernacles as it is written	they found written ... dwell in booths	8:14
3:6	first day of the seventh month	first day of the seventh month	8:2
3:10	with trumpets ... with cymbals	cymbals ... trumpets	12:27,35
3:10	ordinance of David	the commandment of David	12:24
3:11	praising and giving thanks	to praise and to give thanks	12:24
3:12	wept ... joy	wept ... mirth	8:9, 12
3:13	the noise was heard afar off	the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off	12:43

A. Neh 12:44 And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for **the treasures ...**

B. 47 ... gave **the portions** of the singers and the porters ...

C. 13:1 **On that day** they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the **Ammonite** and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever ...

D. 4 **And before this, Eliashib** the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah ...

E. 6 But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king:

D'. 7 I ... understood of the evil that **Eliashib** did for Tobiah,...

C'. 8 And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of **Tobiah** (an Ammonite) ...

B'. 10 And I perceived that **the portions** of the Levites had not been given them ...

A'. 12 Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto **the treasures ...**

A. Neh 13:15 In those days saw I in **Judah** some treading wine presses **on the sabbath**, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem **on the sabbath day**:

B. **and I testified against them** in the day wherein they sold victuals.

A'. 16 There dwelt men of **Tyre** also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold **on the sabbath** unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

B'. **17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah**, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? 18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.

A. Neh 13:19 And it came to pass, that when **the gates** of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that **the gates** should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at **the gates**, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.

B. 20 So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware **lodged without Jerusalem once or twice.**

C. 21 Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you.

B'. From that time forth **came they no more** on the sabbath.

A'. 22 And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep **the gates**, to sanctify the sabbath day.

	1 Corinthians 15,16	Ezra-Nehemiah
15:58	labour is not in vain	N 4:21 laboured in the work
16:1	collection	E 7:15 silver ... freely offered
16:1	given order	E 8:24 I separated
16:3	letters	E 7:11 N 2:7 letters
16:3	unto Jerusalem	E 8:30 bring to Jerusalem
16:7	if the Lord permit	E 8:22 the hand of our God
16:9	many adversaries	N 4:11 our adversaries
16:10	without fear	N 6:9 made us afraid
16:10	Worketh the work of the Lord	N 6:16 this work was wrought of our God
16:10	As I also	N 5:16 I continued
16:11	despise	N 2:19 laughed us to scorn
16:11	with the brethren	N 5:1 their brethren
16:13	watch	N 4:9 we set a watch
16:13	Stand fast in faith	N 4:21 half of them held the spears
16:13	Be strong	N 2:18 strengthen their hands
16:16	Helpeth ... laboureth	N 4:21 laboured in the work

lessons

- In the end it is the Word of God that accomplishes the Lord's purpose
- the community can respond and come to a renewed commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
- we must therefore ensure that the wholly inspired Word of God - wholesome words of our Lord Jesus Christ - is elevated in our lives and "right divided"
- problems recur and each generation must face them
- Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.
- Neh 13:31 Remember me, O my God, for good.