

MON) May 6**Ch. 5 – Restart rebuilding of the Temple**

After 14 years, the rebuilding of the temple was halted due to opposition from the Samaritans. Who were the two prophets who comforted and helped the people, along with Zerubbabel and Jeshua, to regain their zeal?

Ch. 6 – The Temple Finished and Dedicated

The great work of rebuilding the Temple was accomplished in four years through the order of King Darius and the obedience of the people of Judah. After the Temple construction was completed and the Temple dedication ceremony was held, worship services began again at the Temple after almost 70 years. We can see that behind their excitement and joy was God's sovereign work. Who is the subject of verse 22? "And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the () had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel."

Ch. 7 – The Second Return from Exile

Chapter 6 ended with the story of 516 B.C., when the Temple was completed. And Chapter 7 begins with the story of 458 B.C., 60 years have passed, King Artaxerxes I of the Persian Empire commanded a return of second return of the descendants of Judah. What does Ezra the scholar, who led the second return from exile, decide when he arrives in Jerusalem with the returnees?(V. 10)

*Let us also take time to reflect on whether we are continuing our determination to read, study, and obey the Word.

Ch. 8 - Genealogy of Those Who Returned with Ezra

The number of people who returned with Ezra the second time was about 1,500 men (about 5,000 including women). Why did Ezra proclaim a fast by the river Ahava when he returned with his people?

TUE) May 7 **Ch. 9 – Ezra's Prayer of Repentance**

As the returning Israelites compromise with reality, they commit the sin of entering into marriage relationships with foreign people who lived in that land, just like their ancestors did. Even the priests, Levites, princes, and dignitaries did the same (verses 1-2). What was Ezra's reaction to this?
1) Before the evening sacrifice (verses 3-4):

2) When offering the evening sacrifice (after v. 5):

He regarded the people's sins as if they were his own, and repented to God.

Ch. 10 - Decided to send the Gentile women and their children

This chapter shows how to deal with the sin (marriage with Gentiles) of the Israelite community. In particular, who was the person who encouraged Ezra by saying, "If we obey God's teachings and commands, there is hope for Israel as well," and offered to help Ezra? (Vv. 1-4)

Nehemiah Ch. 1 – Nehemiah's prayer

The Book of Nehemiah contains the third return process led by Nehemiah, who was a cupbearer to the king of Persia, about 13 years after the second return from the exile led by Ezra the scholar. In this chapter, the news of Jerusalem being in ruins was unbearable for Nehemiah, and he wept, fasted, and prayed. Nehemiah's first prayer begins with a confession of God's character.

"O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps () and () with those who () him and keep his commandments"

Ch. 2 - Nehemiah Sent to Jerusalem

In this chapter, when Nehemiah tried to build the collapsed wall, who were the people who looked down on Nehemiah, laughed at him, and asked him if he was going to betray the king?

WED) May 8**Ch. 3 – Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem**

The construction of the walls of Jerusalem cannot be completed all at once or by a few people, but can be accomplished when everyone shares the burden and faithfully performs their duties. All verses in Chapter 3 begin with (). It is excited to see who's next. In this way, we learn that all members of the church must serve and build God's church together.

Ch. 4 – When encountering adversaries who interfere from the outside

In this chapter, reconstruction of the wall began, but forces soon interfered. They appear and make Israelites feel discouraged and give up. How did Nehemiah and the people of Judah react at this time?

- 1) Verse 9: () to God.
- 2) Verse 17: Work (rebuilding the wall) with one hand, held () in on the other.

(Even as God's church is being built, there are countless Sanballats and Tobiahs. We must pray spiritually, and realistically, we must handle and prepare with passion for what we must do.)

Ch. 5 – When encountering problems from the inside

It seemed like the external enemies, obstacles, and threats had passed, but now internal problems are starting to surface. The real problem facing the people who had to devote themselves to labor due to the wall reconstruction work was the food shortage. For these people, Ezra asks the nobles and generals to free their fellow slaves and return their land. What is their answer to this? (Verse 12)

(Even though it is not easy, we can see obedience for the community)

Ch. 6 - When facing attacks against leader Nehemiah

Despite all opposition from inside and outside, the reconstruction of the walls was carried out, and now the walls are almost completely built, and the construction will be completed with only the final door installed (1). But now the main target of the attack is focused on the leader, Nehemiah. The purpose of attacking Nehemiah is to (). This was to stop the reconstruction of the walls. (Verses 3, 9, 13, 14)

THU) May 9**Ch. 7 - Appointing leaders, lists of those who returned from captivity**

After the task of building the wall was completed, Nehemiah appointed leaders and specifically appointed two leaders, Hanani and Hananiah, to take organizational responsibility for how the people should defend the city. In particular, what kind of person is Hananiah described as?

(This brief comment represents his personality and faith. When these people are established as leaders of the community, the community has hope.)

Ch. 8 - Ezra Reads the Law

When the reconstruction of the wall was completed, the people gathered in the square in front of the Water Gate, and Ezra read the Book of the Law. (1-12) While learning the law, the people realized the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles, and all the people celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles together. (13-18) "Ezra stood over all the people and opened the book in the sight of all the people. When he opened it, all the people (.....)."

(Standing up every Sunday when the Word of God is read expresses our reverence for the Word and our desire to obey it.)

Ch. 9 - All Israelites repent

The Israelites celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles from July 15th to 22nd and gathered again on the 24th. What did the Israelites do when they gathered together while they fasted, wore sackcloth, and earth on their heads?

Ch. 10 - Promises to Keep God's Word

Following the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles and the repentance movement, the people who held the meeting pledged to keep the commandments and laws of the faithful God. Write which verse record for the following items.

- 1) We will prohibit marriage with gentiles - verse 30
- 2) We will observe the Sabbath, holy days, and sabbatical year - Verse
- 3) We will each give 1/3 of a shekel every year for God's temple - Verse
- 4) Every year, we will offer the firstfruits of our grain, the firstlings of our livestock, and tithes -Verse

FRI) May 10**Ch. 11 - People who offered to live in Jerusalem**

Jerusalem, a city without walls and protection for over 140 years, was a dangerous city to live in. However, now that the wall was built, what Nehemiah had to do was to fill the walled city of Jerusalem with residents. First, he had the leaders of the people come and reside in Jerusalem, and among the people, one out of ten would draw lots to move to Jerusalem and settle there. What we should note is that even in such difficult circumstances, there were people who voluntarily moved to Jerusalem, and with a missionary spirit, they dedicated themselves and worked hard to rebuild and repopulate the city of God. What did the other people do for those who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem? (V. 2)

Ch. 12 - City wall dedication ceremony

The huge group splits into two and marches up the wall, starting in opposite directions and meeting at the end. In this procession, the crowds perform a dedication ceremony for the wall, singing poems and songs of thanks and hymn (verses 27-43).

"And they offered great sacrifices that day and (.....), for God had made them (.....) with great joy; the women and children also (.....). And the (.....) of Jerusalem was heard far away."

Ch. 13 - Nehemiah's Reform

Nehemiah's second reform takes place in this chapter when the Israelites, who had pledged to follow the Law through covenant and oath, sin again and go astray due to Nehemiah's absence. In particular, which of the Ten Commandments was Nehemiah's action recorded in verses 15-22 of this chapter aimed at correctly observing?

SAT) May 11 **Esther Ch. 1 - Dethroned Queen Vashti**

God recorded and spoke about how He protects those who returned to Jerusalem through the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah. The Book of Esther shows that God equally rules and provides for those who did not return and those who still live in the land of Babylon. In order to reveal the glory of himself and the Persian Empire, King Ahasuerus held a feast for his princes and subjects for 180 days, and on the 7th day, he wanted to reveal the beauty of Queen Vashti in front of all the people, but the queen refused the order. What edict was issued to the entire country because of Queen Vashti? (V. 22)

Ch. 2 - Esther becomes queen

In this chapter, God, in an unseen place, makes Esther queen and Mordecai is credited with uncovering the king's assassination plot. However, if you do not have the insight to see the invisible God, you will only be able to see the extent to which the queen of a country was replaced or the extent to which a person made a contribution by discovering a rebellion. Do you believe and trust that there is the visible hand of the invisible God for everything big and small that happens on this earth?

Ch. 3 - Haman plots against the Jews

The conflict between Haman and Mordecai was not simply a matter of personality and temperament; it was a spiritual war between the kingdom of God and the forces opposing it. Haman's intention was to destroy not just Mordecai, but the entire Jewish people to which he belonged. What ethnicity is Haman? (V. 1)

(Agag is the title of the king of Amalek, and the Amalekites are God's enemies and the people with whom God said He would fight from generation to generation - Exodus 17:16).

Ch. 4 - If I perish, I perish

After fasting for three days, how does Esther feel about going to the king, breaking the rules?