

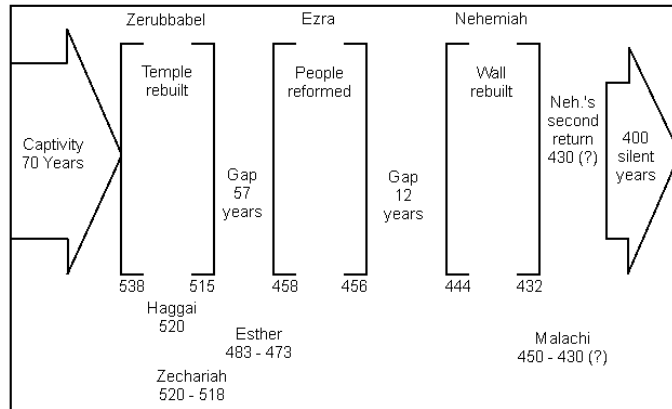
Old Testament Introduction

The Book of Nehemiah

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INTRODUCTION

- 1) The Book of Nehemiah takes its name from the principle character of the book and its opening words found in **(1:10)**. Nehemiah was born to Jewish parents in exile. His name means "*the _____ of Jehovah.*" From his name we may gather that his home was a _____ one.
- 2) For the most part, the Book of Nehemiah is a _____ narrative. From Nehemiah's important position as cup bearer to King Artaxerxes God secured imperial permission for Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem with a third group of Jewish exiles. This book contains an account of Nehemiah himself, and his activities between the years _____ B.C. and _____ B.C.



The Three Returns from Exile

- 3) Nehemiah is a sequel to the Book of Ezra. Ezra deals with the restoration of the nation's _____. Nehemiah records the reconstruction of the nation's capital _____. Together they provide an account of the _____ and _____ activities of the remnant which had recently returned from the Babylonian captivity.

AUTHORSHIP

- 1) **The Traditional view:** _____ was the author **(1:1)**.
- 2) **The Critical view:** Critics view Nehemiah as the compilation of a so-called "*Chronicler*," a priestly historian who supposedly wrote **1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah** at least a century or more after Nehemiah and Ezra's time.

RECIPIENTS

Nehemiah was composed for the Jewish _____ who had returned from the Babylonian captivity.

DATE OF WRITING

The book was probably written shortly after _____ B.C. .

PURPOSE OF BOOK

The Book of Nehemiah begins about 12 years after the exiles returned to Jerusalem with Ezra. A great religious revival had taken place at that time, but now the people are in a very depressed condition again. Almost _____ years had elapsed since the first return under Zerubbabel. The Temple had been completed, but the people had been persecuted by their enemies and were unable to build the walls of their city **(1:3)**. _____ is still present as priest and teacher, but now Nehemiah comes as _____ with official instructions to rebuild the city **(2:5)**. The first step was to rebuild the _____ **(2:17)**. The book records how, under Nehemiah, the walls were rebuilt and the people were _____.

THEME OF THE BOOK

_____, _____, and _____ = the conditions of successful work for God.

OUTLINE

- I. Construction of the Walls **1-7**
- II. Instruction of the People **8-10**
- III. Consolidation of the Work **11-13**