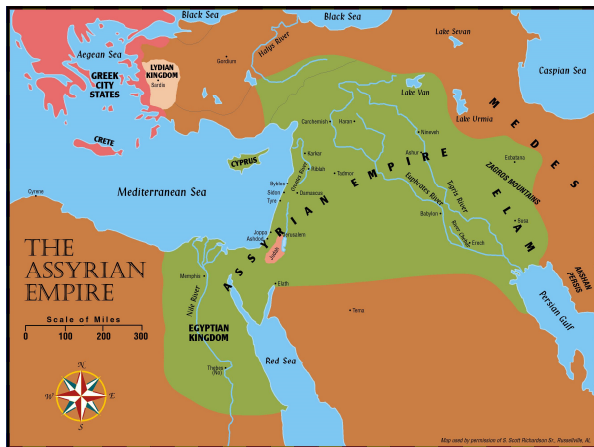


Restoration Of God's People

Jeremiah 27:22





Background of Haggai & Nehemiah Ezra 1-6

- 606 BC First captives taken by Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 1:1-2
- 597 BC Second Group (10,000) taken to Babylon, 2 Kings 24:10-16; Ezekiel 1:1-3
- 586 BC Jerusalem falls, temple destroyed, 2 Kings 25:1-21
- 539 BC Babylon falls to Medes and Persians, Daniel 5: 25ff; Isaiah 44:27-45:1-4

Background of Haggai & Nehemiah Ezra 1-6

- 536 BC Cyrus issues a decree (538) for the Jews to go back to Jerusalem after 70 years. (cf. Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10-14)
 - 49,897 return under the leadership of Zerubbabel (2 Chronicles 36:21-23; Ezra 1)
- 516 BC The temple is completed. Ezra 6:15
- 458 BC Ezra led a second remnant of 2,058 Jews to Jerusalem. Ezra 8:1-34
- 444 BC Nehemiah led a third remnant back. Nehemiah 2

Persian Kings

These rulers cover the period during the books of: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

- **Cyrus (559-529)** Conquered Babylon in 539 BC with Darius the Mede. Daniel 5:30-31
- **Cambyses (529-522)** Also called "Artaxerxes" Commanded work on temple to cease. Ezra 4:7,11,23

Persian Kings

These rulers cover the period during the books of: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

- **Darius I (522-486)** Authorized the completion of temple. Ezra 4:24-6:15, Book of Haggai
- **Xerxes (485-465)** Also called "Ahasuerus"; Esther was his queen, Book of Esther
- **Artaxerxes (465-425)** Authorized Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem, Ezra 7; Book of Nehemiah

Nehemiah

A Man Of Action

Interest In His Brethren

- 1:2 Asked concerning the condition of his brethren.
- 1:4ff Prays for the people.
- 1:11 Prays for himself.
- 2:4 Prays for the right answer.

Power of prayer. James 5:16

Preliminary Preparation

- 2:3-8 Petitions the king
- Send ME to Jerusalem.

The Work Of Rebuilding

2:9-20 Preparation –

- Views the city, reveals his mission.
- Ridicule.
- Chapter 3 – Assignments given for the work.

The Work Of Rebuilding

The Zeal Of The Work.

- 4:1-3 Ridicule.
- 4:6 *“The people had a mind to work.”*
cf. Haggai
- 4:9, 16 Watch.
- 4:17 Worked with one hand and held their weapons with the other hand.
- 4:18 Trumpet blower by Nehemiah ... leadership and cooperation.
- 4:20 Faith in God. *“Our God will fight for us.”*

The Work Of Rebuilding

The Greatest Interference To Their Work Was Internal Strife. 5:1-6

- 5:9 *“The thing that ye do is not good.”*
 - Ephesians 4:3; Psalms 133:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13;
- Galatians 5:15
- 5:12 People promise to repay.
- 5:14-19 Example of Nehemiah.

The Work Of Rebuilding

Uncompromising Work.

- First effort to get Nehemiah to compromise: 6:1-9
 - *“I am doing a great work ... I cannot come ...”*
 - Second effort to get Nehemiah to compromise: 6:10-14
- The Work Finished. 6:15 Fifty-two days.

The Work Of Registering & Educating The People

- 7:1-73 People registered according to genealogy.
- 8:1-8 Law read to the people.
- 8:10ff People react to the reading of the law.
- 9 – Public confession of sin.
- 10 – People make a covenant to keep the law.

The Work Of Populating The City

- 11 – One out of every ten to dwell in Jerusalem.

Dedication Of The Walls

- 12:27 A grand occasion. Great celebration!
 - 12:31 The princes of Judah went upon the wall.
 - 12:43 Day of rejoicing, singing, praying, thanksgiving. *“**Heard even afar off.**”*

“When The Cat Is Away ...” Nehemiah 13:6

- 13:4-5 Tobiah, given quarters in the temple courts by Eliashib the (high 13:28) priest.
- 13:10-11 Levites abandoned their posts in the temple.
- 13:15-17 People profaned the Sabbath day. (cf. chapter 10)
- 13:23ff People had engaged in mixed marriages.
- Ezra (9:3) versus Nehemiah.

Conclusion:

- We should be like Nehemiah.
 - Work or act now, cry later.
 - Develop the mind to work, despising internal strife.
 - Learn to accept the example and zeal of Nehemiah.
- 13:31 “Remember me, O my God, for good.”*