

Harvesters, Perimeter Church

“Nehemiah: Faithfulness amid the Fragments”

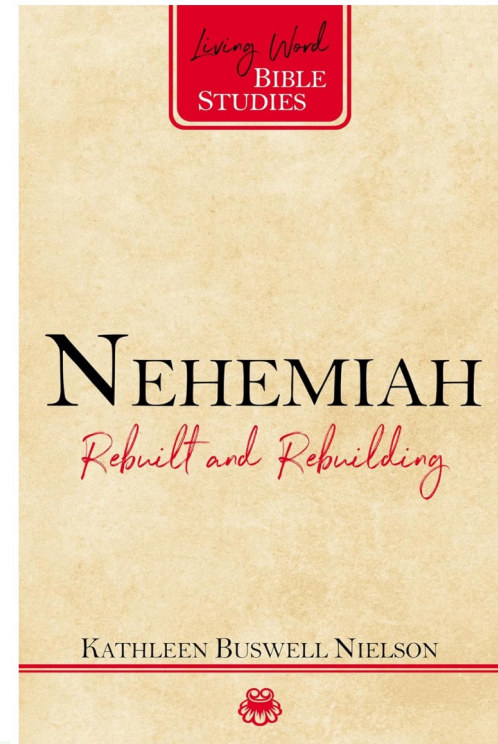
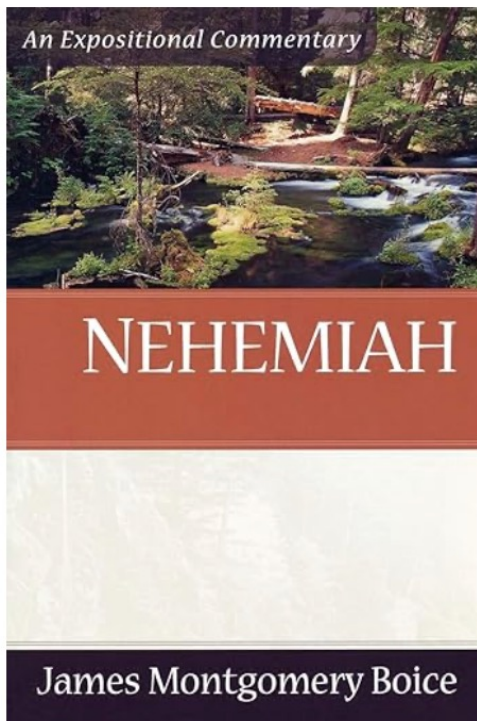
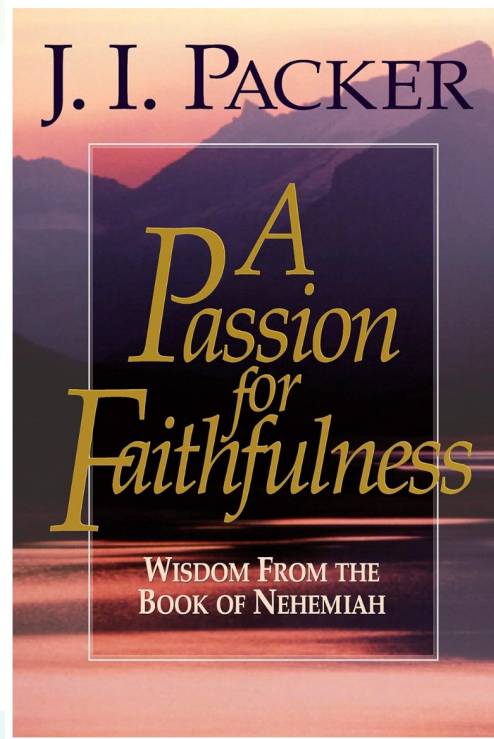
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GENEVA

Bibliography



Context – Time and Place

Timeline

600 B.C.

- 586 – Fall of Judah to Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar
- 539 – Persian King Cyrus decrees Jews to return under Zerubbabel
- 536-520 – Temple rebuilding halts
- 516 – Temple finally completed while King Darius reigns Persia

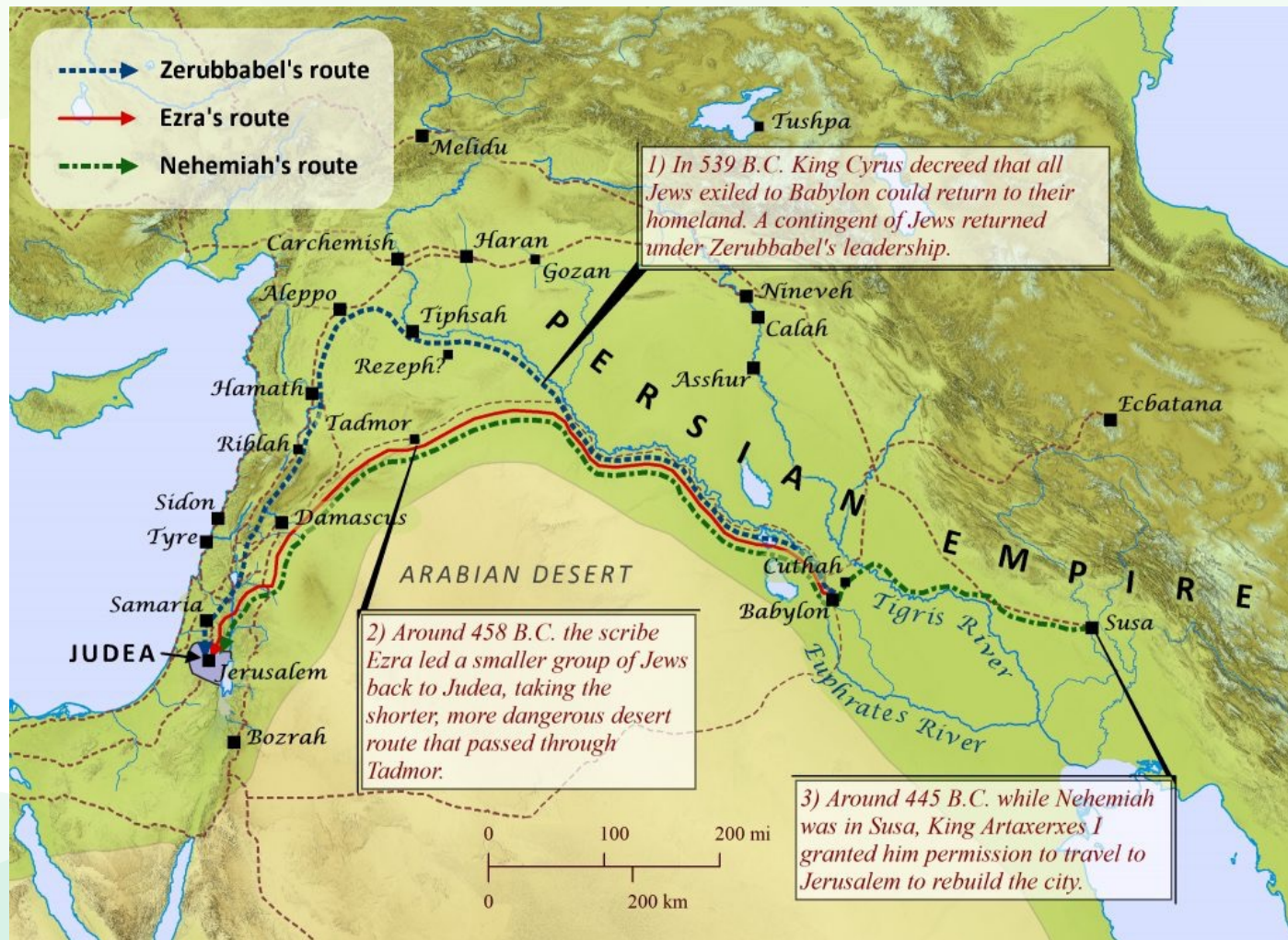
500 B.C.

- 486-464 – Persian king Xerxes I makes Esther queen
- 458 – 2nd return with Ezra and restores God's law under Artaxerxes
- 445 – Nehemiah leads 3rd return and rebuilds under Artaxerxes

400 B.C.

Context – Time and Place

Place



Why Study Nehemiah (and Ezra)?

1. We live in exile also
2. We learn leadership
3. We look to Jesus

“During the half-century that I have been a Christian he has helped me enormously, more perhaps than any other Bible character apart from the Lord Jesus himself.”

- J.I. Packer

Structure of the Book

I. Nehemiah 1-7

Rebuilding the Wall

- Plan Developed (1-2)
- People Deployed (3)
- Problems out/in (4-6)
- Project Complete (7)

II. Nehemiah 8-13

Religious Reform

- Covenant Renewed(8)
- Corporate Confession(9)
- Community Restored (10-12)
- Continued Reform (10-12)

Nehemiah 1:1-4

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hialeah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

⁴ As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 1:5-7

⁵ And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

Nehemiah 1:8-11

⁸ Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹ but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Observations

1. Nehemiah's inquiry of his brother.
2. Nehemiah's response to his brother – the emotions.
3. Nehemiah's response to his brother – the duration.
4. Nehemiah's position before the king - cupbearer

Reflections for the week

1. What lessons does Nehemiah 1 teach you about God's providence?
2. What is God teaching you about your own prayer life from studying Nehemiah 1?
3. How might you lean into nurturing your life of prayer in 2024?
4. Take time to marvel at what God did to preserve his people and his witness in the world through history.