

Nehemia Factual Study



2:17

„Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire.

Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and
we will no longer be in disgrace.”



Background



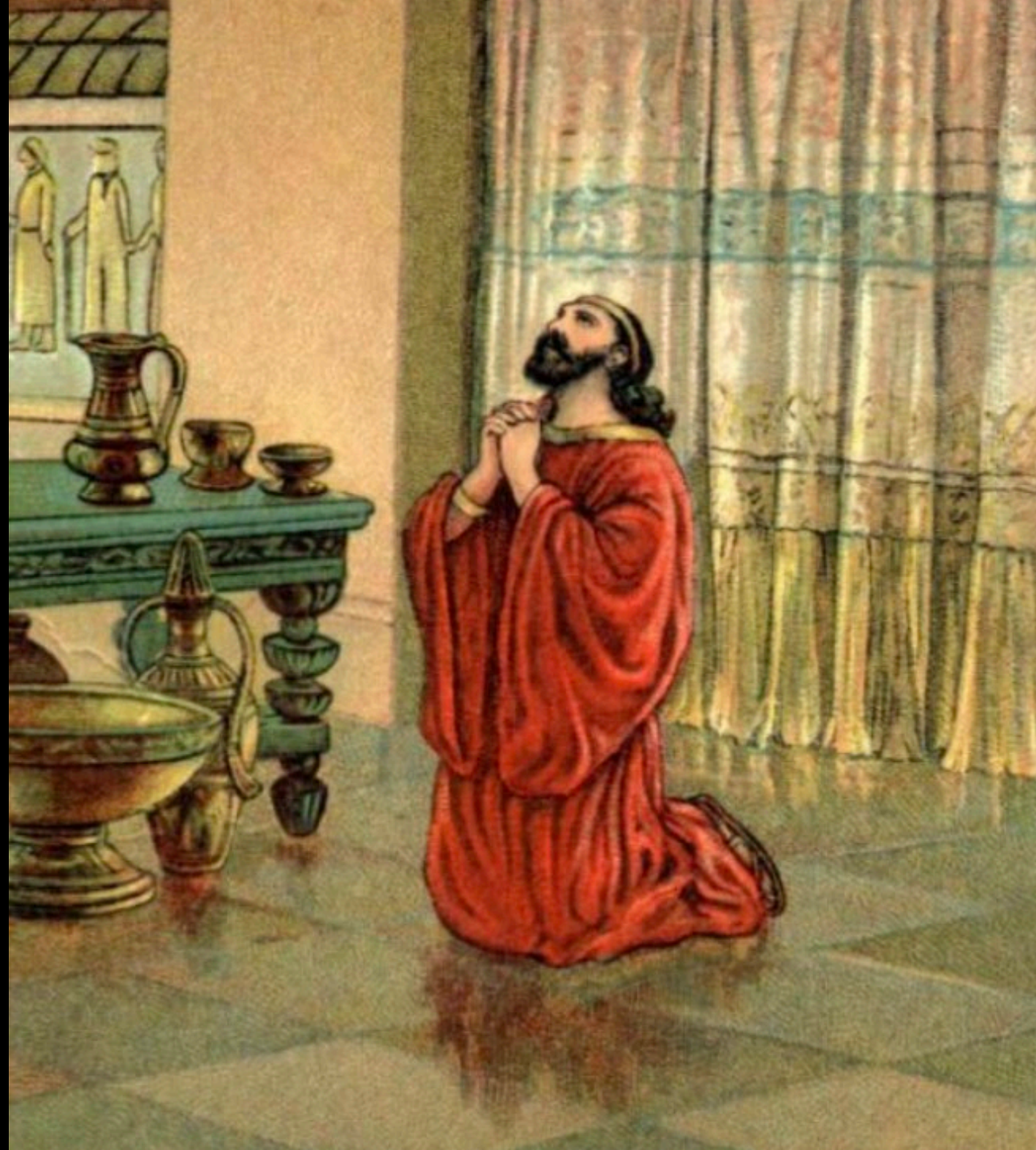
Overview



Factual Study

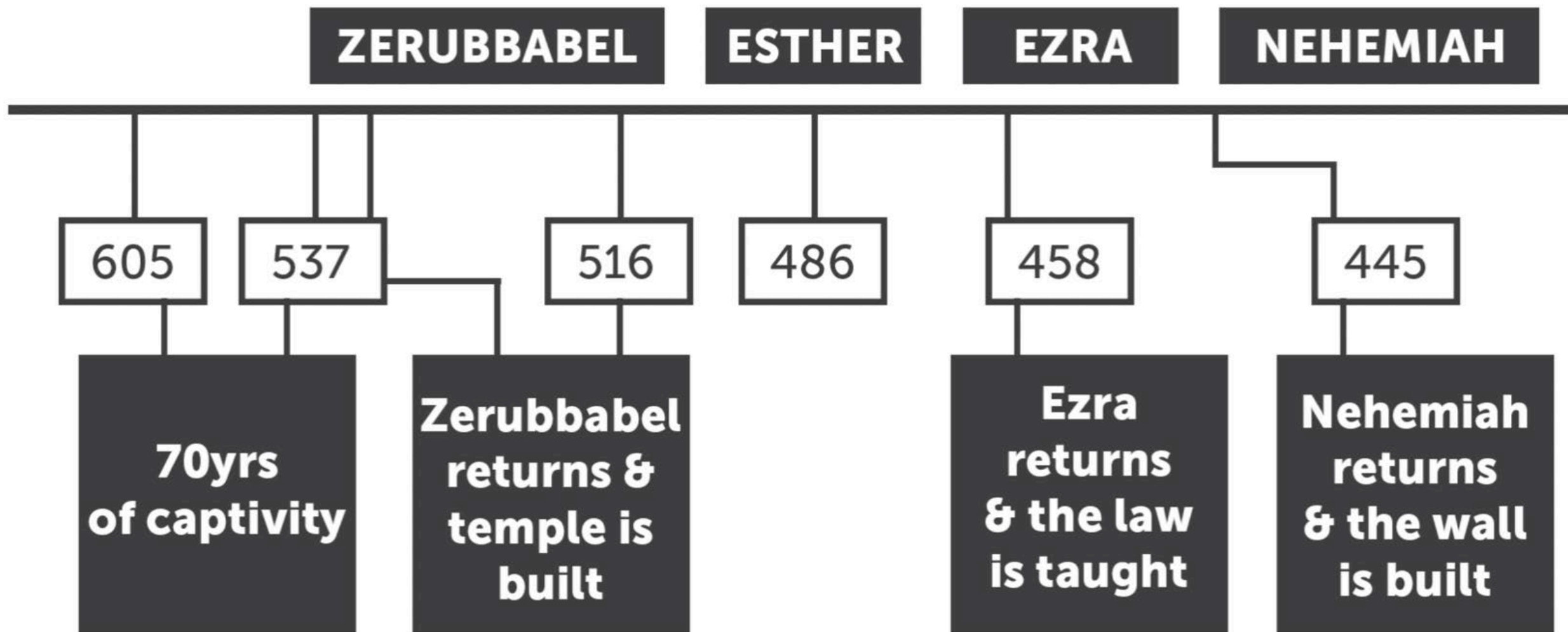


What we can learn from Nehemiah

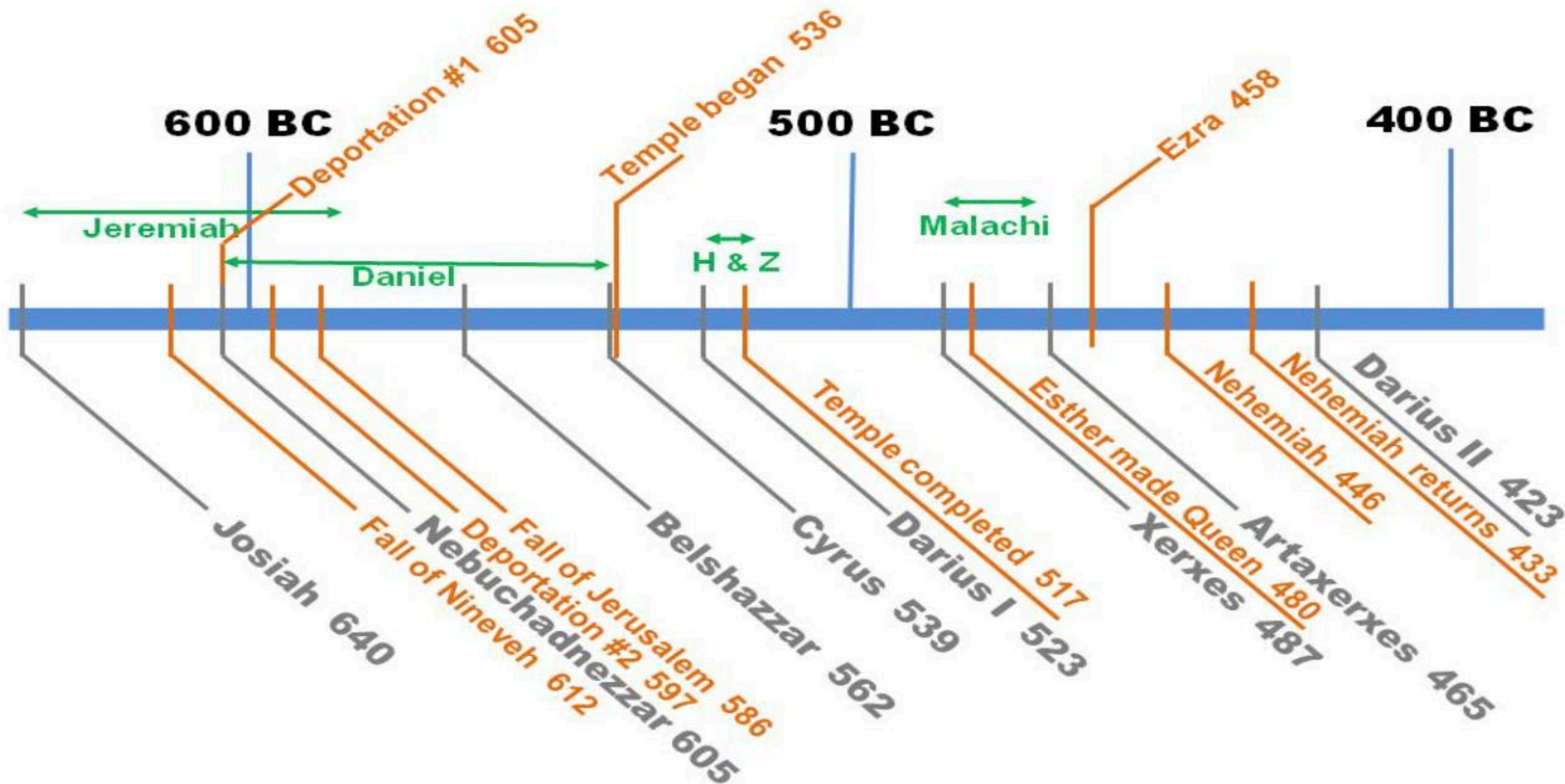


1. Return under Zerubbabel / Rebuilding the Temple	Ezra 1-6	538-516 BC
Events of Book Ester		473 BC
2. Return under Ezra / Reformation of the People	Ezra 7-10	458-457 BC
3. Return under Nehemiah / Rebuilding the Wall	Nehemiah	445-444 BC

Source: Stevenson (2017)



Source: Scotts Hill Christian Academy (2018)



Source: Glenn (2015)



Background



Overview



Factual Study



What we can learn from Nehemiah

Overview

1:1-11	Nehemiah's prayer
2:1-10	The king sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem
2:11-20	Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem; Beginning of rebuilding the wall
3:1-32	Rebuilding the wall through coworking
4:1-23	Opposition
5:1-19	Inner temptation
6:1 - 7:3	Opposition / Completion of the wall
7:4-73	The list of the exiles who returned

Overview

8:1-18	Ezra reads the law
9 - 10	Confession of sins and agreement
11:1-36	Social system reformed (New residents of Jerusalem)
12:1-26	Religious system reformed (Priests and Levites)
12:27-43	Dedication of the wall
13	Spiritual reformation; Restoring spiritual identity

Source: Own representation

Overview

1 – 2:10		2:11 – 6		7	8 – 12	13
Nehemiah talks		The work		Number of the people	Covenant renewal	Further reforms
To God	To the King	Plan set	Job done			
Work				Worship		
Rebuilding the wall				Reviving the people		

Source: Stevenson (2017)



Background



Overview



Factual Study



What we can learn from Nehemiah

Chapter	Verse	Nehemiah's prayer based on God's promise for the Jews	Message
1	1-3	Hanani's message about the Jews' trouble and disgrace and Jerusalem's broken wall	God keeps his covenant with those who keep his commands (5)
	4-11	Nehemiah's prayer	
	4-5	God, who keeps his covenant	
	6-7	Confession of disobedience to God's commands	
	8-11	Nehemiah reminds God of his promise	

1. **Nehemiah's prayer for the Jews**
2. **Nehemiah's representative repentance for his people**
3. **Nehemiah's prayer based on God's promise**

1:4,5

„When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and **prayed** before the God of heaven. Then I said: “Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, **who keeps his covenant** of love with those who love him and keep his commandment,...”

Chapter	Verse	Rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall	Message
2	1-5	Nehemiah asks the king for permission to go to Jerusalem	Rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem (17,18)
	6-8	The king sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem with letters to the governor and to Asaph	
	9-10	Sanballat and Tobiah are disturbed that Nehemiah had come to Jerusalem	
	11-15	Nehemiah examines the walls of Jerusalem	
	16-18	Nehemiah invites to rebuild the wall and the workers consent to the good work	
	19-20	Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem mock them; Nehemiah's answer of faith	

1. **Nehemiah's courageous request to the king through his prayer**
2. **The gracious hand of God was over Nehemiah through the king's help**
3. **Nehemiah reminded the Jews of their identity as God's people**

2:17

„Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and **we will no longer be in disgrace.**”



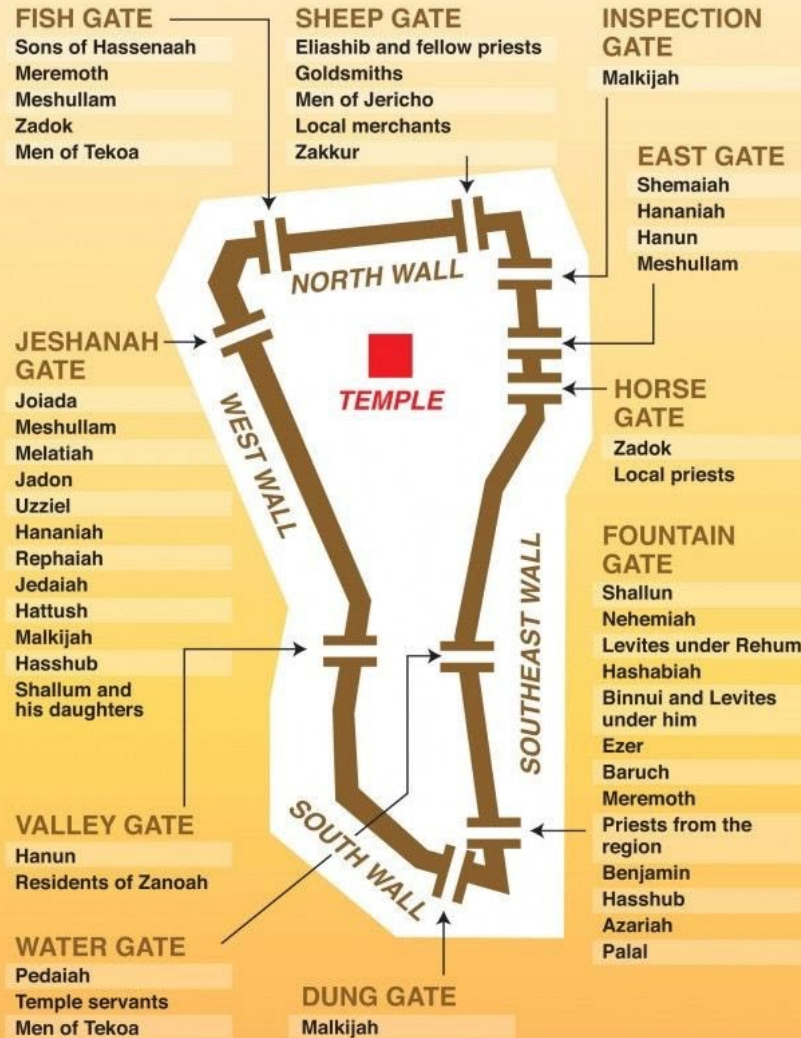
Source: Scotts Hill Christian Academy (2018)

Chapter	Verse	Starting rebuilding of the wall	Message
3	1-5	Sheep Gate and Fish Gate	The priests rebuilt the Sheep Gate (1)
	6-12	Jeshana Gate	
	13-16	Valley Gate, Dung Gate, Fountain Gate	
	17-27	Levites	
	28-32	Priests, goldsmiths, merchants	

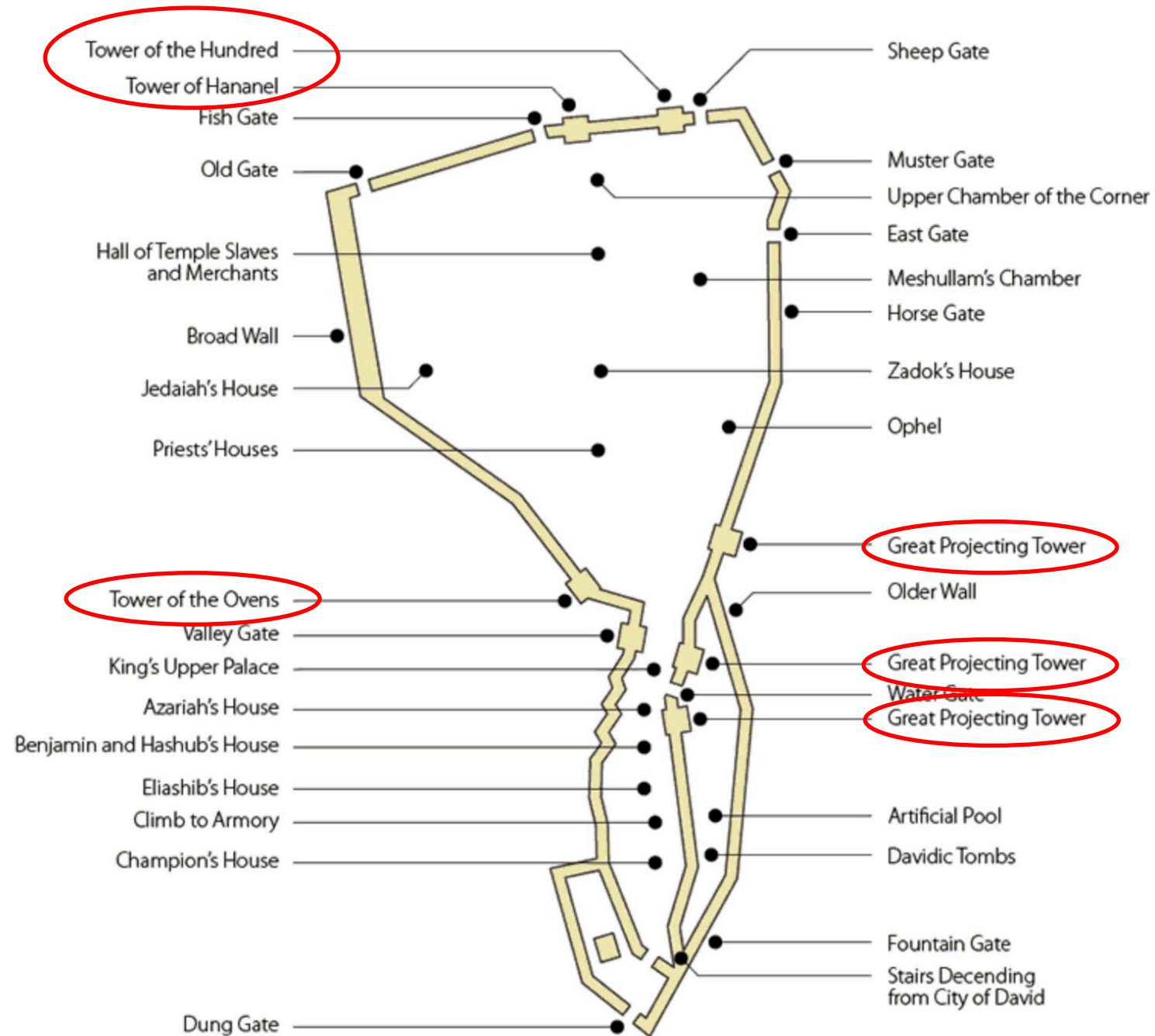
- 1. Various social classes helped in rebuilding the wall**
→ Priests (1), goldsmiths (8,31f), perfume-makers (8), rulers and women (12), Levites (17) and merchants (31f)
- 2. Nehemiah's prayer after being ridiculed and mocked by his enemies**
- 3. The coworking of the people**

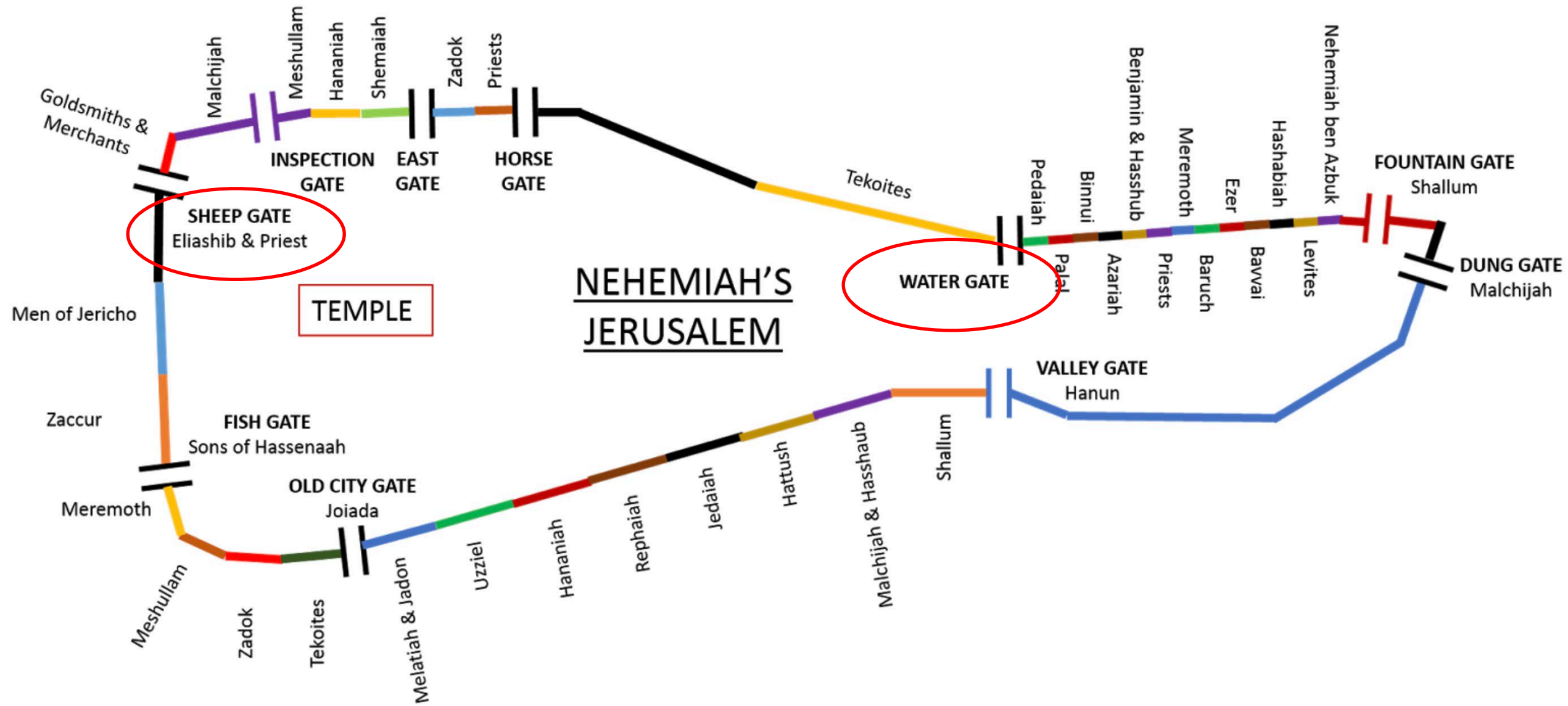
Walls and Their Builders

Nehemiah 3 tells us the names of many who help rebuild Jerusalem's wall



Jerusalem's Wall in Nehemiah's Day





3:1

„**Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work** and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel.“

Chapter	Verse	Building and guarding of the wall	Message
4	1-3	Sanballat and Tobiah mock the Jews	Work with one hand and holding a weapon in the other (17)
	4-5	Nehemiah asks God not to cover up their enemies' guilt	
	6	Rebuilding of the wall till all of it reached half its height	
	7-11	Nehemiah's prayer with his people in the midst of mockery, conspiracy, murder plot	
	12-14	Nehemiah encourages the fearful people	
	15-18	Work with one hand, weapon in the other	
	19-20	Nehemiah encourages his people: „Our God will fight for us!“	
	21-23	Nehemiah organized guards by night and workers by day	

1. Nehemiah prayed to God by faith
2. Nehemiah encourages the people not to be afraid of their enemies
3. The continuation of building the wall and readiness to fight at the same time

4:17

„...who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their **work** with one hand and held a **weapon** in the other...”

Chapter	Verse	Overcoming the inner challenge through Nehemiah	Message
5	1-5	Complaints of the poor against their fellow Jews during the famine	Nehemiah rebukes the leaders of their lack of fear of their God (9)
	6-8	Nehemiah's anger and accusation against the nobles and officials, who sold their own people	
	9-13	Nehemiah rebukes the leaders of their lack of fear of their God; Nehemiah commands to stop charging interest; The leaders agree	
	14-18	Nehemiah fears God by not eating the food allotted to the governor for twelve years	
	19	Nehemiah asks God to remember him with favor for all he has done for the people	

1. Nehemiah rebukes the leaders of lack of God's fear in front of a large meeting
2. Nehemiah leads the leaders to repentance of their unrighteousness
3. Nehemiah sets an example by his reverence for God

5,9

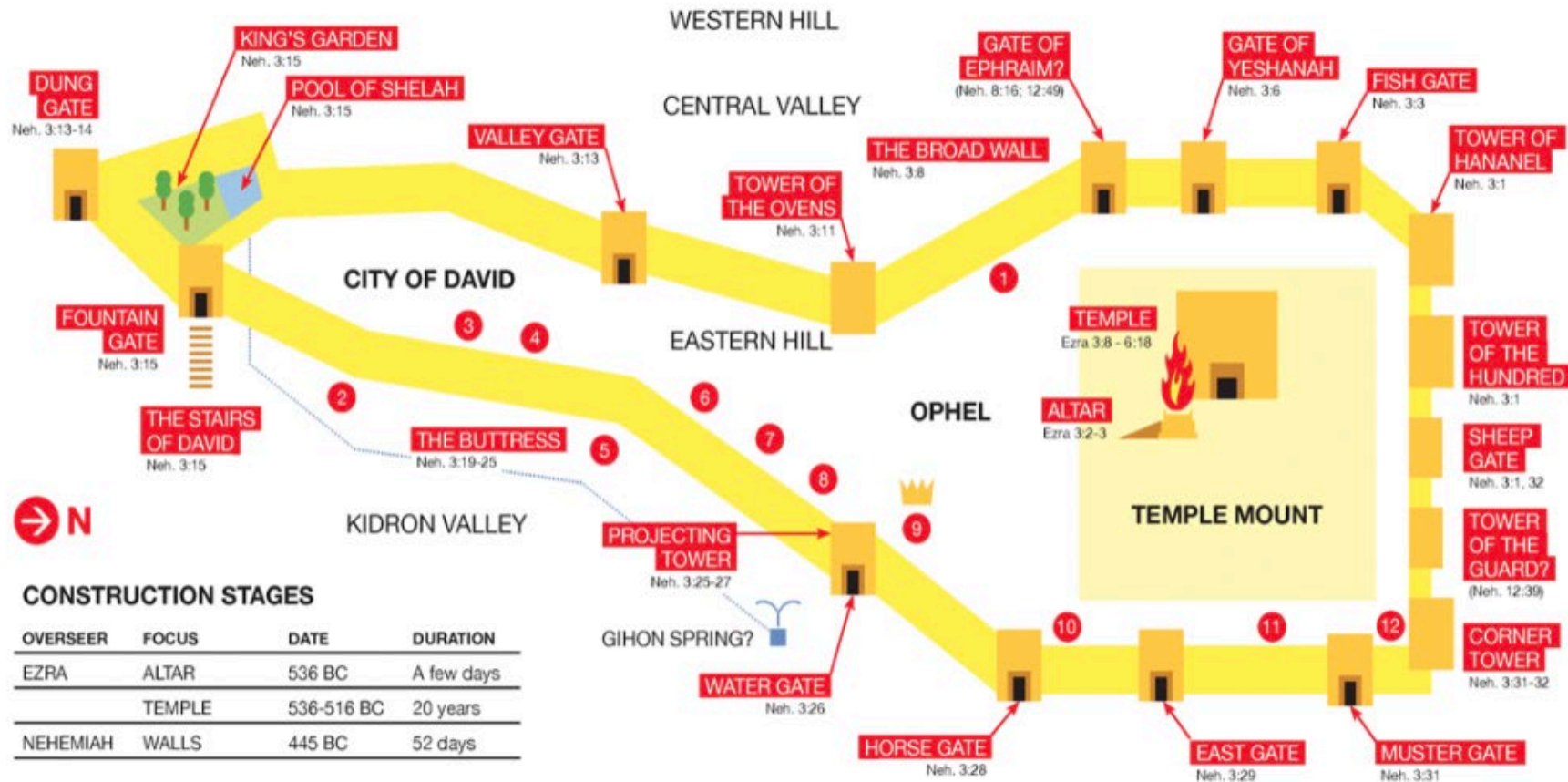
„So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you **walk in the fear of our God** to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?”

Chapter	Verse	Completion of the wall	Message
6	1-4	Four-time pitfall by Sanballat and Geshem to meet together on the plain of Ono; Nehemiah's priority on a great project	Completion of the wall through Nehemiah, who overcomes opposition (3,15)
	5-7	Sanballat's fifth invitation with a rumor	
	8-9	Nehemiah prayed to strengthen his hands	
	10-13	Shemaiah's invitation to meet in the house of God to be saved from his enemy's killing; Nehemiah is not intimidated	
	14	Nehemiah asks God to remember his enemies	
	15-19	Completion of the wall; The enemies recognized God's work; Tobiah's opposition	

- 1. Nehemiah resisted his enemies' invitations and carries on a great project**
- 2. God's work of the completed wall through Nehemiah's prayer and spiritual coworking of his church**

JERUSALEM REBUILT UNDER EZRA & NEHEMIAH

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Source: Barry (2015)

6:3

„...so I sent messengers to them with this reply: “**I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down.** Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?”

Chapter	Verse	The list of the exiles who returned	Message
7	1-3	Nehemiah appointed gatekeepers, musicians, Levites, Hanani and Hananiah	People of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles and returned to Jerusalem and Judah (6)
	4-5	A new challenge for Nehemiah: The city was large, but there were few people in it	
	5	Nehemiah assembled the people for registration by families; He found the genealogical record of those who had been the first to return	
	6-7a	People of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles	
	7b-38	List of the men of Israel	
	39-42	Priests	

43	The Levites
44-45	Musicians and gatekeepers
46-56	Temple servants
57-60	Temple servants and descendants of Solomon's servants
61-63	People who could not show that their families were descended from Israel
64-65	Priests, who could not find their family records and so were excluded from the priesthood as unclean
66-69	Whole company numbered 42,360
70-73a	Contributions to the work

- 1. Nehemiah appoints a man of integrity, who feared God more than most people do**
- 2. Nehemiah's sense of history, that he reminded the people through the record of their ancestors of their decision of faith (6) and their heart for the temple (70-72)**

7:6

„These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive (**they returned to Jerusalem** and Judah, each to his own town,...“

Chapter	Verse	Ezra reads the law	Message
8	7:73b-8:4	Ezra reads the law on the 1st day of the 7th month before the Water Gate from daybreak till noon and all the people listen attentively	Reading the law before the people who listen attentively (3)
	5-8	They worship God and were instructed in the law by the Levites	
	9-12	The people weep; The leaders encourage them to be joyful in the Lord	
	13-15	They found written in the law the Feast of Tabernacles	
	16-18	Feast of Tabernacles since Joshua's time	

1. **Ezra the priest reads the law before the church**
2. **The coworking of the Levites for instructing in the law**
3. **The attention and repentance of the people**
4. **The return to the Bible by celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles**

8:3

„He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And **all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.** “

Chapter	Verse	The Israelites confess their sins	Message
9	1-5	Fasting; Separating from all foreigners; Confession of their sins ; Reading from the Book of Law	God, who keeps his covenant of love (32)
	6-15	Prayer of the Levites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God, the Creator - God's covenant with Abraham - God's mercy on the Israelites in Egypt - Division of the Red Sea - Laws, decrees, commands - Bread from heaven - Water from the rock - Command to take possession of the land 	
	16-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disobedience of Israel's ancestors - Wish to return to slavery - Image of a calf - God's mercy - God's 40-year leading in the desert - God's leading to the Promised Land 	

26-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repeated disobedience of the people - Crying out to God in oppression - God gave them deliverers - They again did what was evil - Crying out to God again - God's mercy - Arrogance of the people - God's patience for many years - They paid no attention
32-37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asking for God's mercy; Confession of sins; Asking for spiritual renewal of the people

- 1. After reading the law, the Israelites confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors**
- 2. The faith of the people in God, who keeps his covenant of love**

9:32

“Now therefore, our God, the great God, mighty and awesome, **who keeps his covenant of love**, do not let all this hardship seem trifling in your eyes—the hardship that has come on us, on our kings and leaders, on our priests and prophets, on our ancestors and all your people, from the days of the kings of Assyria until today.”

Chapter	Verse	The agreement of the people	Message
10	9:38-10:9	A binding, writing, and sealed agreement through the priests	Agreement to follow the Law of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of their God (29)
	10-13	Agreement through the Levites	
	14-27	Agreement through the leaders of the people	
	28-29	Joining the agreement , binding with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God	
	30	No marriage with the peoples around them	
	31	Keeping the Sabbath holy	
	32-33	Giving a third of a shekel each year for the service of the house of their God	
	34	The priests, the Levites and the people cast lots to determine when each of their families is to bring to the house of God at set times each year a contribution of wood	

35	Bringing to the house of God each year the firstfruits of their crops and of every fruit tree
36	Bringing the firstborn of their sons and of their cattle, of their herds and of their flocks to the house of God, to the priests ministering there
37-39	Bringing to the storerooms of the house of God, to the priests, the first fruit of their ground meal, of their grain offerings, of the fruit of all their trees and of their new wine and olive oil; tithe of their crops to the Levites to not neglect the house their God

- **The agreement of the people to follow the Law of God and to obey carefully all commands of God**
 - **Godly marriage, Holy Sabbath, Tithe for the house of God**

10:29

„all these now join their fellow Israelites the nobles, and bind themselves with a curse and an oath **to follow the Law of God** given through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the Lord our Lord.“

Chapter	Verse	The new residents of Jerusalem	Message
11	1-2	Leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem; The rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten of them to live in Jerusalem, the holy city ; The people commend all who volunteer to live in Jerusalem	The leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem, the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten of them to live in Jerusalem (1)
	3-9	Descendants of Judah and Benjamin	
	10-14	The priests	
	15-18	The Levites	
	19	The gatekeepers	
	20-21	The temple servants	

22-23	Uzzi, the chief officer of the Levites; regulation of daily activity of the musicians
24	Pethahiah, the king's agent in all affairs relating to the people
25-30	The villages of the people of Judah
31-35	The villages of the descendants of Benjamin
36	Divisions of the Levites of Judah settled in Benjamin

- 1. The life decision of the people to live in Jerusalem and commit their whole life to God**
- 2. The new residents of Jerusalem, who volunteered to live in the holy city and cowork for the work of God**

11:1

„Now the leaders of the people **settled in Jerusalem**. The rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten of them to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns.“

Chapter	Verse	Dedication of the wall of Jerusalem	Message
12	1-26	List of the priests and Levites	The joy of Jerusalem at the dedication of the wall (43)
	1-7	The leaders of the priests who returned with Zerubbabel and with Joshua	
	8-9	The Levites who returned	
	10-11	The genealogy of Joshua to Jaddua	
	12-21	The heads of the priestly families in the days of Joiakim	
	22-24	The family heads of the Levites in the days of Eliashib	
	25-26	The gatekeepers who served in the days of Joiakim	

27-43	Dedication of the wall
27-30	Arrival of the Levites; The musicians; The purification of the priests and Levites
31-39	Nehemiah assigned two large choirs
40-43	The two choirs; Great sacrifices; Great joy in Jerusalem
44-47	Men were appointed to be in charge of the storerooms for the contributions, firstfruits and tithes, for the priests and Levites

1. Nehemiah restored the posts of the priests and Levites
2. Nehemiah assigned two large choirs to give thanks

12:43

„And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them **great joy**. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away. “

Chapter	Verse	Nehemiah's final reforms	Message
13	1-3	The people excluded from Israel all who were of foreign descent, obeying the law	Nehemiah warns them to marry foreign women (25)
	4-9	Eliashib's evil thing providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God; Nehemiah gives orders to purify the rooms	
	10-13	The Levites and musicians had gone back to their own fields because the portions had not been given to them; Nehemiah stations them back at their posts	
	14	Nehemiah asks God to remember his faithful service for the house of God	
	15-18	Nehemiah rebukes the nobles of Judah of desecrating the Sabbath	
	19-22a	Nehemiah warns the merchants and sellers, who spend the night by the wall on Sabbath; Nehemiah commands the Levites to guard the gates to keep the Sabbath holy	

22b	Nehemiah asks for God's mercy
23-27	Nehemiah's rebuke against marriage with foreign women
28	Nehemiah drives Sanballat's son-in-law away from him
29	Nehemiah asks God to remember those who defiled the covenant of the priesthood
30-31a	Nehemiah purifies the priests and Levites of everything foreign
31b	Nehemiah's prayer

- 1. Nehemiah throws away Tobiah's household goods out of the room and gives orders to purify the rooms**
- 2. Nehemiah rebukes them for not bringing the tithes**
- 3. Nehemiah rebukes them for desecrating the Sabbath**
- 4. Nehemiah warns them to marry foreign women**

13:25

„I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair. I made them take an oath in God's name and said: “**You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons**, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves.”



Background



Overview



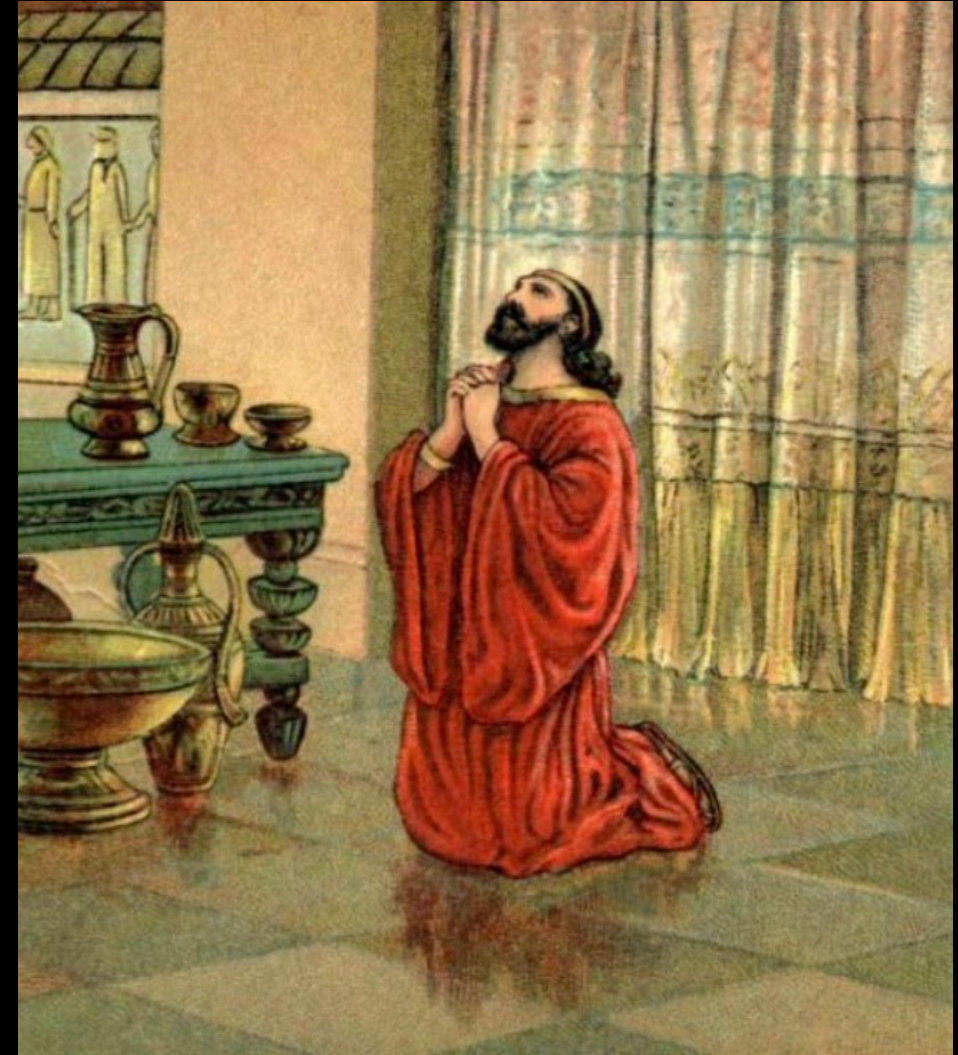
Factual Study



What we can learn from Nehemiah

What can we learn from Nehemiah?

1. Nehemiah's prayer
2. Nehemiah's fight against the enemies
 1. Fear
 2. Fear of the people
 3. Selfishness
 4. Enemies of God's work



2:17

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