

Digging for God Bible Study Notes

based on the New International Version (2011)

These interactive Bible Study Notes are designed to encourage youngsters of upper primary and lower secondary school ages to read and learn from the Scriptures. Our aim is to establish a pattern of reading and interacting with the Scriptures that will, God willing, stay with them into adult years.

Parents of younger children have also made use of these study booklets to read and discuss the Scriptures with their children.

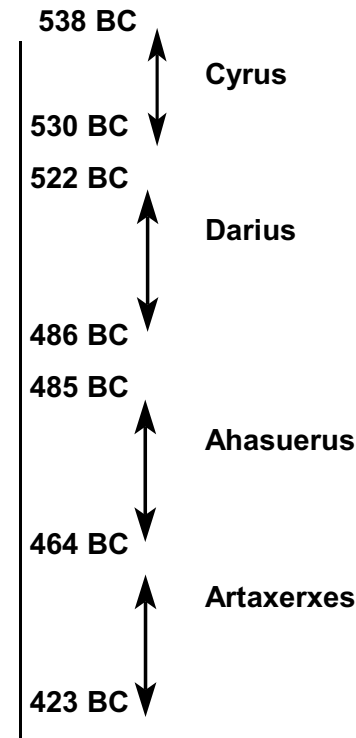
These study booklets have also been found useful in Africa in encouraging people of all ages, whose first language is not English, to study the Scriptures for themselves.

You will, no doubt, have many questions about what you read in the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah that are not answered in these notes.
If you are unable to find someone to help you, please e-mail us at studynotes@gracechurch.org.uk and we will be happy to try to help answer your questions.

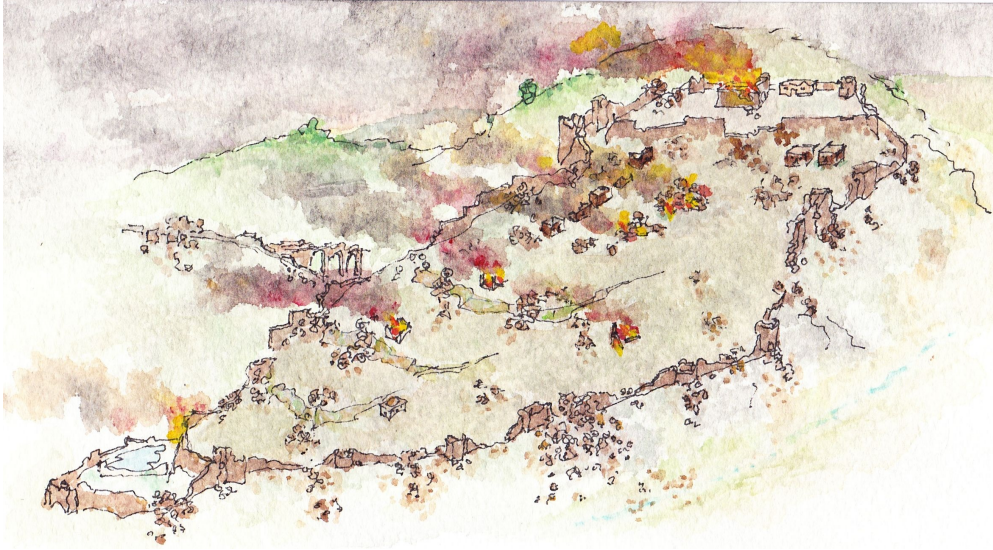
Try to read the Bible everyday.
Before you read, pray to God to give you understanding.
Use the notes to help you get to grips with the passage and its relevance to you. At the end of your study, try to find at least one thing to praise God for and at least one thing to pray to God for.

The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah

An approximate time line of Persian kings (not to scale)



The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah



Jerusalem was captured and burned by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BC

After the 'golden age' of king David and king Solomon the people of Israel split into two kingdoms - Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Despite the many prophets sent by God to draw them back to himself and a few godly kings in Judah, the people were increasingly rebellious towards God. After repeated warnings God judged the people by sending them into exile. Israel was deported in 722 BC by the Assyrians, never to return. Judah was deported to Babylon in 587 BC with the promise that after 70 years God would restore them to their promised land.

These notes belongs to:

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The Book of Ezra

Day 1: EZRA 1v1-11 Permission to Go Home

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

In the _____ year of his reign (539BC) C_____, ruler of the Persian empire decided that the t_____ of the God of h_____ in Jerusalem must be rebuilt.(v1-2)

Why? Because **God** _____ (v1) so that his promise to his people through the prophet J _____ would come true! **Read Jeremiah 29v10-12**

Who, among the exiles were allowed to return home? _____

What did Cyrus want for them?(v3)

That their _____ would be with them.

Cyrus is respectful towards God but does not show believe in him.

To Cyrus he is only the God who is in _____.(v3)

This is the **second exodus** of God's people.

How were the returning exiles to be provided for?(v6)

By their _____ giving them what they needed!

That reminds us of the **first exodus**. **Read Exodus 12v35-36**

So (v5) many of God's people prepared to return to Jerusalem.

Why? Because God moved _____

What else did Cyrus do for the returning exiles?(v7-11)

Entrusted S_____ to take all the precious temple dishes and bowls back to Jerusalem to be used in the newly rebuilt temple.

Something to think about . . .

To fulfil his gracious plan to return his people to their homes:

① God moved the heart of a godless ruler to command it.

② God moved the hearts of his people to go.

How do I respond to God?

Day 2: EZRA 2v1-70 Just a Boring List of Names??

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

(If you can't read the whole chapter, read v1-10 and v61-70)

Is this just a boring list of names? **YES NO**

This list is about _____ people who each _____ to God. Not just the leaders, like _____ who are mentioned by name but all the rest who are either listed by their _____ (e.g. **v6**) or by their town or _____ (v11gae) (e.g. **v26**). Everybody matters to God!

Zerubbabel real family mattered village

This **new exodus** is all about returning home to worship God so the p_____ (**v36**), the L_____ (**v40**), the m_____ (**v41**), the g_____ of the temple (**v42**) and the temple s_____ (**v43**) are singled out for a special mention.

Not all these people had prominent roles to play in the temple worship but they all counted! They were all important to God.

Some of the exiles came from Babylonian towns such as T ____ M _____. What couldn't they do? (**v59**)

Show that their families were descended from _____.

But they were not stopped from returning to Jerusalem.

Some of the priests couldn't show that they were Aaron's descendants. (**v62**) They were not allowed to act as priests.

Was this a permanent ban? (**v63**) **YES NO**

What did some family heads do when they finally arrived in Jerusalem? (**v68-69**) They gave _____ offerings towards the rebuilding of the temple and the temple worship.

Something to think about . . .

These people left the comforts of Babylon to rebuild God's house. How important to me is God's house (God's people)?

Day 3: EZRA 3v1-7 First Things First

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

The returned exiles were now *settled in their towns* (**2v70**) - they had begun to repair their homes but there was lots more to do.

When the **6th 7th 8th** month came round, what did they do? (**v1**)

They left their homes and gathered in _____.

What did the priests (e.g. Joshua) and leaders (e.g. Zerubbabel) do? They repaired the _____ of the God of Israel.

What for? (**v2**) To offer _____ on it.

Why? (**v2**) In obedience to the _____

How did they feel about the people living around them? (**v3**)

They were _____ of them.

Did that put them off worshipping God? **YES NO**

Then they celebrated the Festival of _____.

(This was one of the three annual festivals they celebrated)

Read Leviticus 23v41-43 (<i>shelters</i> = tents)

What was

the reason for this feast?

To remind them of when G __ looked after them as they travelled through the d _ _ _ _ during the **first exodus**.

From then on the returned exiles carried on with the regular worship of God. (**v3** and **v5**)

What was missing? (**v6**) The _____ had not yet been rebuilt!

So they organised the building supplies for the work. (**v7**)

Something to think about . . .

How big a priority is worshipping God for me?

Day 4: EZRA 3v8-13 A Great Shout of Joy

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

In the 2nd 3rd 4th month of the 2nd 3rd 4th year of the return from exile, the work of rebuilding the temple began.(v8)

When did Solomon begin work on the original temple?

Read 1 Kings 6v1 In the _____ month!

Who supervised the rebuilding work?

L_____ who were _____ years or older.

(They were responsible for all the practical arrangements connected with God's temple)

It was a great moment of praise to God when the f_____ of the temple were finally laid. The priests were wearing their ceremonial clothes and were blowing their t_____, while the Levites were clashing their c_____. They were all organised just as king D_____ had specified.(v10)

Together they sang praise to God in the song,

"He is good;

his love towards Israel endures for ever"

What did the people do?

They gave a great shout of _____ to the LORD!(v11)

What did many of the old priests and Levites do? _____ aloud.
(Because they remembered the magnificence of the first temple.)

Where was the sound heard?(v13) From _____.

Something to think about . . .

Does the advance of God's work make me shout for joy?

Day 5: EZRA 4v1-16 Opposition in Every Generation

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Ezra recounts a century of opposition against God's people.

How did the enemies of God's people first show their opposition?

(v2) By offering to _____ in the _____!

They claimed to _____ and _____(wrhsoip) the God of Israel.

But the leaders of God's people were wise to them. It was the job of God's true people alone to build his _____. (v3)

How did the enemies respond?(v4)

They tried to _____ God's people and make them _____ to go on building. They even bribed officials in the Persian government to try to stop the building work.

At v6 Ezra moves forward to the time of king Xerxes (=Ahasuerus).

There was still opposition to the work of God.

Then in v7-23 Ezra jumps forward again to his own day.

There was still opposition. What did God's enemies do now?(v7)

They _____ a _____ to the king.

In the letter they described Jerusalem as a _____ and _____ city,(v12) which was perfectly true in the past.

Then they claimed that if the building work was completed the people living in Jerusalem would stop paying t_____ to the king.

Does v14 honestly describe their motives? **YES NO**

Their letter appealed to the king's **mercy greed generosity**

Something to think about . . .

**I should not be surprised when serving God brings
opposition from God's enemies**

Day 6: EZRA 4v17-24 God's Enemies Triumph?

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Ezra is describing the opposition to God's work in his own day.

The enemies of God's people had written to king Artaxerxes.

Did king Artaxerxes take the letter seriously? **YES NO**

What happened when a search was made of the records?(v19)

The records showed that Jerusalem has a long _____ of _____ against foreign kings ruling over them. (True)

It even recorded that great kings had ruled from Jerusalem over the whole area west of the Euphrates river. (This goes back to the time of king _____(Dvida) and king _____(Sloonmo).

What was king Artaxerxes most concerned about?(v13, v20, v22)

That he would lose t_____, t_____ and d_____.

When Rehum and the other enemies of the Jews read the letter they **ignored it thought about it acted straight away**

How did they stop the work of rebuilding?(v23)

They stopped the rebuilding by f_____.

At **v24** Ezra returns to the original opposition in the reign of Darius.

When did the work on the temple restart?

In the **1st 2nd 3rd 4th** year of King Darius's reign.(520 BC)

Something to think about . . .

Am I helping to build God's house*?

* Today God's house is the church (his people).

Day 7: EZRA 5v1-6v6 Another Letter to a King

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Ezra is recounting the opposition to God's people who were the first to return from exile.

What triggered the re-start of the rebuilding of the temple?(**5v1**)

The preaching of the prophets H_____ and Z_____.

Whose message were they bringing? The _____ of _____.

Who helped Zerubbabel and Joshua get on with the building?

H_____ and Z_____!(**v2**)

What two things did Tattenai want to know?(**v3**)

W_____ gave you permission to _____ this temple?

W_____ are the _____ of the men doing the work.

Having your name taken down can be very frightening!

Why did the rebuilding work go on?

Because _____'s _____ was watching over his people.(**v5**)

A letter was sent to the king (this time Darius) to find out whether the rebuilding work was properly authorised.

How did the builders describe themselves?(**v11**)

We are the _____ of the God of _____ and _____

What did they tell?

A pack of lies A made up story A true account of history

What is the big question?(**v17**)

Did King _____ really issue a decree to rebuild the temple?

Was the decree found?(**6v2 YES NO**)

What did Tattenai and his fellow officials have to do? (**6v6**)

☒ To_____ from the building work!

☒ Let the Jews get on with rebuilding the h_____ of God.

Something to think about . . .

Do I trust in the God who is in complete control of history?

Day 8: EZRA 6v7-15 The Temple is Finished At Last!

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

The letter from King Darius to Tattenai the governor told him

- Not to interfere with the rebuilding of the temple.
- To pay the expenses of the temple builders out of the Kings taxes.(v8)
- To provide the animals and other things needed for the sacrifices to God.

What did king Darius especially want the priests to do?(v10)

To pray for the well-being of the _____ and his _____.

What was to happen to anyone who changes this edict(law)?

He was to be killed and his house made a _____ of _____!

Darius also called on God to _____ any king or nation that changed his decree or tried to _____ the temple.

Tattenai was careful to obey the decree.(v13) **YES NO**

The Jews got on with the job of building the temple. **YES NO**

What especially helped the work to prosper?(v14)

The preaching of God's prophets H_____ and Z_____.

Finally the building of the temple was completed.

Who **commanded** the rebuilding? _____(v14)

Whose decrees enabled it to happen? The _____ of Persia. The rebuilding of the temple was finished on the 3rd of Adar in Darius's 6th year.(In March 516 BC by our calendar)

Something to think about . . .

Do I diligently obey God's decrees?

Day 9: EZRA 6v16-22 The Temple is Dedicated and the Passover Celebrated

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

All the people celebrated the dedication of the temple with _____. Their worship is _____. The hundreds of animals killed provided a great feast of happy _____ with God. The twelve male goats were killed as sin offerings in place of all _____ tribes of Israel.

fellowship Benjamin extravagant twelve joy
--

(Even though the returned exiles were almost all from the tribes of Judah, _____ and Levi.)

The leaders organised the priests and Levites according to their own plan.(v18) **TRUE FALSE**

The priests and Levites did not need to purify themselves to serve God in the temple. **TRUE FALSE**

Only Israelites who had returned from exile in Babylon were allowed to eat the Passover lamb.(v21) **TRUE FALSE**

What did the Gentiles have to do to be able to take part in the Passover?

✗ _____ from the unclean practices of their neighbours.

✓ _____ the LORD, the God of Israel.

How many times does *joy* appear in these verses? **1 2 3** times

Something to think about . . .

Does the worship of God fill me with joy?

Day 10: EZRA 7v1-10 Ezra Comes to Jerusalem

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

We are already halfway through the Book of Ezra before Ezra himself gets a mention!

Where does Ezra come from?(v6) B _____

Who sends him to Jerusalem?(v1, v6)? King A _____

Once again God used a pagan king to fulfill his plans to have the temple in Jerusalem rebuilt!

What are v1-5 all about? They show that Ezra could trace his descent right back to Israel's first chief priest A _____.

(v6 and v10) _____ was an expert teacher of God's _____ that he had given to Israel through his servant _____. Ezra knew God's law 'inside-out' because he had spent time and energy _____ it, seeking to put it into _____ in his own life and _____ it to others.

Moses
Ezra
practice
studying
teaching
law

How long did it take Ezra and his company to travel from Babylon to Jerusalem?(v9) Only 4 5 6 months.

Why? Because the _____

Did the king give Ezra **everything** he asks for?(v6) YES NO

Why? Because the _____

Something to think about . . .

Do I give myself to studying and obeying God's law?

Day 11: EZRA 7v11-26 Ezra's Letter From the King

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

How often does Artaxerxes mention God's law in his letter?

3 4 5 6 times

His letter gives 11 instructions:

- ☒ Any I _____ who wanted to could go with Ezra.(v13)
- ☒ Ezra was to find out how well the _____ of _____ was being taught and was known in Judah and Jerusalem.(v14)
- ☒ Ezra was to take with him the _____ and _____ that the king had freely given to God.
- ☒ Ezra was to collect _____ and _____ from people in Babylon along with _____ gifts from the exiled Israelites.(v16)
- ☒ Ezra was to use all this money to buy _____ (aml'nias), g_____ and d_____ to be used for sacrifices to God.
- ☒ Ezra and his fellow Jews could spend _____ (athynnig) left over on what they thought right.(v18)
- ☒ Anything else Ezra needed for the worship of God was to be provided by the treasurers of Trans-Euphrates.(where Judah was)
- ☒ Everybody who _____ (srevsed) in the temple of God were to be exempt from taxes.(They didn't have to pay any!) (v24)
- ☒ Ezra was to appoint m_____ and j_____ to administer justice according to God's law.(v25)
- ☒ Anyone who didn't know God's law was to be _____ it.
- ☒ Anyone who disobeyed God's law was to be _____ (pnusihde) accordingly.

Wow! All this from a **pagan** ruler!!

Something to think about . . .

Do I pray for ruler who will promote God's law?

Day 12: EZRA 7v27-8v15 Praise the LORD

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

How did Ezra respond to the king's letter?(v27)

He _____ the _____!

It was lucky that the king honoured God's temple **YES** **NO**

It was lucky that Ezra was in the king's good books **YES** **NO**

What **actually** made all the difference?

The hand of the L_____ was on E_____.

How did Ezra respond to this?(v28) With _____.

Ezra now gives us a list of the family leaders who took up the challenge to accompany Ezra on his return to Jerusalem.

Ezra's list begins with the two priestly families descending from Aaron. Having God's _____ (csnoeh) men to serve in God's _____ (tmlpee) is a priority for Ezra.

Next comes Hattush a descendant of king David, from whose family the M_____ (Mssaieh) would come. Showing Ezra's faith that God would, one day, send his promised Messiah.

How many other families are listed?(v3-14) **11** **12** **13** **14**

Ezra is reminding us of the _____ tribes that made up all Israel.

When they camped ready for their journey, what did Ezra discover?(v15) No L_____ were prepared to go with them!

Something to think about . . .

When God's people are ready to serve him, am I missing?

Day 13: EZRA 8v16-23 Rounding Up the Stragglers!

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

No Levites were prepared to leave Babylon to return home to Judah.

So Ezra picked a team of men to go and persuade them to join him.

Ezra picked _____ leaders of the Israelites along with _____ men who were learned (in God's law).

Ezra gave them clear instructions.

Their mission was a _____. They brought back both Levites and temple _____ who helped them in their work. Ezra was particularly _____

to see Sherebiah among them, as he knew that he was a _____ man. Why was this mission successful?

God's _____ is on _____. (v18)

Was Ezra all ready to set off now? **YES** **NO**

Why did the people fast before they set off?(v21)



To _____ themselves before God.



To ask God for _____ (sefayt) for themselves, their families and their possessions.

(They were also carrying a **lot** of God's gold and silver with them!)

Did God answer their prayers?(v23) **YES** **NO**

Why didn't Ezra ask for an escort of soldiers?(v22)

He told the king that God's _____ hand is on everyone who trusts him (to provide for them and protect them) but that his great _____ is against all those who _____ him.

Something to think about . . .

Do I trust myself, my family and my things to God's care?

gifted two success nine servants pleased

Day 14: EZRA 8v24-36 Going Home to Jerusalem

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Ezra set apart **10 12 14** leading priests to be responsible for the gifts of _____ and _____ that had been donated by the king and others for God's house in Jerusalem.

These included **16 18 20** gold bowls and **2 4 6** costly _____ articles.

Everything was _____ so it could be accounted for when they arrived at the temple in Jerusalem.(v25-26)

Finally the journey home began.

What protected them from enemies and bandits on their four month journey?(v31) The _____ of their _____.

When they finally arrived in Jerusalem the returned exiles rested for **3 5 7** days to gather their strength. When they counted and weighed out the _____ and _____, everything was accounted for.

Then they worshiped God by sacrificing **12** bulls, ____ × **12** rams, ____ × **7** male lambs and a sin offering of **12** male goats.

12 represents the twelve tribes of Israel which the returned exile represented. They were a remnant ('left overs'), but they are the nucleus of God's people for the future. (There were less than **60,000** men whereas **600,000** had left Egypt in the first exodus.)

In **500** years time Messiah will be born among them as the perfect representative of what they should have been.

Something to think about . . .

Can I be trusted to look after the things of God?

Day 15: EZRA 9v1-7 Unfaithfulness to God Exposed


Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray


Between **8v36** and **9v1** there are probably four months (see **10v9**) during which time Ezra had been faithfully teaching God's law. Then (**9v1**) some leaders came to tell Ezra a dreadful thing that had been going on. Israelites, including p_____ and L_____ and the I_____ had been intermarrying with the pagan's around them.


The issue was not **racial** purity but **religious** purity. The foreigners had brought with them their d_____ p_____.(v1) Had these foreigners converted to the worship of God like Ruth matters would have been quite different. Read **Ruth 1v16**

How did Ezra respond to this news?(v3) He was a_____. All those who took God's word seriously gathered around him. Then Ezra began to pray publicly to God about the situation.

Ezra's prayer:

 He comes to God in _____(smahe) and _____(dgsiarec) because he identifies himself with all God's people.(v6)

 He acknowledges their great _____ before God.

 He admits that all the trouble that has come on them, including the _____(elixe), was because of their sins. Even now they are not truly _____(fere) because a pagan king still rules over them.

Something to think about . . .

How serious am I about obedience and purity?

Day 16: EZRA 9v8-15 God's Faithfulness Declared

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Ezra's prayer:(continued)

What had God done for his people?(v8-9)

- ☺ Left some survivors, which they didn't _____.(dsreeev)
- ☺ Allowed them to rebuild the temple, which they didn't d_____.
- ☺ Given them new _____(hpeo), which they didn't deserve.
- ☺ Not _____(ddeertes) them, which they didn't deserve.
- ☺ Showed _____(kessidnn) to them through the king of Persia, which, again, they didn't _____!

Why? Because God is full of _____(gaecr) and faithful love.

They were doubly without excuse.

They had _____ God's _____, given through his _____, not to marry or make alliances with the pagans around them because they would only lead them into _____ and unfaithfulness towards God.

idolatry
prophets
commands
broken

Read: Deuteronomy 7v4

What did God promise for obedience?(v12)

- ① They would be _____.
- ② They would be well _____(fde).
- ③ They would leave a good inheritance to their _____.

Had God punished them as their sins deserved?(v13) **YES NO**

They really deserved to be wiped out. **TRUE FALSE**

Something to think about . . .

Does God treat me as my sins deserve?

Day 17: EZRA 10v1-14 'Take Courage and Act.'

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

A crowd of sorrowful men, women and children gathered around Ezra. Then Shekariah wisely proposed:(v2-3)

- ☹ We **have** been _____ to God.
- ☺ There is **still** _____ for us.
- ☺ We **must** set things _____(rhgit) according to God's law. (To bring their lives in line with the teaching of the Bible.)
- ☺ We will support you, Ezra, so act with _____.

So Ezra acted:

- ❶ He made the priests, Levites and other Israelites solemnly _____(pmoiesr) to put things right.
- ❷ He continued to _____(ftas) and pray, but privately.
- ❸ He ordered **all** the people to assemble in Jerusalem in ____ days.

What would happen to anyone who refused to come?(v8)

He would be _____ from Israel and lose all his property.

When the people gathered in the square in front of the temple they were very miserable. Why?

- ☹ They agree that they have _____ and that things must be put _____.
- ☹ It is pouring with _____!

The whole assembly wisely proposed that the matter be put in the hands of their officials to act on their behalf, so that the matter could be sorted out properly.

Something to think about . . .

Is sin in a church the responsibility of the whole assembly?

Day 18: EZRA 10v15-44 Things Are Put Right

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Only **4 5 6** of the leaders opposed the plan to set things right.

Ezra was charged with the task of selecting a _____ head from

each family _____ to sit on the investigation

panel. (This made it _____ and above board.)

It took the panel about _____ months to deal with

each case where an Israelite man had married a

_____ woman. (No doubt this included deciding

whether the woman had _____

to worshipping God or not.)

Ezra ends his book with a list of all the men who had sinned by taking

a pagan wife. Because the sin was public, each one had to publicly

put things right.

It was especially wicked that some of the _____ (pietsrs) had

disobeyed God's commands in this way. They had to each solemnly

_____ (poriems) to put away their pagan wives and had to

make a _____ (ctsoyl) sacrifice as a sin offering.(v19) The sad thing

about the list of names is that priests, Levites and temple singers

were _____ (euqlaly) guilty of disobeying God as were the rest of

the Israelites.

And at that point Ezra's book comes to an end, but not Ezra's story.

To learn what happened next you need to read the **Book of**

Nehemiah. . . .

Something to think about . . .

What is the most important lesson I have learnt from Ezra?

fair family pagan three division converted

The Book of Nehemiah

Day 19: NEHEMIAH 1v1-6 Bad News From Jerusalem

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

It was now 445 BC (the 20th year of the reign of king Artaxerxes) (**v1**),

about twelve years since the events in **Ezra 10**.

Nehemiah was in Susa (the winter palace of Artaxerxes) when he

received a visit from his brother Hanani with news of Jerusalem.

Was Nehemiah interested in this news? **Very A little Not at all**

The news was not good.(v3)

The people in Jerusalem were in great _____ and _____.

Why? Its walls were still _____ and its gates ruined.

How did Nehemiah react? Passionately!

He m_____, f_____ and p_____.

How did Nehemiah address God?(v5)

O _____ (= God's name = Yahweh), God of _____.

What is God like? G_____ and a_____.

What does God do? He is faithful in his _____ of love towards

those who _____ him and _____ his commands.

Is God still the same today? **YES NO**

Nehemiah begin his prayer by asking God to take notice of him.

For whom does Nehemiah pray?(v6) The people of _____.

Whose sins does he confess?

① All Israel's, ②His own f_____y's, ③ His _____ personal sins.

Nehemiah included himself as someone who had broken God's law.

Something to think about . . .

How much do I care about God's people in trouble?

Day 20: NEHEMIAH 1v7-11

Confession and Petition

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Nehemiah confessed that disobeying God's c_____,
d_____ and I_____ is a very wicked thing to do.(v7)

That is exactly what the Israelites had done.

What did Nehemiah ask God to do?

To _____ what he told Moses to teach.

(Nehemiah doesn't think God had forgotten what he said to Moses -
he is asking God to act on what he threatened **and** promised.)

What was the threat?(v8) If the Israelites were _____ to him
he would scatter them far from home. Which God had done.

What was the promise?(v9) If the Israelites returned to trusting and
obeying God, he would gather them back to J_____, however
far away they were exiled. Which God had begun to do.

Nehemiah asks that since God has been faithful to his t_____,
would he also be faithful to his p_____.

What argument does Nehemiah use in v10? Since God has already
chosen the Israelites to be his s_____ and his p_____ by
redeeming them from slavery in Egypt (that was the first **exodus**),
why shouldn't he redeem them from their present down-trodden
condition today (a second **exodus**).

(Even though they were physically back home they were still under
the thumb of pagan rulers. The second exodus was incomplete.)

Finally Nehemiah asks God to grant him favour with 'this man' - king
Artaxerxes, whom he served as cupbearer.(v11)

Something to think about . . .

Do I take God at his word in my prayers?

Day 21: NEHEMIAH 2v1-8 An Opportunity Grasped

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Being a cupbearer(1v11) may not sound a big deal to us, but in the
Persian empire Nehemiah was an important official of king Artaxerxes
with direct access to his presence.

Nehemiah had been praying for God to act for about 4 months.(v1)

For the first time ever, Nehemiah allowed his _____ness to show on
his _____ in the king's presence, and the king noticed.

The king knew that Nehemiah was not _____ so he must be sad of
_____. (v2) This is a very dangerous situation for Nehemiah
because it could suggest disloyalty to the king.

Nehemiah was quick to affirm his loyalty to the king. **TRUE FALSE**

Was Nehemiah too afraid to tell the king why he is sad? **YES NO**

The king responded _____(kdniyl) to Nehemiah!

What did Nehemiah instinctively do?(v4) He_____!

Then he bravely asked the king to allow him to go to back to
J_____ to rebuild the city _____(wslla).

The king's reply is music to Nehemiah's ears! The king's only concern
is to know how _____(lngo) Nehemiah will be away!(v6)

This emboldened Nehemiah to make two more requests:

① He asked for letters of s_____-c_____ to Judah.

② He asked the king for the _____ to make the city gates.

Why did the king grant him all his requests?(v8)

The _____ hand of his _____ was on Nehemiah.

Something to think about . . .

Do I grasp every opportunity to further God's work?

Day 22: NEHEMIAH 2v9-18 A Good Work Begun

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Nehemiah passes over the journey from Susa to Jerusalem, except to mention the king's provision of an armed escort which no doubt impressed the governors of Trans-Euphrates.

Nehemiah's coming to the _____ (ida) of the Israelites greatly disturbed their _____ (emnesie) Sanballat and Tobiah. (v10)

Like Ezra he allowed himself _____ days to recover then acted.

Nehemiah wisely acted with caution - he didn't tell a _____ what God had put in his _____ to do. (v12, v16)

Nehemiah set out to reconnoitre the wall with just a few of his men.

As they approached the Fountain Gate there was too much rubble for his mount to get through so they were forced to turn back without going all the way round. But Nehemiah had seen enough.

He was now ready to tell his plan the people.

① **He makes an honest assessment:** Look at the mess we are in, God's city is in _____ and its gates are destroyed by _____.

② **He proposes the solution:** Let us _____ the walls so that we, God's p_____, will no longer be in disgrace. (v17)

③ **He encourages God's people with his own experience:**

God's _____ hand has been on me - he moved the _____ to allow him to come to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls. (v18)

How do the people respond? "Let's get _____!"

The work they begin is a _____ work because it is God's work.

Something to think about . . .

Any service I undertake for God, however unimportant it may seem, is a good work.

Day 23: NEHEMIAH 2v19-3v5 Service That Gets Scorned

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Sanballat and his cronies _____ at the Israelites who are _____ the walls of Jerusalem. Their questions are full of _____ - what could such a _____ effort achieve?

Nehemiah's response is full of faith: (v20)

☆ The _____ of _____ is the guarantor of success.

☆ We are _____ing God in doing this work.

☆ Jerusalem is none of your _____ (bsniuses).

Nehemiah 3 is a rollcall of the faithful builders.

✓ The high priests and his fellow priests set a fine example. They were not afraid of hard work. As they completed each part they d_____ the work they had done to God. (v1)

✓ Some men are from other towns in Judah, like _____, who play their part in rebuilding the walls. (v2)

✓ Sometimes it is individuals, like _____ son of Imri, who take responsibility for a section of the wall. (v2)

✓ Sometimes a whole _____ (fmylia) takes responsibility for a particular project. (v3)

✓ Some people are recorded as **not** being willing to play their part. Men from Tekoa repaired a section of wall, but their _____ were unwilling to get their hands dirty. (v5) (How noble is that??)

Something to think about . . .

All these men, in their different ways, are serving God?

Am I willing to serve God where he has put me?

sarcasm
feeble
rebuilding

Day 24: NEHEMIAH 3v6-32 A Rollcall of Faithful Service

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

All sorts of men worked in _____ of ways to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The Jeshanah Gate was repaired as a _____ by Joiada and Meshullam.(v6) Repairing the wall must have been a special challenge for Uzziel who was used to the _____ of being a goldsmith and Hananiah who was used to mixing _____.(v8)

perfume
intricate work
team effort
all sorts
daughters
own homes
short stretches

Some people like Jedaiah repaired the section of wall opposite their _____, as did some of the priests.(v10 and v28)

There are even women involved! A ruler named Shallum built with the help of his _____.(v12) Some people repaired

_____ while other groups took on a long section.(v13)

Others, like the men from Tekoa were even willing to repair more than one section of the wall.(v5 and v27)

Was building a gate more important than building a wall? **YES NO**

Was building the wall by your own house less praise-worthy than building the wall of a city you didn't even live in? **YES NO**

Everybody played their part in their own way and according to their own abilities and resources.

Something to think about . . .

That is exactly what the work of God's church should look like - each one doing what they are able with their God-given gifts?

Day 25: NEHEMIAH 4v1-9 Angry Enemies Mock the Work

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

When Sanballat heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being rebuilt fury gripped him, but all he could do was jeer at the work.(v1)

What did he call the workers? Those _____.

He told his cronies that the work would come to nothing.

Tobiah was even more cynical. He said that a mere _____ climbing on the wall would cause it to f_____ d_____.(v3)

Nehemiah was heart-broken that God and his people should be treated with such contempt. He prayed that their enemies should

☞ have 'a _____(ttaes) of their own medicine'.(v4)

☞ experience themselves the bitterness of _____(elxei).(v4)

☞ not get away with _____(islhutnig) God's workers.(v5)

Soon the wall was completed up to _____ its height.

Why?(v6) The workers' _____(htreas) were in the work.

How did Sanballat and his cronies react? They were _____.

What did they plan to do?(v8)

To _____(aatck) Jerusalem and throw the city into _____(cnofsunio) so the work would stop.

So what did God's people do?(v9)

☞ They _____ to God about their danger.(trust in God)

☞ They posted _____ both day and night.(practical action)

Something to think about . . .

How would I have responded to this threat?

Day 26: NEHEMIAH 4v10-23 Tempted to Give Up

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Now the job of building the wall was half completed, discouragements came thick and fast!

⊗ The workers themselves began to lose _____(hrate)(v10)

⊗ The enemies of God's people sowed alarm by threatening a _____(spurrsie) attack.(v11)

⊗ Jews who weren't building the wall complained that the builders were making them targets for enemy _____(aatctk).(v12)

How did Nehemiah respond?(v13-14)

① He organised the defence of vulnerable spots along the wall.

② He reminded the people that God is _____ and _____

③ He reminded the people that if they had to fight, it would be for their h_____ and _____(fmalisie).(v14)

Nehemiah though **he** has spoilt the enemy's plot. **TRUE FALSE**

Nehemiah divided his own men into two groups - one to do the work, the other to _____ them. All the workers had their

_____ with them in case of attack. Nehemiah with the trumpeter at his side was ready to be at any point of attack. Indeed Nehemiah and his men were _____ and ready for _____ twenty-four hours a day! So the work of rebuilding went on from break of _____ until _____, with men working by day and acting as guards at night.

weapons
guard
dawn
action
dusk
dressed

Something to think about . . .

Do I encourage or discourage God's people?

Day 27: NEHEMIAH 5v1-13 More Troubles

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

In times of trouble there are often people ready to take advantage of others for their own profit. Sadly that is just what is happened here among God's people.

People were not able to work their _____ because they were rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. Some were getting desperate for _____ to feed their families.(v2) Matters were made worse because of a _____. (v3) As a result some people had to mortgage their land. Others were having to borrow money to pay their _____.(v4)

food
taxes
slavery
famine
fields

Some awee even having to sell their children into _____!(v5)

How did Nehemiah react to this news? He was _____.

It was wrong for the 'nobles' to charge interest on loans to their fellow Jews. **TRUE FALSE** Read: Deuteronomy 23v19-20

While Nehemiah had being buying fellow Jews out of slavery these 'nobles' had been selling them to Gentiles! **TRUE FALSE**

What did the 'nobles' have to say?(v8) _____

Nehemiah insisted that these practices must end and that the lands and interest charged must be given back at once.

How did the 'nobles' respond?(v12) They _____(arege)

Nehemiah made them promise before God (v12) and they kept their promise.(v13)

What did the people do?(v13) They _____

Something to think about . . .

Do I selfishly take advantage of other people?

Day 28: NEHEMIAH 5v14-6v9 Nehemiah's Dedication

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

How long was Nehemiah governor of Judah? **12 13 14** years.

Nehemiah didn't take the allowance he was due. **TRUE FALSE**

The previous governors had done the same. **TRUE FALSE**

Did Nehemiah's assistants lord it over the people? **YES NO**

Why didn't Nehemiah act like the previous governors?(v15)

He acted out of _____ for God.

What **did** Nehemiah and his men do? _____

What **didn't** Nehemiah and his men do? Acquire _____

In addition Nehemiah entertained lots of Jews and also visiting dignitaries from surrounding countries at his table.

What does he ask God to do (v19)? _____ all he has done.

Sanballat and his cronies wanted to have a meeting with Nehemiah outside the city of Jerusalem. Why?(6v2) To do him _____.

Why can't Nehemiah go?(v3) He is working on a _____ project!

They kept pestering Nehemiah.

Finally Sanballat sent an _____ letter full of _____ claiming that Nehemiah was planning to become _____ over the Jews and to lead them in _____ against the Persian king.

open
revolt
king
lies

How does Nehemiah respond? NO! It is all in _____!

What was the letter meant to do?

To _____ (fgirhnet) the Jews into giving up the rebuilding.

But Nehemiah prayed to God to strengthen his hands in the work.

Something to think about . . .

Do I act out of reverence for God?

Day 29: NEHEMIAH 6v10-19 Yet More Intimidation

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

The craftiness of Sanballat and his cronies seems endless!

Nehemiah visited the prophet(v12) Shemaiah who was house-bound.

He had a message for him - "Assassins are out to kill you, Nehemiah, so go and hide in God's temple and lock the doors."

How did Nehemiah respond?(v11)

He **won't** _____ and _____ in the temple to save his life.

This isn't G_____ speaking, it's Tobiah and Sanballat's money paid to get Nehemiah a bad name!(v13)

And Shemaiah wasn't the only one in the pay of Sanballat!(v14)

There was also a steady exchange of _____ between the Jewish nobles and Tobiah. Many of them owed an _____ of allegiance to Tobiah because he was

_____ to Shecaniah and father-in-law to Meshullam's daughter. They were always praising up Tobiah to Nehemiah and _____ back to Tobiah what he said.

oath
son-in-law
reporting
letters

What a tangled web of deceit!

But . . . What happens on the 25th of the 6th month (Elul)?(v15)

The rebuilding of the _____ of Jerusalem is _____!!

How many days had it taken to rebuild the wall? Only _____.

How did the enemies of the Jews respond to this?

They were _____ and lost their _____!

Why? They realised that the rebuilding has succeeded because the Jews had enjoyed the _____ of their _____.(v16)

Something to think about . . .

Am I a Nehemiah - pressing on in God's work?

Day 30: NEHEMIAH 7v1-72 Organising the People

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

(If you can't read the whole passage, read **v1-7** and **v66-72**)

The list of the people who returned with Zerubbabel (**v6-66**) is a recap of **Ezra 2**.

This repetition emphasises how important it is that Jerusalem is populated by **God's** people, living there to serve **God**.

Once the walls and gates had been finished, three important groups of people were assigned their tasks:(**v1**)

The _____, the _____ and the _____.

What qualities did Nehemiah see in Hananiah that fitted him to be commander of the citadel (fortress)?

✓ He was a man of _____.(He can be trusted)

✓ He _____ God more than most other men.

Nehemiah wisely arranged for the city gates to be locked at night and for guards to be posted all over Jerusalem.(**v3**)

Jerusalem was only a small town.(**v4**) **TRUE FALSE**

As yet, there were few people living in the city. **TRUE FALSE**

How many people had returned with Zerubbabel?(**v66**)

_____ together with _____ servants and 245 singers.

v70-72 describe the generous gifts the returning exiles gave to the work of rebuilding the temple and wall of Jerusalem.

These totalled about 350 kg of gold and 2.3 tonnes of silver!

Something to think about . . .

Am I like Hananiah - a person of integrity who fears God?

Day 31: NEHEMIAH 8v1-12 Centring On God's Book

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

On the 1st day of the 7th month the people gathered in Water Gate square. What for?(**v1, v3**) To hear _____ read.

Who were present? Men, _____ and c _____ who could understand what was read.(**v2** and **v3**)

What happened when Ezra opened God's book?(**v5**)

All the people _____.(in respect for it)

Ezra praised _____ for his greatness and all the people responded in agreement " _____! _____!"

What did the people do then?(**v6**)

They _____.

Ezra read the _____ of _____, given by God, for the whole morning. How did the people listen? A _____.(**v3**)

Some of the _____ were responsible for _____ God's word to the crowd. It was very _____ that the people _____ what God's word is saying to them. The people did understand and _____ because God was so gracious and they had been so _____.

understood Levites important ungrateful explaining weep
--

What did Nehemiah and Ezra tell the people? They must **not**

w _____ because this day is h _____ to the Lord their God.(**v10**)

It is to be a day of _____ because the joy of the Lord is their strength.

So the people departed to enjoy a time of feasting and celebrating, not forgetting those in need.(**v12** and **v10**)

Something to think about . . .

Do I want to hear and understand God's word?

Day 32: NEHEMIAH 8v13-18 Celebration

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

The next day the f_____ heads, p_____ and L_____ met for a Bible study led by E_____.(v13) These are the people especially responsible for teaching God's law to others.

They read about the Festival of the 7th month. (=Tabernacles).(v14)

It was to be celebrated from the 15th of the 7th month for 7 days.

Read **Leviticus 23v34**

This was to remind them of their forefathers living in tents in the wilderness when God rescued them from slavery in Egypt.

God's word tells them to gather leafy branches to make tents to live in for the 7 days.(v15) Did they obey this command? **YES NO**

Who celebrated the feast? E_____ who came back from exile!

It was just like the celebration in the days of J_____.(v17)

What was Joshua's job? Read **Deuteronomy 31v7**

To _____(Idae) God's people to possess the Promised L_____.

The return from exile was about taking possession of the Promised L_____ for a second time!

What did Ezra do on every day of the feast?(v18)

He _____ from God's _____.

This was exactly what was commanded by God through Moses during the Feast of Tabernacles in the 7th year.

Read **Deuteronomy 31v10-13**

Who was this especially for?(Deut 31v13) The c_____

Something to think about . . .

Do I listen and learn to fear the LORD God?

Day 33: NEHEMIAH 9v1-12 Remembering God

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Having joyfully celebrated God's goodness to them by keeping the Festival of Tabernacles, the people now came together in national repentance. This was exclusively for Israelites.(v2)

How did the day begin? With the reading of _____

Who lead the time of worship? The L_____

They called the people to _____ up and _____ the LORD.

* You are the e_____ God.(v5)

* Your name is g_____.

* You **alone** are G_____.

* You are the c_____ of the heavens and earth and everything in them.

* You are the giver of l_____.

* The multitudes of heaven w_____ you.

* You c_____ Abram and renamed him A_____.

* You made a c_____ with Abraham and his descendant to give them the Promised Land.(v8)

* You have kept your p_____ because you are righteous.

* You made a great name for yourself by sending s_____ and w_____ against the arrogant Egyptians who mistreated your people.(v10)

* You led your people on _____ through the sea but overwhelmed their pursuers in its waters.

* You led your people by a p_____ of cloud by day and a p_____ of fire by night.(v12)

Something to think about . . .

Do I praise God for his goodness in times past?

Day 34: NEHEMIAH 9v13-25 The Goodness of God

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

The Levites continue to lead the people in prayer - remembering

God's grace to their forefathers and their ingratitude to him.

How do they describe God's regulations and laws given at Sinai?

They are _____, _____ and _____.

God gave them food and water in the desert. **TRUE FALSE**

God promised to give them the Promised Land. **TRUE FALSE**

They remembered the miracles God did in Egypt. **TRUE FALSE**

They wanted to go back to slavery in Egypt. **TRUE FALSE**

They made themselves an idol to worship.(v18) **TRUE FALSE**

God refused to forgive their rebellion against him. **TRUE FALSE**

God guided them day and night through the desert. **TRUE FALSE**

Why did God act like this towards them?(v17 and v19)

Despite their _____ God sent his Spirit

to teach them. He provided for their hunger and

_____ and all their other needs. The whole time,

their clothes didn't _____ and their feet didn't

get _____. God enabled their _____ to

conquer the Promised Land and take possession

of it. The following generations enjoyed the _____ of the land and

revelled in the goodness God showed them.

Something to think about . . .

Do I recount God's goodness in times past?

wear out
thirst
unfaithfulness
swollen
fruit
children

Day 35: NEHEMIAH 9v26-31 Awful Ingratitude

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

The Levites continue to pray about the goodness of God to their

forefathers and the awful ingratitude they displayed.

v26 is a catalogue of wickedness:

✕ _____(dsbeoidcneie) ✕ _____(rbllleenio)

✕rejection of God's _____ ✕murder of God's _____

✕ _____ blasphemies (especially idolatry)

A terrible pattern was repeated over and over again::

▼ The people rebelled against God and rejected his law. ←

God's allowed their enemies to o _____ them.

They c _____ o _____ to God in their distress.

God r _____ them because of his great compassion.

→ The moment things were better

God delivered them *time after time* because of his compassion.(v28)

The people had God's gracious law, yet they _____

to obey it. The very ordinances that were given to lead

them to life were _____. They were stubborn in

their _____ against God. God continued to deal

_____ with them, sending prophet after prophet to turn them

back, but they refused to listen.

But . . . God did not destroy them, as they well deserved.

Why?(v31) He is _____

Something to think about . . .

How do I respond to God's goodness to me?

ignored
refused
patiently
rebellion

Day 36: NEHEMIAH 9v32-38 Slaves in Our Own Land

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Finally the Levites came to their own day and situation.

How do they address God?(v32)

☆ _____ God

☆ God who is _____, _____, _____.

☆ God who keeps his _____ of _____.

How long had God's people been oppressed?

Ever since the days of the kings of A_____.

They don't want God to treat their troubles lightly. **TRUE FALSE**

All sorts of people didn't obey God's law. **TRUE FALSE**

God did not warn them that disobedience would bring punishment.

TRUE FALSE

What made their disobedience especially wicked?(v35)

When they were enjoying God's _____ goodness, even then, they did turn from their _____ ways.

So today they are _____ in the _____ God gave them.

☹ Their abundant _____ goes to feed foreign kings.(v37)

☹ They _____(tmehslees) and their _____(lveisotck) belong to these foreign kings.

Because of all these things the I_____, L_____ and p_____ decided to make a _____ in writing to obey and serve the LORD their God.

Something to think about . . .

How serious am I about obeying God's law?

Day 37: NEHEMIAH 10v1-31 A Binding Agreement

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Today we have a list of God's people who signed the agreement.

Whose name comes first? N_____ the governor.

Is everybody mentioned by name?(v28) **YES NO**

Are only Jews allowed to sign? **YES NO**

What did non-Jews have to do to be included?

Separate from their pagan neighbours in order to obey the _____ of _____. Men and women and children old enough to _____ are all included.

The agreement includes a *curse* (what would happen to anyone who breaks it) and an *oath* (a solemn promise to keep it).

They agree to c_____ obey all God's c_____, r_____ and d_____.(v29)

In particular they promise

❶ to keep themselves pure by not intermarrying with the pagans living around them.(v30)

❷ to keep the Sabbath by not _____(tdreagin) on that day.

❸ to keep the Sabbatical year (every 7th year) by leaving the _____(ldna) unworked and cancelling all _____.

Read **Exodus 23v11** and **Deuteronomy 15v1-2**

They can only do this if they are trusting God to bless their obedience.

Something to think about . . .

Do I trust God enough to obey his law?

Day 38: NEHEMIAH 10v32-39 Supporting the Ministry

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

The fourth thing that God's people agree to do is to support the work of the Levites and priests in their service in God temple.

How many times is the temple(= God's house = the LORD's house) mentioned in these verses? **6 times 7 times 8 times**

The people agree that

① they will pay the annual third of a _____ tax for maintaining the temple services and sacrifices.(v32-33)

② everybody will take turns to supply the _____ to burn on the altar of sacrifice in the temple.(v34)

③ they will give the _____ of their crops and produce to God.(v35, v37)

④ they will also dedicate the _____ of their sons and livestock to God. **Read Exodus 13v12-15**

⑤ they will also pay a tithe (a tenth) of all their _____ to the L_____ who will then take a tithe (a tenth) to the temple storerooms to support the priests, gatekeepers and musicians who serve in the temple.(v37-39)

They declared,"We will not _____ the house of _____ God."

All this is their joyful response to their God who graciously promises to dwell among them in his temple.

Something to think about . . .

How concerned am I about supporting God's work?

Day 39: NEHEMIAH 11v1-24 Populating God's City

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

The walls of Jerusalem had been rebuilt but, as yet, the city was sparsely populated. **Re-read Nehemiah 7v4**

The _____ settle in Jerusalem because that is where the government was.(v1) Among the rest, one in _____ of the people were chosen by casting lots (like throwing dice). Also some people volunteered _____ to live in the city.(v2) This would be a sacrifice for those men who had to leave their _____ in the countryside to be farmed by other people but they considered it a privilege to live in God's _____.(v18)

land
freely
holy city
ten
leaders

How many descendants of Perez settled in the city?(v6) _____

How are they described? _____

Many _____ and Levites settled permanently in Jerusalem to maintain the work of the _____.

Others (v20) settled with the rest of the people in the _____ of Judah. They worked their _____ lands for most of the year and just spent a couple of _____ serving at the temple in Jerusalem.

temple
towns
ancestral
weeks
priests

The great thing was that God's good hand has enabled his people to rebuild the temple and the city walls of Jerusalem.

It was **God** who had settled his people back in the land.

Something to think about . . .

Am I serving God where he has settled me?

Day 40: NEHEMIAH 11v25-12v26 Yet More Lists!

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Lists of people and places may seem rather tedious. The point of these list is that they identify God's **people** and God's **places**.

Being identified as one of God's people is both a privilege and a responsibility. God promises to be among his people and expects them to love him by obeying his laws. Read **John 14v21**

The people of Judah settled in towns and villages all the way from B_____ in the far south to the Valley of H_____ near Jerusalem.(v30)

In **v36** we are told that some L_____ allocated to serve in Judah settled in the territory of B_____.

In **12v1-9** we have a list of the priests and Levites who were part of the first wave of people to return from exile with Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the high priest.

In **v10-11** the descendants of Joshua are listed, then in **v12-21** we have a list of the heads of priestly families when Joshua's son Joiakim was high priest. Amongst all these name those who sang God's praises are singled out for particular mention:

What was Mattaniah's job?(v8)

He was in charge of the _____

What did the Levites mentioned in **v24** do?

They gave _____ and _____ to God.

Something to think about . . .

Is my name listed by God among those that serve him?

Day 41: NEHEMIAH 12v27-43 Great Rejoicing

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

When the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem was completed, they were dedicated to God in a great service of joy.

All the Levites living outside the city were brought in to celebrate the dedication with _____. They sang songs of _____ and made joyful music on their c_____, h_____ and l_____.

The _____ were also brought in from their towns and villages.

What was the **first thing** that the priests and Levites had to do?

(v30) _____

Then they were ready to _____ the people, gates and walls.

Nehemiah organised the people into two groups, each with a _____ choir. The two groups climbed onto the wall and set out in _____ directions to circle the wall. One group was led by _____. Nehemiah followed the second group. The two groups met up at the _____ and joined in a time of great sacrifices and great rejoicing.

opposite large temple children women Ezra
--

Men, _____ and _____ all rejoiced - the sound could be heard from far away!

Imagine how proud the people felt at having helped in this great work.

Imagine how grateful to God they felt for his care of them.

The whole ceremony was marked by great _____.(v43)

Do you remember what Tobiah said in **Nehemiah 4v3**?

Now he had to eat his words!

Something to think about . . .

Does evidence of God's work prospering make me rejoice?

Day 42: NEHEMIAH 12v44-47 Giving to God's Work

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

It is important that gifts for God's work are carefully accounted for and used. So men were appointed to be in charge of the _____ where the free-will gifts, f_____ and t_____ were stored to be distributed to the priests and Levites who were serving in the temple.

The people just give what they felt like. **TRUE FALSE**

The priests and Levites who minister at the temple were doing their work well, so the people were pleased to give. **TRUE FALSE**

What period of time does **v45** take us back to?

The reigns of _____ and _____.

Although Solomon's temple had been destroyed the same regulations were being kept because God does not change.

In the days of David and A_____ directors were appointed to lead the musicians in _____ and _____ to God.

So in the earlier days of Z_____ and now, in the days of N_____ God's people freely contribute support for the _____ and gatekeepers.

Neither the L_____ nor the p_____ (Aaron's descendants) were being neglected.(**v47**)

Worship of God is central to the life of God's people.

Something to think about . . .

Do I cheerfully give to God's work?

Read **2 Corinthians 9v7**

Day 43: NEHEMIAH 13v1-14 Broken Promises(1)

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

Around 432 BC Nehemiah had to return to Babylon to serve king Artaxerxes.(**v6**)

While Nehemiah was away, the people had stopped giving to support the L_____ and m_____.(**v10**)

So x The priest E_____ who was in charge of the temple _____ allowed T_____ the Ammonite to live in one of the empty storerooms in the temple court!!!(**v4-5**)

And x The L_____ and s_____ had to return to their own villages to work their own fields.(**v10**)

When Nehemiah was allowed to return to Jerusalem by Artaxerxes he was justly _____(argny) at what was going on. What does he do with Tobiah's stuff?(**v8**)_____

What does he do to the room? P_____ it so it can be used for its proper purpose of storing the temple equipment.

Nehemiah rebuked the temple officials for _____(ngeelcitgn) God's house and ordered them back to their _____.(**v11**)

Now the people were able to bring their t_____ of g_____, new w_____ and oil to the temple again.

Nehemiah appointed new men to be in charge of the storerooms and distributing the supplies to their fellow Levites and priests.

What qualified them for this work?(**v13**)

They were considered _____

Nehemiah asks God to remember all his faithful service.

Something to think about . . .

Am I trustworthy in doing God's work?

Day 44: NEHEMIAH 13v15-22 Broken Promises(2)

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

God's people had made a solemn agreement to keep the Sabbath (10v31) but Nehemiah finds that they have broken this promise too:

- ☹ The people themselves were making w_____ and trading in all kinds of stuff in J_____ on the Sabbath.(v15)
- ☹ The people were buying f_____ and all kinds of m_____ from foreign traders on the Sabbath.

Who did Nehemiah hold responsible? The n_____ of Judah.

Why is Nehemiah so angry with them?(v18) It was because the Sabbath was d_____ that Jerusalem was sacked.

Read **Leviticus 26v43**

Nehemiah dealt with this problem by ordering the city gates to be closed in the _____ before the Sabbath. He stationed his _____ at the gates to see that no one brought in stuff to sell. To start with the merchants

_____ outside the city gates but Nehemiah warned them to stay away. Once it was clear that the merchants are not _____ on the Sabbath,

Nehemiah commands the _____ to do their job of guarding the gates each Sabbath.

Nehemiah asks God not to forget his faithfulness in being diligent in making sure God's law is kept.

What did Nehemiah ask from God?(v22)

M_____ in keeping with his _____

Something to think about . . .

Am I someone who cares about God's law being kept?

own men
welcome
evening
Levites
camped

Day 45: NEHEMIAH 13v23-31 Broken Promises(3)

Pray, Read . . . Study, Pray

The other solemn promise God's people made was not to intermarry with their pagan neighbours.(10v30)

What made the people realise that they should not intermingle with pagan Ammonites and Moabites?(v1-3) Reading _____

Yet what had some men done?(v23)

M_____ pagan w_____ from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab!

What was the sad result?

Some _____ couldn't understand the Hebrew language.

(So they could not understand God's word.)

Nehemiah was very _____ (aygnr) with these men. Why?(v26)

God had _____ Solomon and made him _____ over all Israel but even **he** was led into _____ by marrying pagan w_____.

God gave Solomon great wisdom because he asked for it rather than wealth and fame. Read **1 Kings 4v29**

Was it wise to marry many pagan wives? **YES NO**

Nehemiah was shocked to discover that even a son of the h_____ p_____ had married Sanballat's pagan daughter.

What did this do?(v29) D_____ the office of p_____ and the c_____ of the priesthood and Levites.

Nehemiah insisted that the priest and Levites be cleansed from everything f_____ (and so pagan) and each one should do the work assigned to them by God's law.

Something to think about . . .

Do I care about worshipping God according to his law?