



# BUILDING UP THE WALL: Leadership Principles of Nehemiah

DECATUR HIGHWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FAMILY BEACH RETREAT

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Introduction: We need to remember that we are leaving a legacy behind us. A fear among the leaders within our fellowship is that we are not adequately training our people for service and leadership. There is concern over the direction of the home, churches, and the nation. What can we learn from Nehemiah? Let's study together. . . .

## Discussion:

### I. What Do We Know About Nehemiah's Book?

When was it written?

Nehemiah was written around 430 BC (Ezra in 440 BC).

To whom was it written?

The intended audience is the people of Judah returning from the Babylonian exile.

How was it written?

The Jews and early church fathers thought of Ezra and Nehemiah as I and II Ezra. Josephus and the Jewish Talmud refer to the book of Ezra but do not reference the book of Nehemiah independently. The oldest manuscripts of the Septuagint also treat Ezra and Nehemiah as one book. It is a historical book, much like I & II Chronicles.

Why was it written?

A remnant of the Israelites returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. God chose the time for this revival and used world powers to assist with His judgment and His mercy. The people were to await the "new covenant" (Joel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah). This was one of the most important times in the history of God's people. The contemporaries of Nehemiah include Ezra the scribe, Zerubbabel the priest, Queen Esther Haggai and Zechariah the prophets (possible a young Malachi), and the kings Cyrus, Darius "The Great," Xerxes (Ahasuerus), and Artaxerxes.

What language is used in the book?

Ezra and Nehemiah were written in a form of late Hebrew. However, there is an exception in Ezra 4:8-6:18 and Ezra 7:12-26, where portions were written in Aramaic.

How should the book be outlined?

- I. Nehemiah's Service to the King (1)
- II. Rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem (2-6)
- III. Reviving the People of God (7-12)
- IV. Reforming the Work of the Lord (13)

## II. What Do We Know About Nehemiah's Vision?

### Nehemiah Shares His Calling

Nehemiah is a story that must be told because of this man's character and leadership.

### Nehemiah Leaves His Past Behind

He was the cupbearer to the Persian emperor, Artaxerxes.

### Nehemiah Pursues His Mission

He senses a clear calling, vision, and mission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

### Nehemiah Conquers His Fears

When he shares his vision in a non-threatening way Artaxerxes is supportive.

When the vision is shared with Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem, the response is different.

### Nehemiah Ignores His Opposition

The Jews divide the tasks up to start working despite opposition within and without.

### Nehemiah Accomplishes His Goal

Nehemiah accomplished his goal because he didn't try to do it alone.

## III. What Do We Know About Nehemiah's Leadership?

### STEP #1 – Nehemiah Led By Connecting

He was a leader with a contagious spirit and a unique personality.

### STEP #2 – Nehemiah Led By Recruiting

He chooses people from all backgrounds with various talents.

### STEP #3 – Nehemiah Led By Teaching

We usually visualize him with a hammer or sword, but he was a teacher.

### STEP #4 – Nehemiah Led By Mentoring

He mentored the soldiers, the bricklayers, the priests and the servants.

### STEP #5 – Nehemiah Led By Equipping

He gave the people the tools to build and showed them how to use those tools effectively.

### STEP #6 – Nehemiah Led By Coaching

He has to get off the wall, delegate the work, and hand off the hammer to others.

### STEP #7 – Nehemiah Led By Approving

He had to encourage those of the next generation and praise them!

Conclusion: What kind of walls are we building? Many people in the Lord's kingdom do not see their untapped talent. What are you doing to help to move others forward? Will you help encourage others to lead? Will you become a leader? Let's learn from the leadership principles of Nehemiah and move forward. May God bless us and our work in His kingdom!!!