



Ezra/Nehemiah – Study Guide



Bible Reading (Other chapters may be read for extra credit/benefit)		Textbook Reading (Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)	
Ezra		Ch. 18	
☐ 1:1-5		☐ Contents (Ezra/Nehemiah)	
☐ ch. 3			
☐ ch. 4			
☐ ch. 5			
☐ ch. 6			
☐ ch. 7			
Nehemiah			
☐ ch. 1			
☐ ch. 2			
☐ ch. 4			
☐ 6:15-7:3			
☐ ch. 8			
☐ ch. 9			
☐ ch. 13			

Study Guide for Ezra

Chapter 1:1-5

- Describe the content of this section. How is this similar to the end of Second Chronicles? How is it different?
- How does this prepare for and introduce the rest of the content of Ezra and Nehemiah? What does this reveal about the character and purposes of God and how He works in history?

Chapter 3

- What is the first thing the people did when they arrived in Jerusalem? Why was this necessary and/or important to do?
- How did they prepare for rebuilding the temple? What happened when they began the foundations of the new temple? What was the response of the people? Why do you think they responded in this way?

Chapter 4

- What did the enemies of God's people do when they saw the temple being built? What did they say? How did God's people respond? What can we learn from this?
- What did the enemies do next? What did they write to king Artaxerxes? What reasons did they give? Were these things truthful? Were these things the whole truth? What insights does this give us?
- How did the king respond to their letter? What did the king's reply say and command? What was the result of this? What can we learn from this entire episode?

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Chapter 5

- What did Haggai and Zechariah do at that time? How did that work toward the building of the temple? How did the people respond?
- What did Tattenai the governor and others ask the people in Jerusalem? How did they respond? Why? What difference does this make?
- Describe the contents of the letter Tattenai and the others sent to King Darius. How was this content different from the letter sent in the last chapter? Which one was more true and fully accurate?
- What did the letter ask the King to do? What can we learn from this request?

Chapter 6

- How did king Darius respond to the letter from the prior chapter? What did he find?
- What response did Darius give to Tattenai and the others? What was the result of this? How was this result even more favorable to God's people than the situation before any of the letters were sent? What does this tell us about the way God sometimes works? How should we respond to this?
- How did Tattenai and the others respond to the letter from Darius? How did God's people respond?
- How was the temple completed? What happened when it was completed? How was this similar to earlier dedications?
- What does the book of Ezra say about the Passover celebration? How is this similar to earlier Passover observances? What does the author emphasize in describing this Passover? Why is this significant?

Chapter 7

- How does this chapter describe Ezra the priest? What do you think this foreshadows about what Ezra will do later in this book?
- Why does it say that the king had granted Ezra's requests? Why is this significant? What do you think this says about Ezra and what he will accomplish?
- Why does it say that Ezra arrived in Jerusalem? What is significant about this?
- How does the author describe the past training and character of Ezra? How did this prepare him for his tasks? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?
- Describe the content of the letter King Artaxerxes sent to Ezra. What specifically did the king allow/command them to do? What specifically did the king provide for that purpose? What does this demonstrate about God's plans for that time?
- How did Ezra respond to the letter? What reason did he give? What did he do?

Study Guide for Nehemiah

Chapter 1

- What report did Nehemiah receive from Judah? How did it describe the situation there? How did Nehemiah respond?
- Describe the content of Nehemiah's prayer. How did he describe God? How did he describe himself and his people and what they had done? What did he ask God to do? What reasons did he give?

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Chapter 2

- What did the king say to Nehemiah? Why? How did Nehemiah respond?
- What did the king ask Nehemiah? What did Nehemiah do? How did he answer the question?
- How did the king respond to Nehemiah's request? What else did Nehemiah ask for? How did the king respond to all these requests? What reason does it give for him to do so? What is significant about this?
- How did Sanballat and Tobiah respond to all this? Why?
- What did Nehemiah do when he arrived in Jerusalem? Why do you think he did this in secret?
- What did Nehemiah say to the leaders of God's people? How did they respond?
- How did Sanballat and Tobiah respond to the news? How did Nehemiah answer them? What can we learn from this?

Chapter 4

- How did Sanballat and Tobiah respond to the rebuilding of the wall? What did they say about it? How did Nehemiah and the people respond? What can we learn from this?
- Describe the various ways the enemies of God's people plotted and worked against the rebuilding of the wall. Describe the various ways that God's people countered these efforts and overcame them to complete the wall. What can we learn from these various things? How can we apply these insights today?
- What did Nehemiah do to overcome the threats? What did he do to reassure and motivate the people? What can we learn from this?
- Describe how the people were able both to do the work and be prepared for warfare and defense. What principles can we learn from this?

Chapter 6:15-Chapter 7:3

- What does this section narrate? What does this demonstrate about the character of God and His plans?
- How did the surrounding enemies respond to this? What threats and plots still remained? How did Nehemiah work to protect against them? What can we learn from this?

Chapter 8

- What did Ezra do while all the people were assembled together? How does the author describe that he did this? Why was this important?
- How did the people respond to the reading of the Law?
- What did the Levites do among the people? Why was this necessary? What can we learn from this?
- What did they command the people to do? Why? What did they command them NOT to do? Why?
- What did the people learn about the feast of booths from the reading of the Law? How did they respond? What does this demonstrate about the spiritual impact and response at that time?

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Chapter 9

- What did the people do at the beginning of this chapter? Why was that necessary? What does this demonstrate about the spiritual impact and response at that time?
- Describe the content of the prayer of the Levites at that time. What did they say about God and what He had done in the past? Why was that relevant for their situation in that day?
- What did they say about how their forefathers treated God? What did they say about how God had treated their forefathers? Why did God do this? How did this inform what they requested from God in their own time?
- What does this prayer emphasize about the earlier Old Testament history? How can this help us study, learn from, and apply what we are learning from the Old Testament?
- What specific requests did the Levites make, based on all of the Old Testament history? How did they describe their own situation? What did they want God to do in light of this? What can we learn from this that helps us in our own prayers?

Chapter 13

- How did the people respond to the Law regarding Ammonites and Moabites? Why?
- What had been done for Tobiah in Nehemiah's absence? Was this a good thing, based on what happened earlier in this book? Why or why not? How did Nehemiah respond on his return?
- What did Nehemiah do about provisions for the Levites? Why was this necessary?
- What did Nehemiah do regarding the Sabbath? Why was this necessary?
- What did Nehemiah do regarding marriage to foreign women? Why was this necessary?
- What do all these things demonstrate about the faithfulness and spiritual state of the people at that time?
- What did Nehemiah pray regarding all of these things? Why do you think he prayed this?

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 18

The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah

Contents

- What are the general contents of these books? How do these contribute to the overall history of God's people? What difference does this make?
- How did king Cyrus contribute to the history recorded in these books? Why was that important?
- Who led the first return? Why was this significant?
- What did the first wave of return accomplish? What difference did that make for the people of that time?
- Why were they unable to complete the temple at first? How did they overcome these obstacles?
- Who led the second return? How is he described?

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- What does the textbook say is the “all-consuming question” for the people of that time? What challenges did they face in that day? How does this question apply today? What can we learn from these books to help us address these issues?
- How does the textbook define the term “syncretism”? Why was that an issue in that time? Is that still an issue today? Why or why not?
- Why was Ezra upset about intermarriage? What was the real issue, according to the textbook? How did the people respond? What can we learn from this?
- What was the reason Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem? Why does the textbook use the word “miraculous” in discussing how he was able to return?
- What did Nehemiah do when he first returned to Jerusalem? Who helped him? Why is this significant?
- What kind of opposition did Nehemiah face? How did he respond? What was the result? Why?
- What other issues did Nehemiah address? How did he deal with them? What can we learn from this?
- What point does the textbook make about the difference between “legal” and “right”? How should we respond?
- Describe the reforms done by Ezra and Nehemiah. Why were they necessary? What did they do?
- Why was the reading of the Law central to these reforms and renewal? How did the people respond? What can we learn from this?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter