

Nehemiah – Ezra with a twist
New Covenant Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School
10/10/2021

WSC Question 16 – Did all mankind fall in Adam’s first transgression?

Answer – The Covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

Nehemiah – Intro & background

Authorship- Ezra & Nehemiah were originally a single book composed from a variety of historical sources, including the personal memoirs of Ezra and Nehemiah. According to Jewish tradition, Ezra was responsible for compiling these sources in their current form.

Date and Occasion – Assuming the traditional view of authorship, these narratives were written during the period 430-400 B.C. to encourage the Judeans who had returned from exile in Babylon and were reestablishing their community in and around Jerusalem.

Characteristics/Themes – The major theme of Ezra & Nehemiah is that God works sovereignly through responsible human agents to accomplish His redemptive purpose. The author develops this theme in Nehemiah with particular attention to the rebuilding and dedication of the defensive wall of Jerusalem and the reconstitution of the whole people called “Israel” in their covenant relationship with God.

Outline:

- I. Return of Nehemiah and Rebuilding of the Wall (1:1-7:3)
 - a. Return of Nehemiah
 - i. Preparations for the Return
 1. Report from Judah
 2. Response of Nehemiah
 3. Request before the King
 - ii. The trip and the beginning of the Conflict
 - b. Rebuilding the wall
 - i. Inspection and proposal
 - ii. First escalation of the conflict
 - iii. Rebuilding begun
 - iv. Second escalation of the conflict
 - v. Rebuilding continued
 - vi. Internal problems threaten the rebuilding
 - vii. Climax of the conflict
 - viii. End of the conflict
- II. Return of the exiles and rebuilding the community

- a. Return of the exiles
 - i. The need to repopulate Jerusalem
 - ii. Record of returnees
- b. Rebuilding the community
 - i. Renewing the covenant
 - 1. Reading of the law
 - 2. Confession of sin
 - 3. Ratification of the oath
 - ii. Dedication of the wall
 - 1. Listing of the residents
 - 2. Listing of Priests and Levites
 - 3. The Dedication proper
 - 4. Provisions for clergy
 - iii. Reformation of the people
 - 1. Exclusion of foreigners
 - 2. Attention to the temple
 - 3. Observance of the Sabbath
 - 4. The end of intermarriage

DQ – What do we know about Nehemiah? Let's see what we can pull out of this short book!!!

DQ – What are some similarities between Ezra & Nehemiah?

Message/Theology – Rebuilding the defensive wall around Jerusalem, rebuilding of the community of God's people & the primacy of the written word of God