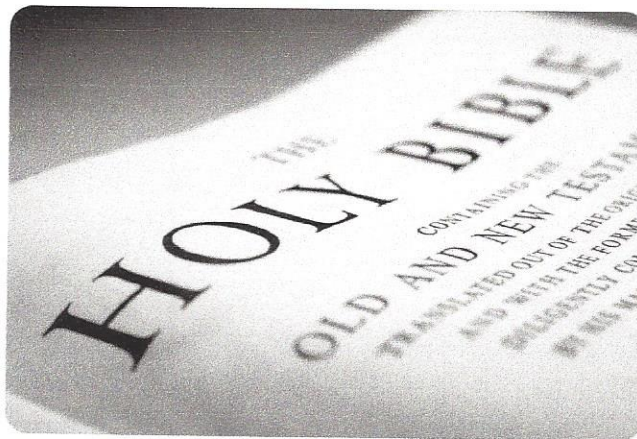


14 - BIBLE OVERVIEW

Ezra & Nehemiah

The books of the Bible are divided into sections: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are called the Law. In Genesis and Exodus we learned about the creation, the call of Abraham and how the twelve tribes of Israel are formed. The people end up in Egypt and Moses led them back to the Promised Land called Canaan, which is known as Israel today. Unfortunately, due to sin they did not return to Canaan right away, but wandered in the desert for forty years. Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy tell us about God's Laws and how the people prepared to enter the land God had given them.

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles are called History. They describe the history of this new nation: entering the land, being ruled by judges, and changing to a monarchy (kings) type of government. At the end of these books, due to continued sin, the Israelites are conquered by other nations and the people are scattered throughout the world. This is called the time of exile.

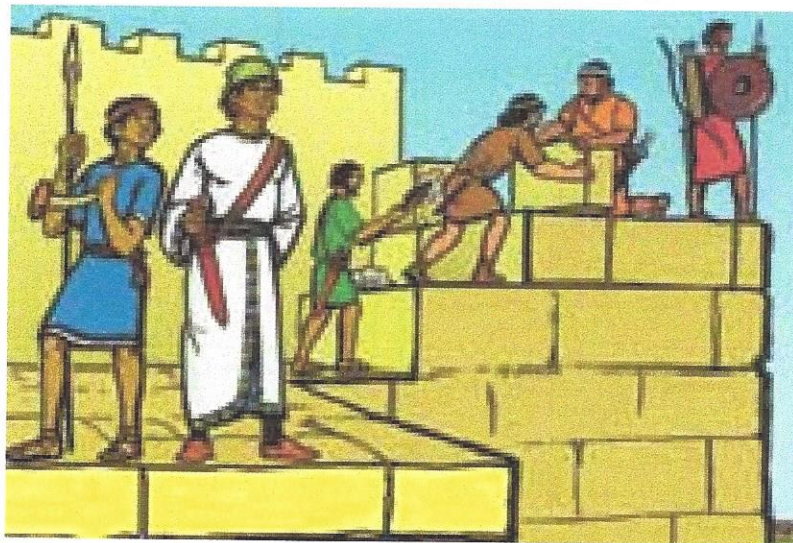


Ezra brought the people to repentance and guided them to be more obedient to God. What Ezra did helped set the stage for Nehemiah's return from exile.

Nehemiah was the cup-bearer for King Artaxerxes of Persia. As we just read, some of the exiled people had returned to Israel under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Ezra. News from these people about the state of Jerusalem distressed Nehemiah. They told him that the walls around Jerusalem were torn down. It was disgraceful for a city to be without a wall for protection, and Nehemiah saw this as disrespectful to God.

Because Nehemiah was a man of great faith he fasted and prayed about this problem. When he returned to his job with the king, he was still sad and the king took notice. It was illegal to be sad around the king, but God honored Nehemiah's faith. Instead of being angry, King Artaxerxes allowed the servant to return to Jerusalem to build the wall.

Throughout the Book of Nehemiah, we witness that he was a man of prayer. In Nehemiah there was at least eight times that he prayed to God spontaneously - a quick prayer for help or guidance. Nehemiah knew that all he accomplished was God's doing and for God's glory.



DEVOTION

Read Nehemiah 1 and 2: 1-8.

What 5 things did Nehemiah do when he heard things were not going well in Jerusalem?

1. W _____
2. M _____
3. F _____
4. P _____
5. C _____

Why were walls so important to a city? They offered _____ from enemies. It was _____ for a city's walls to be nonexistent or even in disrepair.

Why was Nehemiah terrified when the king noticed he looked sad?

PRAYER

Dear God, please help me to be like Nehemiah. Nehemiah's position as cup-bearer to the king allowed him to ask permission to lead a group of exiles back to Jerusalem. Like Nehemiah, let me use every opportunity to honor and obey you. Let me also be a person of prayer, and remember to lift up spontaneous prayers when I need help or guidance. Amen.

My name is _____ . I am

_____ years old. I am walking through the Bible with

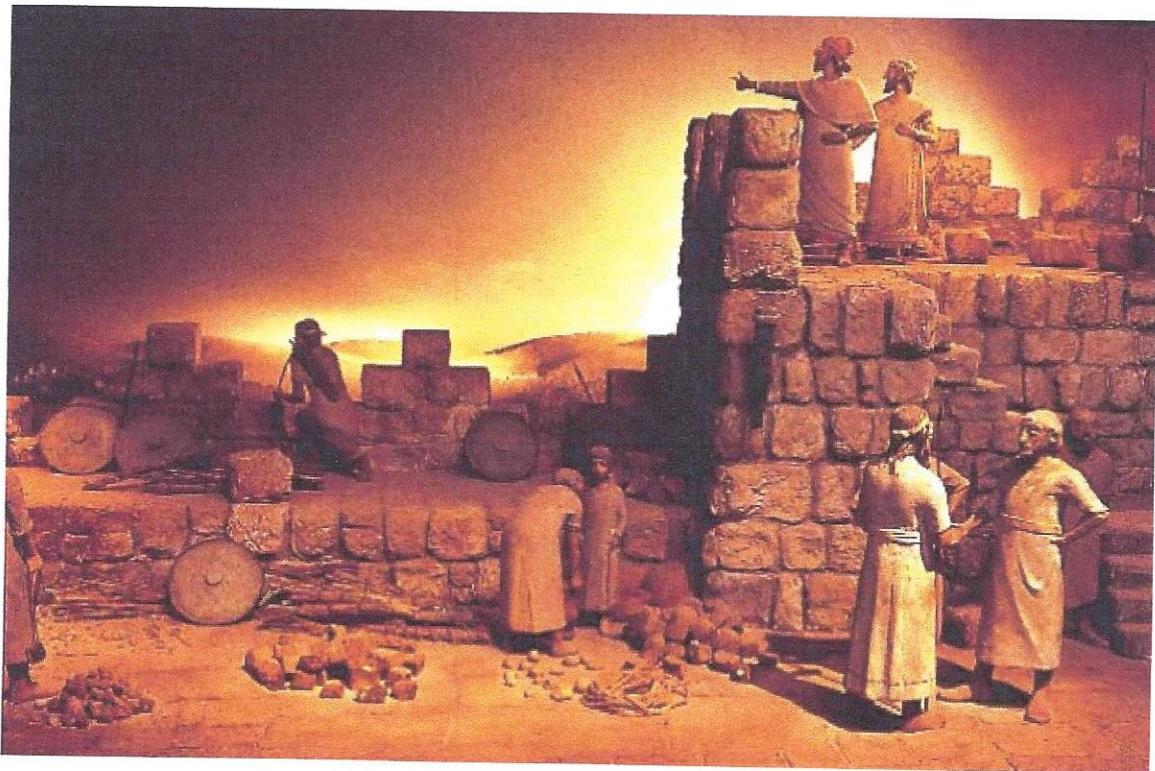
_____ on this date _____ .

FOR A TODDLER

What you need: Nothing extra today

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Do you know what city you live in? Jerusalem is a city far away from where you live, but it is an important city to God. A long time ago bad people made a mess in Jerusalem. This made God sad. He asked a man, named Nehemiah, to make the city great again by cleaning it up and building walls around it. This was a big job, but Nehemiah wanted to please God so he obeyed.



Sometimes God asks us to do things that are hard or that we don't want to do. But we should obey God.



the pictures showing obedience to God and put an X through the pictures when we are not obeying God.



Cleaning up a mess



Not Sharing



Throwing a tantrum



Going to church



Praying



Singing songs to God



Telling Lies



Listening to our teacher

PRAYER

Dear God, Please help me obey you, even when it is hard or something I don't want to do. Amen

My name is _____ . I am

_____ years old. I am walking through the Bible with

_____ on this date _____ .