

Major Event: RESTORATION

Lesson 3: Rebuilding the Walls

Scriptures: Nehemiah (and background passages Jer. 25, Dan. 9, Ezra)

Central Text: Nehemiah 2:4-8 (NIV)

4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 5 and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it." 6 Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. 7 I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? 8 And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. The remnant Jews in Jerusalem continually disobeyed God. (Neh. 5:7-8, 5:15, 5:17-19, 9:32-33, 9:37, 13:4-31)
2. Over and over again, the foreigners who lived near Jerusalem would try to stop the Jewish remnant from rebuilding. (Neh. 2:19, 4:7-8, 4:15-21, 6:5-9, 6:10-14)
3. God provided for the remnant (even though they disobeyed Him again and again) by moving the heart of King Artaxerxes of Persia to issue a decree for rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. (Neh. 2:4-8)

Suggested Attributes For Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His word – He protected and provided for the Jewish remnant, even though many of them continually disobeyed Him
2. Of man: The choice of desires of the flesh (many of the remnant) or obedience to God (Nehemiah)

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Jer. 25, Dan. 9, Ezra, Nehemiah

Notes: It took the remnant at least 80 years (516 – 437 B.C.) to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, according to Ezra and Nehemiah (dates have been determined by way of the years the Persian kings reigned). Also, the decree of Nehemiah 2:4-8 (letters from Artaxerxes) is the beginning of the seventy “sevens” described in Daniel 9:25.