Interesting Facts About Nehemiah

MEANING: Nehemiah means “Comfort of yahweh.”

AUTHOR: Most likely Nehemiah.

TIME WRITTEN: Probably about 425 B.C.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:
• 16th Book in the Bible
• 16th Book in the Old Testament
• 11th of 12 books of History (Joshua - Esther)
• 50 Books to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 13
VERSES: 406
WORDS: 10,483

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT NEHEMIAH:

- Whereas Ezra deals with the religious restoration of Judah, Nehemiah is primarily concerned with Judah’s political and geographical restoration.
- The first seven chapters deal with the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem.
- The Book of Nehemiah takes Bible readers to the end of the historical account in the Old Testament, some 400 years before the birth of Christ.
- Nehemiah is the cupbearer to Artaxerxes, King of Persia.
- Nehemiah is governor of Jerusalem from for 14 years, from 444 B.C. to 432 B.C.
- The life of Nehemiah demonstrates:
  • Courage
  • Compassion for the oppressed
  • Integrity
  • Godliness
  • Selflessness
- As had Moses some 1,000 years earlier, Nehemiah was willing to give up the comforts of a palace in order to help his people.

- In the Book of Nehemiah, everything in Judea is restored except the king. The next king would be the Messiah.
  • The Temple is rebuilt.
  • Jerusalem is reconstructed.
  • The covenant is renewed.
  • The people are reformed.
  • The Messianic line is intact.

- The return under Nehemiah takes place 13 years after the return led by Ezra, and some 94 years after the return led by Zerubbabel.
- Malachi ministers as a contemporary of Nehemiah.
- Concerning the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem:
  • Nehemiah challenged the people to build the wall. 2:18
  • The “people had a mind to work.” 4:6
  • When opposition arose from without, the people prayed. 4:9
  • The opposition was:
    - External: Tobiah and others.
    - Internal: Wealthier Jews oppressing the people.
  • Nehemiah would not be dissuaded from building. “I am doing a good work, so that I cannot come down.” 6:3
  • Nehemiah met all opposition with:
    - Prayer
    - Action
  • The work was finished in 52 days. 6:15
  • The external opposition “perceived that this work was done by our God.” 6:16