

Nehemiah 13

BBC Sunday School Study on Ezra–Nehemiah
Jan 25 2025

Context

The Book

First Section: "Providing a Place"

1-7 Re-building the walls & gates

Second Section: "Purifying the People"

7 Reviewing the returnees

8 Reading the Torah in the 7th month

9 Repentance

10 Covenant

11 Repopulating Jerusalem

12 Dedication of the wall

13 Correction/Reforms

Timeline

586 BC Fall of Judah, people exiled

538 BC Return from exile

537 BC Temple rebuilding started

516 BC Temple completed

458 BC Ezra arrival*

445 BC Nehemiah 1st arrival*

433 BC Nehemiah 2nd arrival*

429 BC Nehemiah 13 ← TODAY!

425 BC Last prophetic word

Covenant

Suzerain-Vassal Treaty Form

1. Title

2. Historical Prologue

3. Stipulations

4. Deposit/Reading

5. Witnesses

6. Curses

7. Blessings

Stipulations of this particular covenant

Stipulation #1: Intermarriage

Stipulation #2: Sabbath

Stipulation #3: Care for the house of God

Outline

(1-3) Renewal of separation

Previously → (Ezra 9-10 (458 BC, Ezra's arrival); Neh 9:2 (445 BC, Nehemiah's 1st arrival))

Prohibition → (Deut 23:3-6), referencing → (Num 22-25)

Inclusion → (Ruth 1:3-4; 2:1; 4:13, 18-22; Mt 1:5) vs. (Prov 28:13; Ruth 1:16c; Rom 10:9-13)

(4-14) Nehemiah cleanses the temple

Stipulation #3 → (Neh 10:32-39)

Pointing to the future → (Mt 21:12-16; Mk 11:15-18; Lk 19:45-47)

(15-22) Nehemiah enforces the Sabbath

Stipulation #2 → (Neh 10:31)

(23-29) Nehemiah cleanses the people

Stipulation #1 → (Neh 10:30)

(30-31) Summary and prayer

Reflection & Application

- What have we learned?
- How do you respond to correction?
 - If and when a person confronts you about a sin, do you tend to become angry and defensive, or do you repent out of humility and gratitude for the correction? Explain why.
 - If you have not been recently confronted about your sin, do you have regular fellowship with other Christians? Is it possible that other Christians have given up on the possibility of confronting you?
 - Based on how you respond to various methods of confrontation, how should you go about confronting others about their sin?
- If your body is now the temple of the Holy Spirit, are there virtual Ammonites that have taken up residence in the chambers of temple? Are you setting your mind on the things of the flesh?