



Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Wednesdays
Year 2 Book 3

Jr. High School Class
by Charles Willis

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READ Ezra 1:1–11

1. What did Cyrus say Jehovah appointed him to build?
2. What is Cyrus doing in verse 3? (Compare with Jeremiah 29:10)
3. What were the enslaved Israelites told to do in verse 4?
4. How did the people respond to Cyrus' proclamation (verses 5–6)?
5. What did Cyrus contribute (verses 7–11)?

READ Ezra 2:1–2, 61–70

6. Who led the people to Jerusalem (first name in v. 2)?
7. Why were the sons of Habiah, Hakkoz, and Barzilla considered unclean and excluded from the priesthood (verses 61–63)?
8. How many returned to Jerusalem (verses 64–65)?

READ Ezra 3:1–13

9. Who built the altar in Jerusalem (v. 2)?
10. What feast was celebrated (v. 4)?
11. What part of the temple was completed which resulted in a celebration of praise to God (verses 10–11)?
12. Why were some crying (verses 12–13)?

APPLICATIONS

13. The people said "as it was written in the Law" (3:2). Why is that important? What law should we follow? (Compare with Matthew 7:21–23.)
14. The people rejoiced in praising God (3:10–11). What should be our attitude in serving God (Philippians 4:4)? Why?

READ Esther 7:1–10

1. What is Esther's petition to the King (verses 1–6)?
2. What was the king's response to the revelation of Haman's plot (verses 7–10)?

READ Esther 8:1–12

3. What position was Mordecai given (v.2)?
4. What additional petition does Esther make before the King (verses 6–7)?
5. What does the King allow (v.8)?
6. What message does Mordecai write to the Jews (verses 11–13)?

READ Esther 9:1–5, 13–19, 26–28, 10:1–3

7. What did the citizens think of Mordecai (verses 1–5)? What was Mordecai's position (10:3)?
8. How many did the Jews kill on one day (verses 16–17)?
9. How is this day remembered (verses 26–28)?

APPLICATIONS

10. Discuss the bravery of Esther in how many times she came before the King, and in making her requests. Name at least one instance when Christians must be brave in speaking up.
11. How can God's hand (His will) be seen in the events in the book of Esther?

READ Ezra 1:4:1–7, 11–24

1. Why did the enemies start to discourage and frighten the Israelites (verses 2–4)?
2. Who became king after Cyrus (v. 7)? What did the enemies do (v. 7)?
3. What accusations do the enemies make against the Israelites (verses 12–13, 15)?
4. What was the king's reply (verses 19–21)?
5. How do the enemies stop the work (v. 23) and for how long (v. 24)?

READ Ezra 5:1–5

6. Why did the Israelites start rebuilding the temple (verses 1–2)?
7. What did Haggai prophesy (see Haggai 1:2–12)?
8. The enemies write to the new king. What is his name (v. 7)?

READ Ezra 6:6–12

9. What was the new king's reply to the enemies (verses 7–12)?

READ Ezra 13–22

10. What other prophet spoke at this time (verse 14)?
11. What happened when the temple was completed (verses 16–18)?
12. What feast was observed (v. 19)? What is its other name (v. 22)?

APPLICATIONS

13. What should we learn from this reading about stopping our efforts in doing God's will (remember Haggai's prophecy). Discuss some reasons why we sometimes do not do God's will.
14. What are some ways people use to stop us from doing God's will?

READ Ezra 7:1–10

- How do we know Ezra was a priest (verses 1–5, 12)?
- What was Ezra's job (v.6)?
- How long did it take this second group to return to Jerusalem (v.9)?
- What 3 things had Ezra decided? (List them as A. B. C.)
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- Place the following passages in the correct blanks above. Two passages will agree with each of Ezra's decisions – Romans 2:13; Acts 17:11, 2 Timothy 4:2, Mark 16:15–16; 2 Timothy 2:15; James 1:22.

READ Ezra 7:11–28

- What is the name of the new king (verse 1 and 11)?
- What did the king send with Ezra to Jerusalem (verses 15–20)?
- What position or authority is given to Ezra (verses 21–26)?
- What was Ezra's reaction to this proclamation (verses 27–28)?

READ Ezra 8:21–23

- Why did Ezra proclaim a fast before leaving for Jerusalem?
- List three occasions when we should pray (do not include meals).

APPLICATION

- How did Ezra become so trusted by the king? What kind of reputation are to have? (see Matt. 6:16; 1 Tim. 3:7; Titus 2:8)

READ Esther 4:1–17

- Why were Mordecai and the other Jews upset (v.1; 3:13)?
- How did Esther learn of this (verses 4–8)?
- What did Mordecai want Esther to do (verses 8)?
- Why was Esther hesitant, and what did she finally decide (verses 11–17)?

READ Esther 5:1–14

- What was the result of Esther approaching the king (verses 1–4)?
- What requests does Esther make of the king (verses 4 and 8)?
- Why did Haman become angry (verses 9–13)?
- What was the advice from Haman's wife (v.14)?

READ Esther 6:1–14

- What did the king discover in the book of records (verses 1–2)?
- What was the King's plan to honor Mordecai (verses 3–11)?

APPLICATIONS

- Explain the meaning of 4:15 "who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this." How should we apply this concept to ourselves?
- Relate how pride destroys a person. Include how pride causes the following:
 - Anger
 - No self control
 - Saying ugly things
 - Destruction (Proverbs 16:18)
- What does God think of the proud (James 4:6; Proverbs 16:5)

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14. The people rejoiced in praising God (3:10–11). What should be our attitude in serving God (Philippians 4:4)? Why?

READ Ezra 9:1–6

1. What sin among the people was made known to Ezra?
2. What was Ezra's response and attitude?

READ Ezra 9:7–15

3. Why does Ezra say they have been allowed to return to Jerusalem (verses 8–9)?
4. What laws did Ezra say they had forsaken (verses 10–12)?
5. What fear does Ezra express because of their sin (v.14)?

READ Ezra 10:1–8

6. What more is revealed of Ezra's character and attitude (v.1)?
7. What does Schecaniah propose (verses 2–3)?
8. What was this Ezra's responsibility, and why is he told "we will be with you" (v.4)?
9. What proclamation did Ezra and Jehohanan distribute (verses 6–8)?

READ Ezra 10:9–18, 44

10. What does Ezra say needs to be done about this sin (verses 10–12)?
11. If God says "I hate divorce" (Malachi 2:16), how can the right thing be for them to separate from their wives? How is this right?
12. If a man marries a woman and enters an unlawful marriage, what does Jesus call this (Matthew 19:19)?

APPLICATIONS

13. What should be our attitude about sin?
14. What does "forsaken" mean (in context of 9:10–12, and in Hebrews 10:25)?

READ Nehemiah 1:1–11

1. What was Nehemiah's job (v.11)? Describe the trust between him and the king.
2. What is reported to Nehemiah about the state of the people and Jerusalem (v.3)?
3. What was Nehemiah's immediate response (v.4)?
4. What does he confess about the Israelites (verses 5–7)?
5. What does he ask God to remember (verses 8–10)?
6. What was Nehemiah's delight (v.11)?

READ Nehemiah 2:1–10

7. Why was Nehemiah afraid (verses 2–3)?
8. Why did Nehemiah pray (v.4)? Was this a long or short prayer?
9. What did Nehemiah want to do (v.5)?
10. Why did Nehemiah request letters (verses 7–8)?
11. What did the local leaders think when given letters (verses 9–10)?

READ Nehemiah 2:11–20

12. Why did Nehemiah inspect the wall? How did he do it (Verses 11–16)?
13. What was the attitude of the people when Nehemiah revealed his connection to the king (Verses 17–18)?
14. The enemies mocked and despised them (v.19). What was Nehemiah's attitude (v.20)?

APPLICATIONS

15. From Nehemiah 1:5, list 3 things stated about God. Explain each.

READ Nehemiah 12:27–31, 37–41, 43–47

1. What was the plan for the celebration (verses 27–30)? Does this give us authority to worship God with musical instruments?
2. Who gave the instructions for this event (v. 31)?
3. Where did the two choirs take their stand (v. 40)?
4. What else took place during this event (v.43, 45)?
5. Was the purpose of appointing men over chambers (v.44)?
6. What good observance of the Law is mentioned (v.47)?

READ Nehemiah 13:1–9

7. What new part of the Law did the people adopt (v.1)?
8. Who was Tobiah and where was he living (v.4–5, also 6:1)?
9. What was Nehemiah's reaction when he returned (verses 6–9)?

READ Nehemiah 13:10–31

What other violations of the Law did Nehemiah correct:

10. Verses 10–14
11. Verses 15–22
12. Verses 23–29
13. Did the people want to obey Nehemiah or God (verses 19–21)?

APPLICATIONS

14. What plan of worship to God are we to follow? Who gives instructions for how our worship will be conducted? (1 Cor. 14:40)
15. What was wrong with having the foreign wives (Neh. 13:26)? Give two good reasons it is important to marry a Christian.

READ Nehemiah 10:1

1. What document was signed?

READ Nehemiah 10:28–39

2. Who joined them in this agreement (v.28)?
3. How were they taking a “curse and an oath” (v.29)?
4. What specific parts of the Law have they agreed to keep:
 - Verse 30
 - Verse 31
 - Verses 32–33
 - Verse 34
 - Verse 35
 - Verse 36–37
5. Why is the last statement in verse 39 included?

READ Nehemiah 11:1-2, 20–24

6. How was it decided who would live in Jerusalem (verses 1–2)?
7. What commandment did the King give? Who is this King? (Verses 20–24)

APPLICATIONS

8. Why must we pay attention to the small details of God’s law?
9. From the following passages relate how some do not obey, and what we must do to be obedient.
 - Ephesians 5:19
 - Ephesians 6:1
 - 1 John 3:18–19
 - Matthew 5:14–16

READ Nehemiah 3:1–6

1. Who was Eliashib and what did he build (v.1)?
2. What were the occupations of other builders (verses 14, 22, 26, 29, 31–32)?

READ Nehemiah 4:1–6

3. What poor thing did Sanballat say of the effort of the people (v.2)?
4. What poor thing did Tobiah say (v.3)?
5. What was the attitude of the builders (v.6)
6. When others ridicule and mock our efforts to please God, what should be our attitude?

READ Nehemiah 4:7–23

7. How did Sanballat and Tobiah increase their efforts (verses 7–8)?
8. How did Nehemiah encourage the people to overcome their discouragement (verses 9–14)?
9. What was the plan to be ready for attack (verses 15–23)?

READ Nehemiah 5:1–13

10. What did Nehemiah get the people to do who were charging interest (“usury”) to other Jews?

READ Nehemiah 5:14–19

11. What was the position Nehemiah held (v.14)? How long did he hold this position?
12. How was Nehemiah different from previous leaders (verses 15–17)?

APPLICATIONS

13. Each one did their part (chapter 3). What is said about members of the church? (1 Corinthians 12:18–17; Ephesians 4:15–16)
14. How did Nehemiah use his influence to cause his brethren to do good? Discuss how we can similarly use our influence.

READ Nehemiah 6:1–14

1. The enemies tried three things to stop Nehemiah. Name them.
 - A. 6:1–4
 - B. 6:5–9
 - C. 6:10–13

READ Nehemiah 6:15–19

2. How long did it take to rebuild the walls (v.15)? What was the result among the enemies (v.16)?
3. What were many in Judah saying about Tobiah, and what did Nehemiah know (verses 17–19)?

READ Nehemiah 7:1–6

4. Who did Nehemiah put in charge of Jerusalem (v.2)?
5. Why did Nehemiah order guards posted *“each in front of his own house”* (v.3)?
6. What did Nehemiah plan to do when it says he *“enrolled the people by genealogies”* (v.5)?

READ Nehemiah 8:1–12

7. What did the people ask Ezra to do (v.1)?
8. How long did Ezra read? Who was present to hear (verses 2–3)?
9. How do the people show respect for God and His Law (verses 5–6)?
10. What were the men in verse 7 doing (verses 7–8)?
11. Why were the people weeping over the reading (v.9)?
12. Why was this day *“holy to the Lord”* (verses 9–10, 12)?

APPLICATIONS

13. Compare the attitude of the people toward God’s Law, and our attitude. Discuss how we show respect for God’s law in the following: (A) Choice of clothes at the assemblies (B) Writing in Bibles (C) Losing/Misplacing Bible (D) Not paying attention during reading.

READ Nehemiah 8:13–18

1. What did the people find in the Law (verses 13–14)? How long since this had been done (v.17)?
2. What was Ezra doing (verses 13, 18)? (Compare with Ezra 7:10.)

READ Nehemiah 9:1–4

3. Why did the people separate themselves from all foreigners (v.2)?
4. How long did they listen to the reading of the Law (v.3)?

The remainder of chapter 9 is a history of the Israelites.

5. For what is God praised (verses 6, 8, 17–19, 33)?
6. How did God find Abraham’s heart? What is a *“covenant”* (v.8)?
7. How did God make a new name for himself (v.10)?
8. How did God provide for Israel (v.15)?
9. What did God provide for Israel (20–25)?
10. How did Israel respond to God’s goodness, and how did God respond (verses 26–27)?
11. How shall a man live (v.29)?
12. How did God admonish Israel (v.30)?
13. Why is God called compassionate (v.31)?
14. Why were the Israelites now slaves (verses 36–37)?

APPLICATIONS

15. Based on the example of Nehemiah 8:15–17, how should we respond to the Laws of God that we were not aware of?
16. Describe the consequences of sin as seen in chapter 9. Provide 3 examples of how we are sometimes arrogant, stubborn and rebellious in our sin.