

538 Cyrus' decree to return
Zerubbabel and Jeshua, co-leaders
Altar built; Feast of Booths
TEMPLE begun (till stopped, 537)

520 Prophesy (Haggai and Zechariah)
Work resumes on Temple

516 Temple completed; Passover (515)

458 Ezra and priests bring TORAH

445 Nehemiah sent as governor
Walls and TOWERS rebuilt
Serves as governor until 433

Nehemiah 8:1

And all the people gathered as one man
into the square before the Water Gate.
And they told Ezra the scribe to bring
the Book of the Law of Moses
that the LORD had commanded Israel.

Nehemiah 8:2-3

So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month.

And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand.

And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:4-5

And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose.

And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood.

Nehemiah 8:6

And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God,
and all the people answered,
“Amen, Amen,”
lifting up their hands.

And they bowed their heads
and worshiped the LORD
with their faces to the ground.

Nehemiah 8:7-8

Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub,
Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah,
Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites,
helped the people to understand the Law,
while the people remained in their places.

They read from the book, from the Law of God,
clearly, and they gave the sense,
so that the people understood the reading.

Nehemiah 8:9

And Nehemiah, who was the governor,
and Ezra the priest and scribe,
and the Levites who taught the people
said to all the people,
“This day is holy to the LORD your God;
do not mourn or weep.”

For all the people wept as they heard
the words of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said to them, “Go your way.
Eat the fat and drink sweet wine
and send portions to anyone
who has nothing ready,
for this day is holy to our Lord.

“And do not be grieved,
for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:11-12

So the Levites calmed all the people, saying,
“Be quiet, for this day is holy;
do not be grieved.”

And all the people went their way
to eat and drink and to send portions and
to make great rejoicing,
because they had understood
the words that were declared to them.

Nehemiah 8:13

On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:14-15

And they found it written in the Law
that the LORD had commanded by Moses
that the people of Israel should dwell in booths
during the feast of the seventh month,
and that they should proclaim it and publish it
in all their towns and in Jerusalem,
“Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive,
wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees
to make booths, as it is written.”

Nehemiah 8:16-17

So the people went out and brought them
and made booths for themselves,
each on his roof, and in their courts
and in the courts of the house of God,
and in the square at the Water Gate
and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim.

And all the assembly of those who had returned from
the captivity made booths and lived in the booths,
for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day
the people of Israel had not done so.

And there was very great rejoicing.

Nehemiah 8:18

And day by day, from the first day to the last day,
he read from the Book of the Law of God.

They kept the feast seven days,
and on the eighth day
there was a solemn assembly,
according to the rule.

Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said to them, “Go your way.
Eat the fat and drink sweet wine
and send portions to anyone
who has nothing ready,
for this day is holy to our Lord.

“And do not be grieved,
for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Nehemiah 1:3-4

And they said to me,
“The remnant there in the province
who had survived the exile
is in great trouble and shame.

The wall of Jerusalem is broken down,
and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

As soon as I heard these words I sat down
and wept and mourned for days,
and I continued fasting and praying
before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 2:17-18

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision.”

And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me.

And they said, “Let us rise up and build.”
So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

Nehemiah 2:19

But when Sanballat the Horonite
and Tobiah the Ammonite servant
and Geshem the Arab heard of it,
they jeered at us and despised us and said,
“What is this thing that you are doing?
Are you rebelling against the king?”

- Mocking and Mischaracterization of Motives

Nehemiah 4:1-3

Now when Sanballat heard that
we were building the wall,
he was angry and greatly enraged,
and he jeered at the Jews.

And he said in the presence of his brothers
and of the army of Samaria,
“What are these feeble Jews doing...?
Will they revive the stones
out of the heaps of rubbish,
and burned ones at that?”

Nehemiah 4:1-3

Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him,
and he said,

“Yes, what they are building –
if a fox goes up on it he will break down
their stone wall!”

- Malicious discouragement of morale

Nehemiah 4:6

The people had a mind to work.

Nehemiah 4:7-8

But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry.

And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.

- Intimidation

Nehemiah 4:9

And we prayed to our God and set a guard
as a protection against them day and night.

Nehemiah 4:10-12

In Judah it was said,
“The strength of those
who bear the burdens is failing.
There is too much rubble.

“By ourselves we will not be able
to rebuild the wall.”

Nehemiah 4:10-12

And our enemies said,
“They will not know or see
till we come among them
and kill them and stop the work.”

At that time the Jews who lived near them
came from all directions and said to us ten times,
“You must return to us.”

Nehemiah 4:16-18

From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail.

And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, who were building on the wall.

Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other.

And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built.

The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

- Mocking and mischaracterization of motives
- Malicious discouragement of morale
- Intimidation
- Sowing division and dissention
- Undermining faith and spreading fear

Nehemiah 3:5

And next to them the Tekoites repaired,
but their nobles would not stoop
to serve their Lord.

Nehemiah 5:7-11

I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges
against the nobles and the officials...
and said to them, “We, as far as we are able,
have bought back our Jewish brothers
who have been sold to the nations,
but you even sell your brothers
that they may be sold to us!”

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no prophetic vision
the people cast off restraint,
but blessed is he who keeps the law.

John 16:33

“In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart!
I have overcome the world.”

Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said to them, “Go your way.
Eat the fat and drink sweet wine
and send portions to anyone
who has nothing ready,
for this day is holy to our Lord.

“And do not be grieved,
for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”