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**VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:**

**BIBLE FOR  
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

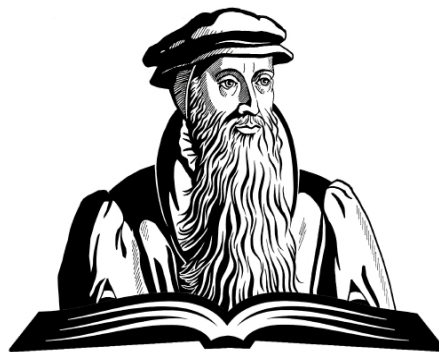
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**Old Testament**

**Lesson 96**

**Nehemiah - the Task Completed**

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



**The John Knox Institute**  
of Higher Education

*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

**John Knox Institute of Higher Education**

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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# Module

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## BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

### Old Testament

#### 113 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

**77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge**

**36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman**

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God             | 26. Joseph and His Brethren                     |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God  | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph                       |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry                         |
| 04. A Gracious Promise                     | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush                  |
| 05. Cain and Abel                          | 30. Let My People God                           |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace                  | 31. Deliverance                                 |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape   | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People    |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant                    | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel                     | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People            |
| 10. Abram: Called by God                   | 35. A Priest for the People                     |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot               | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People    |
| 12. Melchizadek                            | 37. Worshiping God Rightly                      |
| 13. Righteous by Faith                     | 38. Walk Not According to the World             |
| 14. Two Sons                               | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude                       |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life                | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming                      |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God       | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up              |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision       | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath           |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah                      | 43. Cities of Refuge                            |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau       | 44. A New Generation                            |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver                     | 45. Moses' Last Days                            |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob                    | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled              |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el               | 47. A Promise to Rahab                          |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated            | 48. The Rise of Judges                          |
| 24. An Eye upon God                        | 49. Gideon—God with Him                         |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison            | 50. Samson                                      |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
- 96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed**
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

## *Lesson 96*

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# **Nehemiah - the Task Completed**

The Book of Nehemiah, chapters 7 through 13

### **Memory Verse**

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.  
Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.”*

- Psalm 122:6-7

### **The Wall Completed**

How frustrated the adversaries of the Jews must have been! They had tried so hard to hinder, discourage, and even assault the builders. They tried to trick Nehemiah and ambush him. They tried to trick him into committing a sin. And they tried to spread false rumours about him. But nothing had succeeded. To their dismay, the enemies saw the wall quickly rising up, the breaches being closed, and the entire wall being completed in only fifty-two days. No wonder that they were “much cast down in their own eyes, for they perceived that this work was wrought of God” (Nehemiah 6:16). But what joy filled the hearts of the builders! God had blessed their efforts. He had watched over them and strengthened them in their task.

### **The Seventh Month**

A few days after the completion of the wall, thousands of Jews entered through the new gates into the city of Jerusalem. The sacred seventh month had begun. This special month began with the Feast of Trumpets, followed by the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles. As thousands of Jews admired the new walls and gates, they were deeply impressed by God’s faithfulness. In Nehemiah 8, verse 1, we read that they asked Ezra to read the law of the Lord. When Ezra stood on a high pulpit and opened the scroll of the law of God, everyone reverently stood up. Thirteen Levites helped Ezra to explain the law of God to the people. As they listened, the Jews were filled with sorrow and grief because it made them see and understand that they had sinned against God in many ways. However, Ezra and Nehemiah comforted the people: “This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep.” Instead, they were encouraged to rejoice with great mirth in God’s mercy and faithfulness.

### **Reformation and Dedication**

The joyful Feast of Tabernacles ended on the twenty-third day of the month. However, instead of returning to their homes, the people of Israel gathered together one more time. They felt that their repentance and reformation had not gone deep enough. They were dressed in sackcloth and had earth on their heads, to show their sorrow. Silently they listened as the law of the Lord was read to them again. Then the Levites earnestly prayed to the Lord, confessing their sins and acknowledging

God's justice. This was followed by a solemn moment. One by one, princes, priests and Levites stepped forward to sign their names in a scroll, thereby entering into a solemn covenant with the Lord, vowing to serve him only. The first person to sign his name was Nehemiah.

Not long after this, a special ceremony was held to dedicate the wall. They sought all the Levites to bring them to Jerusalem, "to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps, and the sons of the singers gathered themselves together" from all around the country (Nehemiah 12:27–28). Then Nehemiah caused all the princes of Judah to stand upon the wall with him in two groups, all rejoicing and giving thanks to the Lord. It was an unforgettable day. Many sacrifices were offered, and everyone rejoiced, "so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off" (Nehemiah 12:43).

### **Backsliding**

As he had promised King Artaxerxes, Nehemiah returned to serve the king in Shushan. In chapter 13 however, we read that Nehemiah went to Jerusalem a second time in order to confront serious backsliding among the people. Jewish leaders were again marrying with heathens. Tobiah the Ammonite had even married into the high priest's family and was living in a room in the court of the temple. People were neglecting to pay tithes to support the priests and Levites. People were working, buying, and selling on the Sabbath day. With his usual forcefulness, Nehemiah confronted the backsliders and enforced the law of the Lord. No doubt, Nehemiah began to realize that the glorious promise of rest in the land could never be fulfilled, unless someone greater than he would come—the promised Messiah, who we know as the Lord Jesus Christ. He would restore all things, build a New Jerusalem and an eternal kingdom which could never be removed.

### **Review Questions**

#### Nehemiah chapter 8

1. Who read to the people from the book of the law of Moses?
  - a. Nehemiah the governor
  - b. Eliashib the priest
  - c. Haggai the prophet
  - d. Ezra the scribe
  
2. What was the response of the people to the reading of the law?
  - a. They rejoiced.
  - b. They wept.
  - c. They prayed.
  - d. They fasted.

3. What three special occasions were commemorated in the seventh month?

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Nehemiah chapters 9 through 11

4. What did the people do when the Feast of Tabernacles was ended?

- a. They confessed their sins.
- b. They paid their tithes to the Temple priests.
- c. They marched, singing, around the city.
- d. They went back to their villages.

5. What did the leaders of the people sign, to which all the people agreed?

- a. The land titles issued to the heads of families
- b. A covenant of renewed faithfulness to the Lord
- c. A declaration of war on the Samaritans
- d. The crowning of Nehemiah as king

6. According to Nehemiah 11:1, what percentage of the people were to dwell in the city of Jerusalem itself? \_\_\_\_\_

Nehemiah chapters 12 and 13

7. What was Nehemiah's response when he found out that the high priest allowed Tobiah to live in a room in the court of the temple?

- a. Nehemiah removed Eliashib from being high priest
- b. Nehemiah threw out all of Tobiah's household stuff
- c. Nehemiah cleansed the room with incense
- d. All of the above

**Discussion Questions**

8. The presence of Nehemiah kept many people from sin while he was with them, but when he was far away, they quickly went back to their sins. What is the only thing which will cure you from your desire to sin?

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9. There were enemies and threats outside and inside the city of Jerusalem. How does this compare with enemies and threats that you face? Which ones are more dangerous?

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10. Builders use cornerstones in construction projects. A cornerstone must be perfectly square, since all angles and measurements are drawn from it.

In Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 28:16, Luke 20:17, 18, Acts 4:11, Ephesians 2:20, and 1 Peter 2:6, 7, we read about a cornerstone. Look up three of these texts and explain what cornerstone these Scriptures refer to and why.

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