
VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:

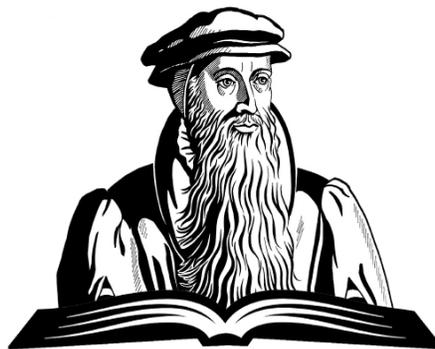
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 95

Nehemiah - Rebuilding the Walls

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Module

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 95

Nehemiah - Rebuilding the Walls

The Book of Nehemiah, chapters 1 through 3

Memory Verse

“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”

- Psalm 127:1

Sad News

In the book of Nehemiah, we meet with another high-ranking Jew whom the Lord used to help his people. Nehemiah was a cupbearer at the court of King Artaxerxes in Shushan, in charge of serving wine to the king. About thirteen years after Ezra returned to Jerusalem, Nehemiah was visited by his brother Hanani, who came all the way from Jerusalem to the capital city of Shushan. The news he brought from Jerusalem was not good. Although the temple was completed, the walls and gates were still in ruin, and the people of the city were exposed to the harassment and persecution of the Samaritans and other hostile neighbors.

The King’s Cupbearer

Nehemiah’s reaction shows his love for God’s honor and God’s people. Nehemiah “wept and mourned certain days, and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven” (Nehemiah 1:4). While he was serving the king, Nehemiah could not hide his sorrow. When the king saw it, he asked to know the reason for it, so Nehemiah told him about the terrible state of God’s people in Jerusalem. King Artaxerxes asked him “For what dost thou make request?” So Nehemiah prayed first, then he boldly asked for permission to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. Nehemiah also asked for letters of protection and permission to cut timber from the king’s forest. And the king agreed, “according to the good hand of my God upon me,” he writes (Nehemiah 2:8).

An Introduction

Nehemiah arrived safely in Jerusalem accompanied by the king’s captains and horsemen. He gave the king’s letters to the governors, and reports that Sanballat, the governor, and Tobiah the Ammonite were grieved that someone came to help the Jews. He waited a few days, then he went out quietly at night to inspect the walls. After seeing the ruins for himself, he called the rulers of the city and introduced himself. He showed the king’s letters and told them how God had guided him there to help rebuild the walls. Nehemiah’s offer was received with enthusiasm! Not only the people of Jerusalem, but also Jews from Jericho, Gibeon, Mizpah and other places flocked to Jerusalem to volunteer their time and skills. Nehemiah needed all his organizational skills to coordinate this huge task.

Opposition

Chapter four begins, “But it came to pass.” When Sanballat the governor of Samaria saw the progress made on the wall, he became alarmed and angry. “It grieved them exceedingly that a man was come to seek the welfare of the children of Israel” (Neh. 2:10). As they rode along the wall, Sanballat and his men loudly ridiculed the builders and their efforts. Sanballat soon realized that Nehemiah was the driving force behind the rebuilding efforts. It was Nehemiah who encouraged the builders and organized everything. In various ways, Sanballat then tried to lure Nehemiah away from the city so that they could ambush and kill him. When this failed too, Sanballat asked the help of the Ammonites, the Arabians and the Philistines and agreed on a time when they would attack the city from all sides. By the Lord’s blessing, Nehemiah was warned. He quickly organized an effective defence, which caused the enemies to withdraw.

Depending on the Lord

Nehemiah was clearly a gifted man, the right man at the right time for the task. As we read the book of Nehemiah, we notice how Nehemiah boldly and decisively took the needed measures. We also notice that he generously gives credit, and in chapter 3 mentions by name all the men and women who helped in any way. As Nehemiah encouraged the builders, he continually pointed away from himself. “Remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses” (Nehemiah 4:14). Nehemiah clearly felt his dependence upon the Lord, and we hear him time and again sighing in prayer, “Hear, O our God, for we are despised, and turn their reproach upon their own head” (Nehemiah 4:4). “Think upon me, my God, for good” (Nehemiah 5:19). “Remember me, O my God, concerning this also” (Nehemiah 13:22). Clearly Nehemiah had learned the truth of John 15:5, “Without me ye can do nothing,” and Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Review Questions

Nehemiah chapter 1

1. What did Hanani tell Nehemiah about Jerusalem? (Fill in the missing words)

The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the _____ are in great _____ and _____: the _____ of Jerusalem also is _____, and the _____ thereof are _____ with _____.

2. What was Nehemiah’s response? (Fill in the missing words)

I _____ down and _____, and _____ certain days, and _____, and _____ before the God of _____.

Nehemiah chapter 2

3. What did Nehemiah call the city of Jerusalem when he was talking to the King?
 - a. The capital city of my country
 - b. The city of David our King
 - c. The place of my father's sepulcher
 - d. God's chosen city

4. When the king asked Nehemiah what he would like, Nehemiah did what?
 - a. Pondered how he should answer
 - b. Bowed down before the king
 - c. Quietly prayed to the Lord
 - d. Poured the king a glass of his best wine

5. What did king Artaxerxes NOT send along with Nehemiah?
 - a. Letters to the governors
 - b. A letter to the keeper of the forest
 - c. A letter to Sanballat the Horonite
 - d. Captains of the army and horsemen

Discussion Questions

Nehemiah chapter 3

6. What four words do you see repeated, when you read Nehemiah 3, verses 10, 23, 28, 29, 30? Why do you think Nehemiah gave them that piece of wall to repair?

7. Read Nehemiah 4:2, 4:8, 6:5–7 and 6:10–11. In what four ways did the enemies try to stop the building of the wall? _____

8. Read Nehemiah 4:4, 4:14, 4:16 and 6:3. In what four ways did Nehemiah resist the enemy's attempts? _____

9. First the temple was rebuilt, and then the walls. How can this be compared to justification and sanctification?

(The Westminster Larger Catechism, Question #77 asks, "Wherein do justification and sanctification differ?" The Answer, "God in justification imputeth the righteousness of Christ; in sanctification his Spirit infuseth grace, and enableth to the exercise thereof; in the former, sin is pardoned; in the other, it is subdued.")
