NEHEMIAH

• Author: Unknown; compiler of 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra & Nehemiah

• Background: Ezra written 440 B.C. & Nehemiah 430 B.C.; 2 separate works

combined as 1 in Hebrew, Greek texts; Origen (185-253 A.D.) first to distinguish between 2

• Content: Exiled Jews from Babylon returned to Jerusalem around 537 B.C., but still had no city

walls; Nehemiah returned to accomplish that mission and to lead people with prayer and wisdom

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**•** Nehemiah’s (“the Lord comforts”) inquiry (1-2)

 1. Around November/December, 446 B.C. (1)

 *- 20th year of King Artaxerxes I--465-424 B.C.*

 2. In Susa--winter residence of Persian kings

 3. About his people & place (2)

 *- Returned to Jerusalem--537 B.C.*

• Hanani’s reply (3)

 1. People in

 *- Trouble--no protection from animals & enemies*

 *- Disgrace--not proper for God’s dwelling*

 2. Place (walls) in ruins

 *- Rebuilding stopped due to Artaxerxes’ orders (Er 4:11-24)*

• Nehemiah’s reaction (4)

 1. Sadness, fasting, prayer for days

• Nehemiah’s prayer (5-11)

 1. Adoration (5-6a)

 *- God of heaven--Supreme Being (Da 4:34-35)*

 *- Great & awesome--to be feared (Dt 7:21)*

 *- Promise keeper (Dt 7:9)*

 2. Confession--of his people & himself (6b-7; Pr 28:13)

 3. Thanksgiving--promises recalled (8-10; Dt 30:1-5)

 4. Supplication--give me success before Artaxerxes (11; Pr 21:1)

NEHEMIAH 2-3

• God’s answer (2:1-3)

 1. 4 months later, around March/April 445 B.C., because (1; Pr 14:35; 19:12)

  *- King not in Susa?*

 *- King not in right mood?*

 *- King not addressing Nehemiah?*

 *- King being served by other cupbearers?*

2.Audience with king (2-3)

• Nehemiah’s prayer & requests (2:4-9; Pr 27:18)

 1. Release (5)

 2. Time (6)

 3. Protection (7)

 4. Supplies (8)

• Nehemiah’s opponents (2:10)

 1. Sanballat--governor of Samaria

 2. Tobiah--governor of Transjordan region

• Nehemiah’s inspection & plan (2:11-18; Pr 19:2)

 1. Vision for rebuilt walls (17)

 2. Encouragement of God’s grace & king’s blessing (18; Pr 25:25)

• Opponents’ ridicule (2:19)

• Nehemiah’s reply (2:20; Pr 15:28; 20:3)

 1. God is with us

 2. You are not part of us

• List of rebuilders (3:1-32)