

Nehemiah 8-12

When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.
Psalm 126:1,2

Readings this week:

S	Nehemiah 8
M	Nehemiah 9
T	Nehemiah 10
W	Nehemiah 12: 27-47
Th	Psalm 48
F	Psalm 126
S	Zechariah 2

Read Nehemiah 6:15-16 together. How do you think Nehemiah and the people in Jerusalem felt when the wall was finished?

Why did they feel that way?

Look up the passages and summarise the ways in which they celebrated the completion of the walls.



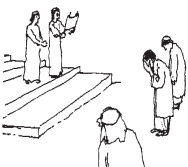
Nehemiah 8:1-9, 18



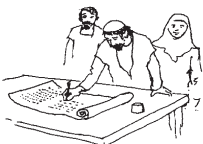
Nehemiah 8:10-12



Nehemiah 8:13-17



Nehemiah 9:1-6



Nehemiah 9:38; 10:1,28,29



Nehemiah 12:27-43

Ezra and Nehemiah were together in Jerusalem at this time. How do you think the two men felt about what had happened?

Discuss your ideas and record them here.



Look around you now. What can you see that you can thank God for?

What does the lesson teach you about the ways you should celebrate success?

Can you recite the names of these books in order:

Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job

Digging Deeper

Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther are the last three historical books of the Old Testament. The prophetic books Isaiah – Daniel and Haggai – Malachi also cover this period of history.

Make a short time line covering about 600 years before Jesus was born and remind yourself when these people lived and distinguish whether they lived in the land of Israel or not or whether they moved away or back. (The references will help you if you need reminding)

Isaiah (Isaiah 1:1)

Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:1)

Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:1-3)

Daniel (Daniel 1:1,6)

Zerubbabel (Ezra 1:1, 2:1-2) (Daniel 9:1-2)

Ezra (Ezra 7:1)

Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:1)

Esther (Esther 1:1)

Haggai (Haggai 1:1)

Zechariah (Zechariah 1:1)

Malachi (Malachi 1:7-8)

They were offering at the temple and there was a governor in the land so it sounds as though Malachi was very slightly after Nehemiah.)

About how many years are there before the New Testament begins when we don't have any records in the Bible?

After the book of Esther is Job. Historically this probably fits around the time of Abraham but so that you know where it is in the Bible learn the names of Ezra Nehemiah Esther and Job in order.

- Captives were taken to Babylon in three waves 605 BC, 597 BC and 587 BC.
- Cyrus began to reign in 538 BC
- Darius the Persian reigned 522-486
- Xerxes or Ahazuerus reigned 486-465 BC
- Artaxerxes reigned 465-424 BC

Thank God for all the good things that happen to you.