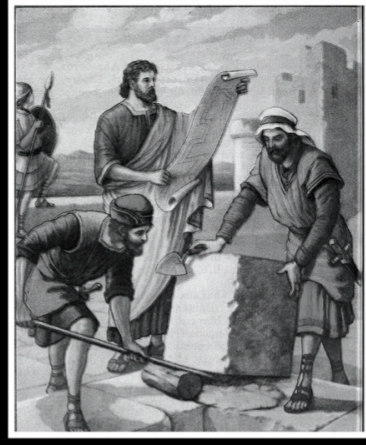


# **N** The Message & Selfless Heart of **NEHEMIAH**





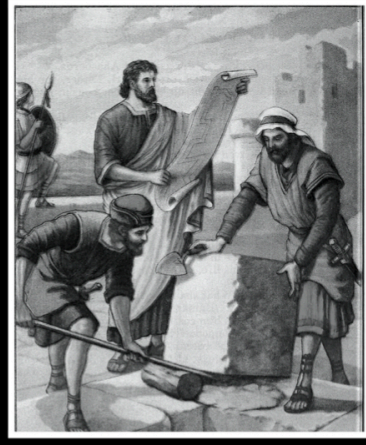
The Message & Selfless Heart of  
**NEHEMIAH**

# The Message of Nehemiah

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## Transformation ...

- From an emphasis on well-known leaders to community
- From narrow to broader views of holiness
- To a greater appreciation for God's written word (cf Dillard/Longman, OT Intro, 186ff)



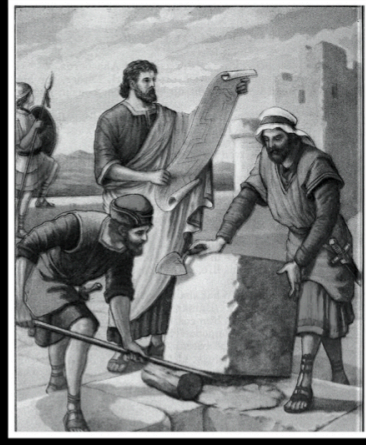
## The Message & Selfless Heart of **NEHEMIAH**

# The Message of Nehemiah

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## From an emphasis on well-known leaders to community

- We often summarize the biblical narrative — historical and redemptive — through the lives of great leaders/characters ...
  - **Gen:** Adam/Eve • Noah • Abraham • Isaac • Jacob/Israel • Joseph
  - **Ex-Deut:** Moses • Aaron • Pharaoh • Shiprah/Puah
  - **Josh-Jud:** Joshua • Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Samson/Eli/Samuel • Ruth • Boaz
  - **Sam-Chron:** Samuel • Saul • David • Solomon • 3 “A’s”/“J’s” • Hezekiah • Manasseh • Josiah • **Prophets:** Elijah • Elisha • Nathan • Isaiah • Jeremiah
  - **Captivity:** Ezekiel • Daniel • **Restoration:** Zerubbabel • Ezra • Nehemiah • Haggai • Zechariah • Malachi



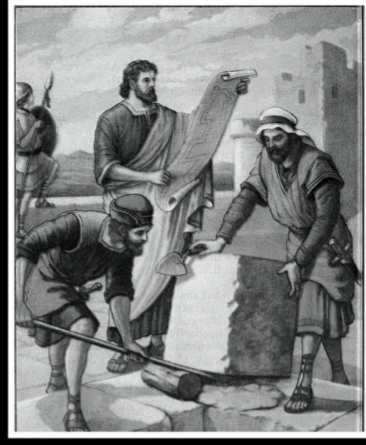
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# The Message of Nehemiah

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## From an emphasis on well-known leaders to community

- **Kings** emphasizes the incredible temple role that Solomon played
- Attention centers, at first, on the **scope/size** of the temple project:
  - Materials • Laborers • Process • Time • Cost • etc.
- **Chronicles** accentuates the temple roles of ...
  - David • Solomon • priesthood
  - It notes, in detail, the patterns/practices that **restoration** Israel was to follow ...
    - Patterns/practices that were **originally** revealed from God to Moses



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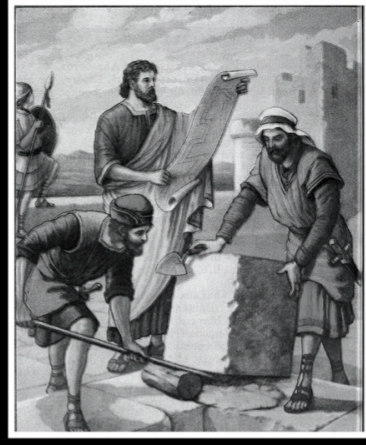
## The Message of Nehemiah

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### From an emphasis on well-known leaders to community

- **Ezra and Nehemiah**, though “well-known leaders,” are **not** the temple builders in the restoration ...
- The **people** — Jews who returned from captivity —
  - (the people) are the builders ...
    - Of the city of Jerusalem • The wall surrounding the city • The temple
    - This represents a distinct shift from well-known leaders to ...
      - The **community**, the nation of Israel ...
      - And to the importance of **individual** responsibility





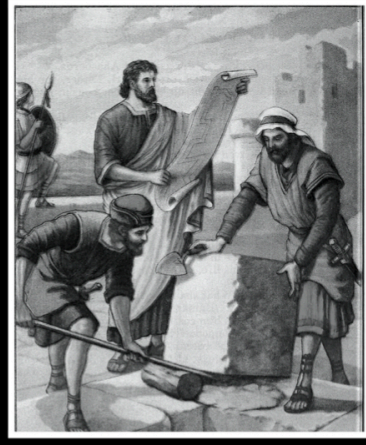
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# The Message of Nehemiah

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## From narrow to broader views of holiness

- **From Exodus-Kings:** The Mosaic law and the priesthood ...
  - The tribe of Levi was taken “in exchange” for the “firstborn” spared at Passover
  - They were the “price” paid for God’s redemption (Num 3.40ff)
  - They were to minister in the tabernacle/temple
    - Representing God • Serving the nation
    - Offering sacrifices, yielding atonement • Offering prayers • Teaching the nation



## The Message & Selfless Heart of **NEHEMIAH**

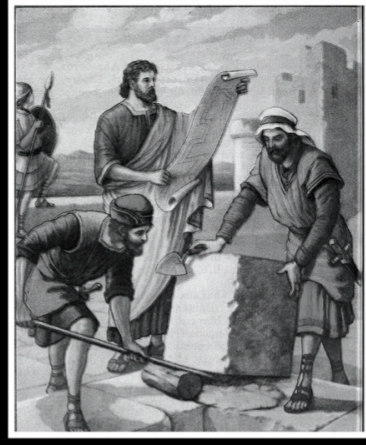
# The Message of Nehemiah

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## From narrow to broader views of holiness

- **From Chron -> Mal:** The Mosaic law and the priesthood remained ...
  - The tribe of Levi still served in the second temple • They still represented God • Served the nation • Offered sacrifices, prayers • Taught the nation
- **From Chron -> Mal:** The principles of holiness/priesthood/consecration ...
  - Applied to the **temple** (Ez 6.15) • The great **feasts** (Ez 6.19ff) • The “consecrated **walls**” (Neh 3.1) • The **city** of Jerusalem (Neh 11.1) • To the **people** as a whole (Ez 8.1ff)
  - Holiness was **never** intended to be the “domain” of the priests alone • All Israel was to be holy as God was holy (Lev 11.44) • That’s **emphasized** more in Ez-Neh





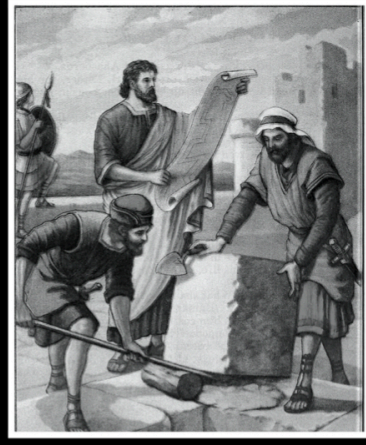
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# The Message of Nehemiah

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## To a greater appreciation for God's written word

- **Ex-Deut:** God's word was revealed to/through Moses for Israel ...
  - God spoke • God spoke through Moses (oral revelation)
  - God wrote • God wrote through Moses (written revelation)
  - Israel was always the beneficiary of God's revelation



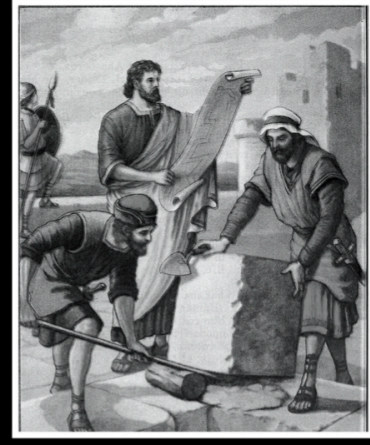
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## The Message of Nehemiah

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### To a greater appreciation for God's written word

- **Chron-Mal:** God still spoke/wrote/revealed through Moses ...
- God still spoke/wrote/revealed through other prophets (Hag, Zech, Mal)
- Israel was still the beneficiary of God's revelation
- But, in view of their (collective) past history — failing to obey God's word — Israel was encouraged to “buy into” God's revelation in a **larger/deeper** way
  - Ezra **read** the law before all the people • The people were aided by the priests to **understand/get the sense** of what they heard • The people **confessed** their sins • The people (re)**covenanted** to obey God's word



The Message & Selfless Heart of  
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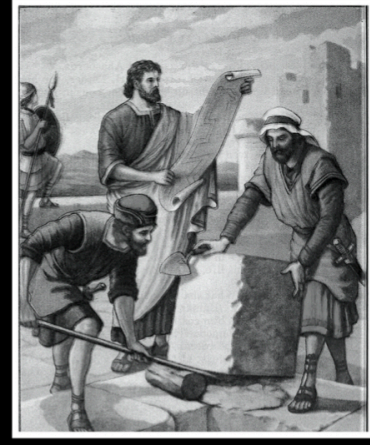
# The Selfless Heart of Nehemiah

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## We see Nehemiah's heart ...

- Nehemiah, cried, mourned, fasted and prayed for God's people
- Nehemiah petitioned the king to aid God's people
- Nehemiah started to rebuild the wall of the city
- Nehemiah faced/overcame outside challenges
- Nehemiah faced/overcame inside challenges
- Nehemiah was generous





The Message & Selfless Heart of  
**NEHEMIAH**

# The Selfless Heart of Nehemiah

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## We see Nehemiah's heart ...

- Nehemiah, cried, mourned, fasted and prayed for God's people - **1.1-11**
- Nehemiah petitioned the king to aid God's people - **2.1-9**
- Nehemiah started to rebuild the wall of the city - **2.11-20, 3.1, 4.1**
- Nehemiah faced/overcame outside challenges - **2.10, 19-20, 4.1-23, 6.1-14**
- Nehemiah faced/overcame inside challenges - **5.1-13**
- Nehemiah was generous - **5.14-19**

