

Confirmation Fall 2016 Lesson 12

NEHEMIAH (companion book with Ezra)

Theme: Return from the Exile Re-Building of Jerusalem, the Wall, the Temple, the Traditions.

Nehemiah: Cup-bearer to the King Artaxerxes of Babylon (ca. BCE 445/444) 20th year of his reign

Context: Babylonian Captivity....is where we started our Old Testament Study.

Babylonian Exile 598/7 and 587/6 BCE.

King Cyrus 536 Jews can return to Jerusalem (Seen by some as God's Anointed one) Isaiah 45:1-3

King Darius Temple of Zerubabel built in Jerusalem

King Xerxes= Ahasuerus (Esther)

King Artaxerxes= Ezra & Nehemiah

Opponents:

Sanballat (Haronite)

Tobiah (Ammonite)

Geshem (Arab)

Ashdodites

Questions for Discussion:

1. Nehemiah is doing what he feels God calls him to do. When he encounters resistance, does he give up, thinking that God is not with him?
2. Why do you think his opponents resist Nehemiah's plans to rebuild of Jerusalem?
3. Make the arguments for Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem as if you understand and agree with them.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
4. Does it seem confusing that God seems to use even God's enemies to do God's will? What does this tell us about God and about God's people?