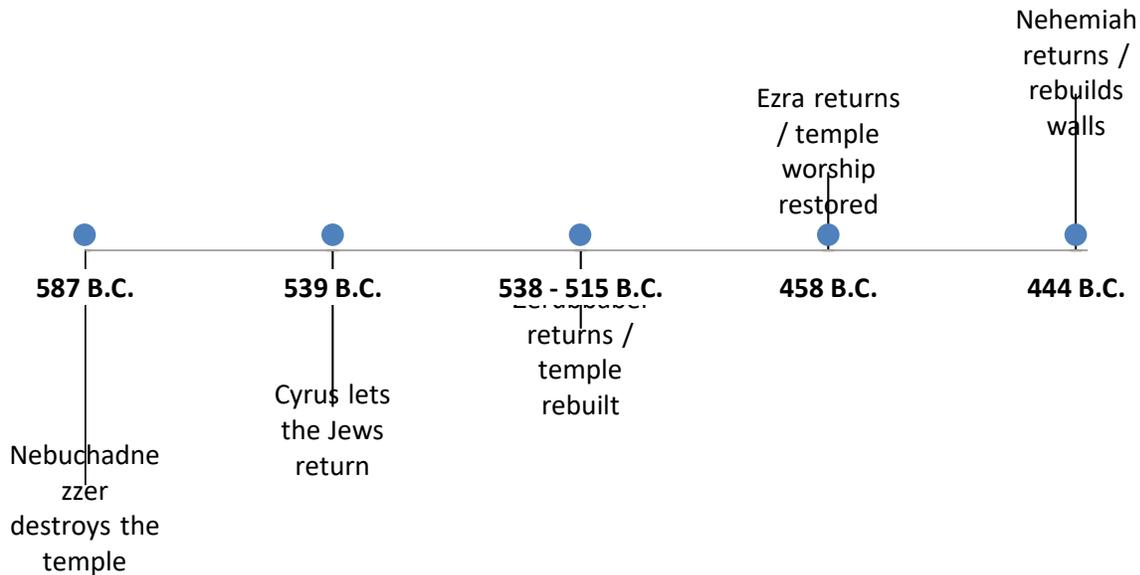


Doing a Great Work: Praying for a Great Work

Introduction

Timeline



Ray C. Stedman: Nehemiah is the story of the _____ of the walls of Jerusalem

Date	Lesson	Passage
March 3	Praying for a Great Work	Nehemiah 1
March 10	Preparing for a Great Work	Nehemiah 2:9-16
March 17	Participating in a Great Work	Nehemiah 2:17-20
March 24	Performing a Great Work	Nehemiah 3-6

Who, What, Where, When, Why

Who: _____

What: Rebuilding the wall

Where: Shushan and _____

When: +/- 444 B.C.

Why: **Ray C. Stedman: This book is also the story of the restoring of a _____**

This entire series is one big promo for Easter at Coolidge (EAC). As we go through today's lesson, look at the pieces and see if you see yourself. We will talk more about them at the end.

Nehemiah 1 (NKJV)

1 The words of Nehemiah [Jehovah comforts]

2 Hanani . . . came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews . . . and concerning Jerusalem. [Josh Hunt: Godly people, at times, _____ for trouble. They look for problems that God can use them to solve. . . . They expose themselves to the pain that is in the world.]

4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting [abstaining from food] **and praying** [praying on behalf of someone] **before the God of heaven.**

7 We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments [things _____ to be done], **the statutes** [_____ or boundaries], **nor the ordinances** [judicial _____] **which You commanded Your servant Moses.**

Apply (So what is the point?)

1. Communication is part of the work
2. Prayer is part of the work
3. Volunteering is part of the work

Personalize (Now what do I do?)

1. Communicate _____
2. Pray for _____
3. Volunteer for _____

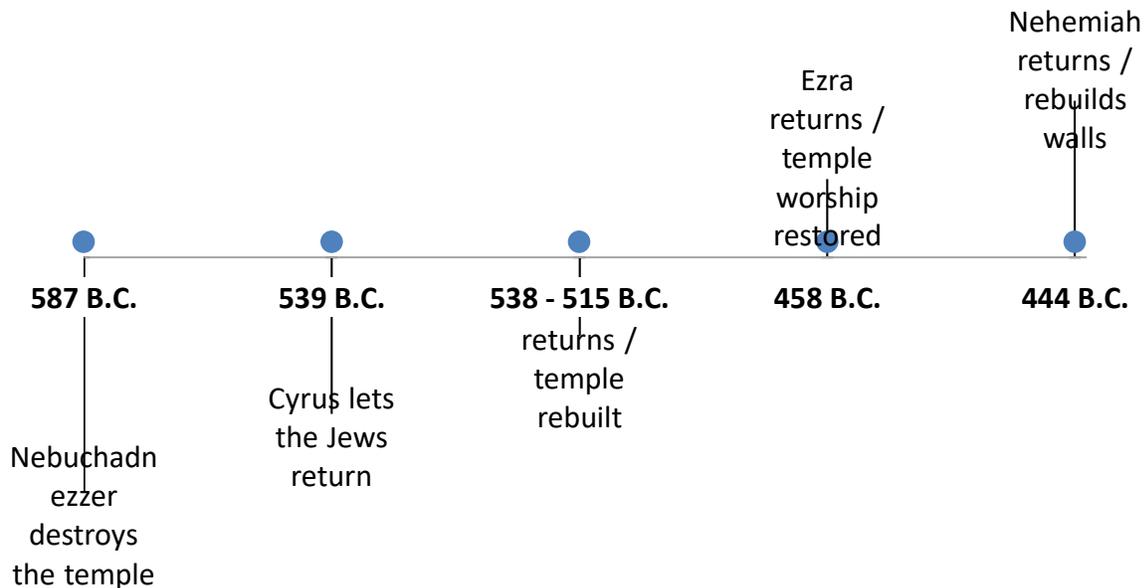
Sermon blanks

- I. **Reverencing** God
 - A. His **person**
 1. **Commitment** to God
 - a. Not a **religion**
 - b. But a **relationship**
 2. **Character** of God
 - a. **General** revelation
 - b. **Special** revelation
 - B. His **Plan**
 1. Covenants – the **blessings**
 2. Commandments – the **judgments**
- II. **Requesting** God
 - A. **Petition** to God
 - B. **Praise** to God
 1. For **redeeming** us
 - a. Great **power**
 - b. Strong **hand**
 2. For **hearing** us

Doing a Great Work: Preparing for a Great Work

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Ray C. Stedman: Nehemiah is the story of the _____ of the walls of Jerusalem. . . . also the story of the _____ of a people from ruin and despair to a new walk with God

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Nehemiah 2 (NKJV)

9 Then I [Nehemiah] **went** [_____ miles from Shushan to Jerusalem] **to the governors in the region beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me. 10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of it, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel** [Why would Sanballat and Tobiah be fearful of help for Jerusalem?].

Ray C. Stedman: Whenever a man like Nehemiah says, "I will arise and build," Satan always says, "Then I will arise and _____."

The greater the work, the greater the _____

11 So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. 12 Then I arose in the night [What did Nehemiah do for three days? He needed to rest so he _____], I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode. 13 And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. 14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but *there was no room for the animal under me to pass.* 15 So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned [David Guzik: We must look at the broken down towers, and carefully study what is wrong—but only if we have the heart, the prayer, the vision, the passion to be used of God to _____ it right.]. 16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.

Apply (So what is the point?)

1. Brokenness is all around us
2. Expect opposition in God's work
3. Time spent resting and reflecting is well spent

Personalize (Now what do I do?)

1. Engage with the brokenness (invite people to _____)
2. Rise up and confront opposition (don't tolerate negative speak about _____)
3. Rest and reflect on the brokenness and the possibilities of restoration

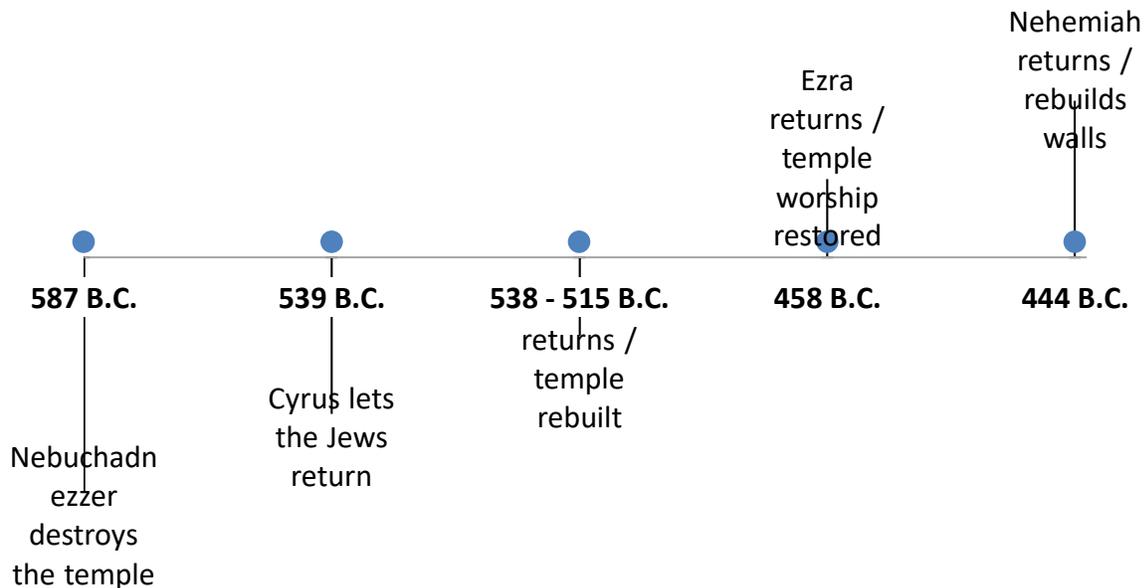
Sermon blanks

- I. The **adversity** in a great work (the greater the work the greater the adversity)
 - A. **Getting** there
 1. Set **backs**
 - a. **Distractions**
 - b. **Detours**
 - c. **Discouragement**
 2. Set **ups**
 - a. **Authority**
 - b. **Army**
 - B. **Arriving** there
 1. The **world**
 2. The **flesh**
- II. The **approach** to a great work
 - A. Prepare yourself **physically**
 1. **Burn** out
 2. **Rust** out
 3. **Live** out
 - B. Prepare yourself **mentally**
 - C. Prepare yourself **spiritually**

Doing a Great Work: Participating in a Great Work

Introduction

Timeline



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Nehemiah 2 (NKJV)

17 Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lies* waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach **18** And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me [Nehemiah used what God _____ done to encourage the people to do what God _____ done], **and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me.**

So they said, "Let us [they were _____] rise up [they were _____] and build [they were _____]." Then they set their hands to **this good work.** [Haddon Robinson's daughter]

Warren Wiersbe: It takes both the hands of leadership and the hands of partnership to accomplish the work of the Lord.

When was the last time God put you in a situation when you had to work together?

19 But [_____ is one of the few constants in the universe] **when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem** [rain] **the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?”**
 [Ray C. Stedman: It is the opposition that makes the players dig in and _____ through]

20 So I answered them, and said to them, “The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem.” [In essence, Nehemiah told them, “You do not _____”]

Apply (So what is the point?)

1. Be encouraged by what God has done (and remind others)
2. Opposition will be relentless and growing
3. Join together to do the great work

Personalize (Now what do I do?)

1. Tell others about your past positive experiences with _____
2. Encourage others that are facing opposition as we get closer to _____
3. **Winston Churchill: Never, never, never give up**

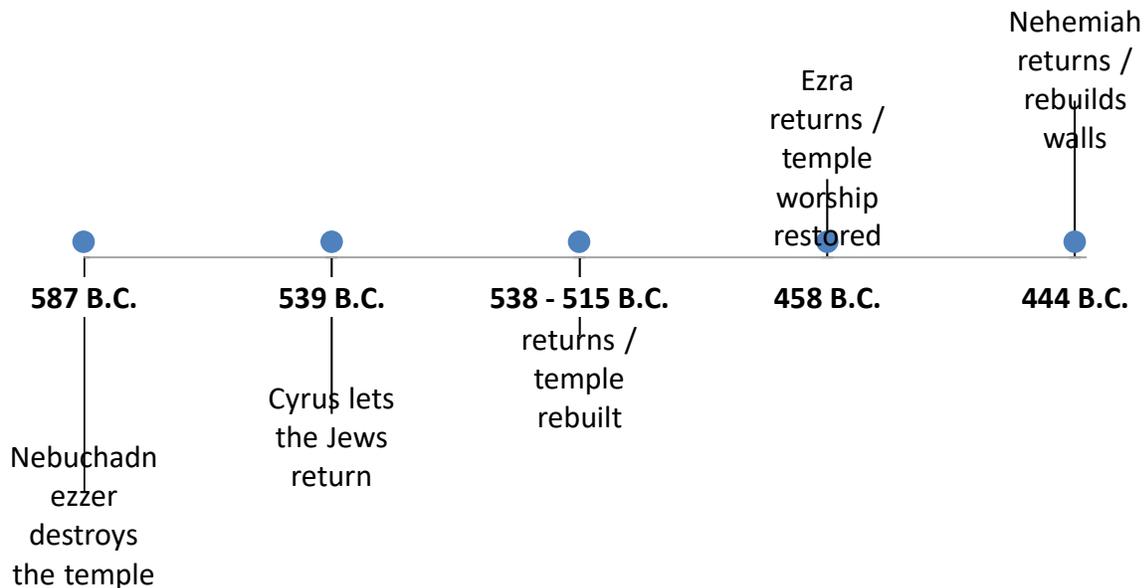
Sermon blanks

- I. These are the **facts**
 - A. There is a **work** for **we**
 1. There is **physical** work
 2. There is **public** work
 - a. What is our **reputation**
 - b. How are we **perceived**
 - B. There is a **word** to **me**
 1. From the **Lord**
 2. From the **leaders**
- II. There are the **faithful**
 - A. They **say** the right thing
 - B. They **do** the right thing
- III. This is the **fight**
 - A. Our **adversaries**
 1. The **world**
 2. The **flesh**
 3. The **devil**
 - B. Our **ally**
 1. The **powerful** God
 2. The **personal** God
 3. The **prospering** God

Doing a Great Work: Performing a Great Work

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Nehemiah 3

In **Nehemiah 3**, Nehemiah sets out to _____ for posterity and the official records the names and accomplishments of the people who worked on the wall (Warren Wiersbe).

8 David Guzik: These men were not trained for this kind of work. . . . The most important ability in the work of the Lord is _____

26 The Water Gate needed ____ repair

Nehemiah 4

6 for the people had a mind [_____, inclination, resolution, courage] **to work.**

15 David Guzik: This is the victory. Defending against the attack was not the victory; the people of God would not be at peace and security until the wall was rebuilt. Getting on with the work is the _____!

Nehemiah 5

Nehemiah 6

9 Josh Hunt: The best answer to opposition is to _____ working

So, what was Nehemiah about? It is about you and me. It is about the walls in our lives that need to be built up and the gates that need to be repaired. It is about the process of restoration and how each one of us plays a role.

Apply (So what is the point?)

1. God cares about individuals
2. God remembers individuals and their contributions
3. There is always a job to do in the body of Christ

Personalize (Now what do I do?)

1. Care about individuals and invite them to _____
2. See every person as being able to contribute
3. Find my job and serve as needed/gifted at _____

Sermon blanks

- I. The **placement** of the people
 - A. Serve where you are **gifted**
 - B. Serve where you are **needed**
- II. The **perseverance** of the people
 - A. The **contempt** on the people
 1. They were **taunted**
 2. They were **threatened**
 - B. The **courage** of the people
 1. They **prayed** and **worked**
 2. They **prayed** and **watched**
- III. The **praise** of the people
 - A. They **finished** their **work**
 - B. They **glorified** their **God**