



ה'לג

EXILES

“Ordinary Guy; Great God”

Nehemiah 1-3





In 539 BC, Persian King Cyrus the Great issued the world's first charter of human rights. He freed slaves, declared that all people had the right to choose their own religion, and established racial equality.

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Persian Kings

559-530 B.C. King Cyrus II

(538 - Zerubbabel led 50,000 back)



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(538 - Zerubbabel led 50,000 back)



530-522 King Cambyses



522-486 King Darius I



486-465 King Xerxes I



Persian Kings



465-425 King Artaxerxes



(458 – Ezra led 2nd exile group back)



(445 – Nehemiah led the 3rd exile group back)



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433 - Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem and instituted reforms.

430 - Book of Nehemiah written

430 - Book of Malachi written



Clay Seal



Bulla Stamp





1. **Emotionally** – they were in great trouble and distress
2. **Socially** – they felt shame and reproach from all the people around them
3. **Physically** – they were in constant danger without walls for protection
4. **Governmentally** – they were leaderless, implied by the burned gates

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5. He had been fasting & praying about this,

Nehemiah 2:8

And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

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Nehemiah 2:18

And they said, “Let us rise up and build.” So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

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Nehemiah 2:20

Then I replied to them, “The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.”



...
“It was Arab/Muslim invaders who came to the Land of Israel as an imperialist force in the decade after the Prophet Muhammad’s death (632 A.D.) and laid the groundwork for the colonization of this land by a long string of Muslim empires, up to the fall of the Ottoman Empire at the end of WWI.

During this lengthy era, the non-Jewish and non-Christian residents of the land identified themselves as Muslims—not as Arabs, and certainly not as Palestinians—until WWI, when the idea of Arab nationalism gathered steam with the help of British imperialism.”

- Dr. Yechiel Shabiy

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Proverbs 12:25

Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

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The Great Pyramid (x 7)



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...
"The outside observer sees us as staggering on from gimmick to gimmick and stunt to stunt like so many drunks in a fog, not knowing at all where we are, or which way we should be going. Preaching is hazy; heads are muddled; hearts fret; doubts drain strength; uncertainty paralyses



Dr. J.I. Packer

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...
Unlike the first Christians,
who in three centuries won the
Roman world, and those later
Christians who pioneered the
Reformation, and the Puritan
awakening, and the
Evangelical revival, and the
great missionary movement of
the last century, we lack
certainty."



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1. What are We to Build?

Jude 20

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,

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But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

2. Who Is to Do the Building?

Ephesians 4:11-12

And he gave the apostles, the prophets,
the evangelists, the shepherds and
teachers,

To equip the saints for the work of
ministry, for building up the body of
Christ,



3. How Are We to Build?

Colossians 1:28

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature (complete) in Christ.

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3. How Are We to Build?

2 Corinthians 5:20 NASB

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

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4. How Long are We to Build?

Ephesians 4:13

... until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

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- You should build up your spouse & not tear them down
- You should build up your children & not tear them down
- You should build up your church & not tear it down
- You should build up the work of God & not tear it down
- You should build up the people of God & not tear them down
- You should build up your place of employment & not tear it down
- You should build up your country & not tear it down

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...

Today, be wise. Be a builder!

- Tom Short

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Isaiah 58:12

And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of
many generations; you shall be called
the repairer of the breach, the restorer
of streets to dwell in.

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**What
are
today's
breaches
???**

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Isaiah 49:14-16

But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.”

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¹⁵ “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶ Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

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But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.”

¹⁵ “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶ Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

your walls are continually before me.



1 John 5:18

We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

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As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so
the LORD surrounds his people, from this
time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 125:2)

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The God of Nehemiah was:

- The transcendent Creator, God of heaven (1:4; 2:4, 20)
- Self-sustaining, self-energizing, and eternal (9:5)
- Great (8:6)
- Great and awesome (1:5, 4:14)
- Great, mighty and awesome (9:32)
- Lord of history, God of judgment and mercy, a forgiving God, gracious & compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love (9:17).

...
“God was to Nehemiah the sublimest, most permanent, most pervasive, most intimate, most humbling, exalting, and commanding of all realities.

The basis on which Nehemiah attempted great things for God and expected great things from God was that he had grasped the greatness of God himself.”

- Gary Thomas

