

Nehemiah

**Woody in a time of
rebuilding**

BACKGROUND TO THE BOOK

Background: BIG picture

- Worship of Yahweh
- Obedience to Yahweh
- Idolatry
- God's sovereignty

History of Israel

- Moses, Exodus, Joshua 1200 BC
- Saul, David and Solomon
- Nation divides into Ephraim (Israel) and Judah
- Fall of Ephraim to Assyria.722 BC
- Fall of Judah to Babylon 586 BC

Kings of Israel

- God's patience runs out.

REBUILDING OF JERUSALEM

NEHEMIAH

Ezra–Nehemiah: details

- Author unknown.
- Date: in exile, approx. 410 -370 BC
- Unusual format:
 - Content!
 - No miracles

Nehemiah

- Cupbearer to the King
- Knew the Torah
- Man of faith
 - Looked to God not the situation
- Man of action
 - Took responsibility

Why rebuild Jerusalem?

- A place for the Jews to live and worship Yahweh
- As a city ready for the coming King

God has not finished with us yet!
WHAT NOW FOR WOODY?

Four main themes in Ezra/Nehemiah

1. Rebuild temple and *restore worship at heart of city and nation*
 2. Teach the Torah and re-establish the law in the lives of the people *to develop the unique character of the 'called out people of God'*
 3. Rebuild the walls so that the exiles can return and a *city community can be established in safety*
 4. Act to ensure people are known for *mutual support and generosity rather than each family living for itself.*
- John Goldingay

JESUS

Hebrews 10

- ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10

- ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds,
²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.