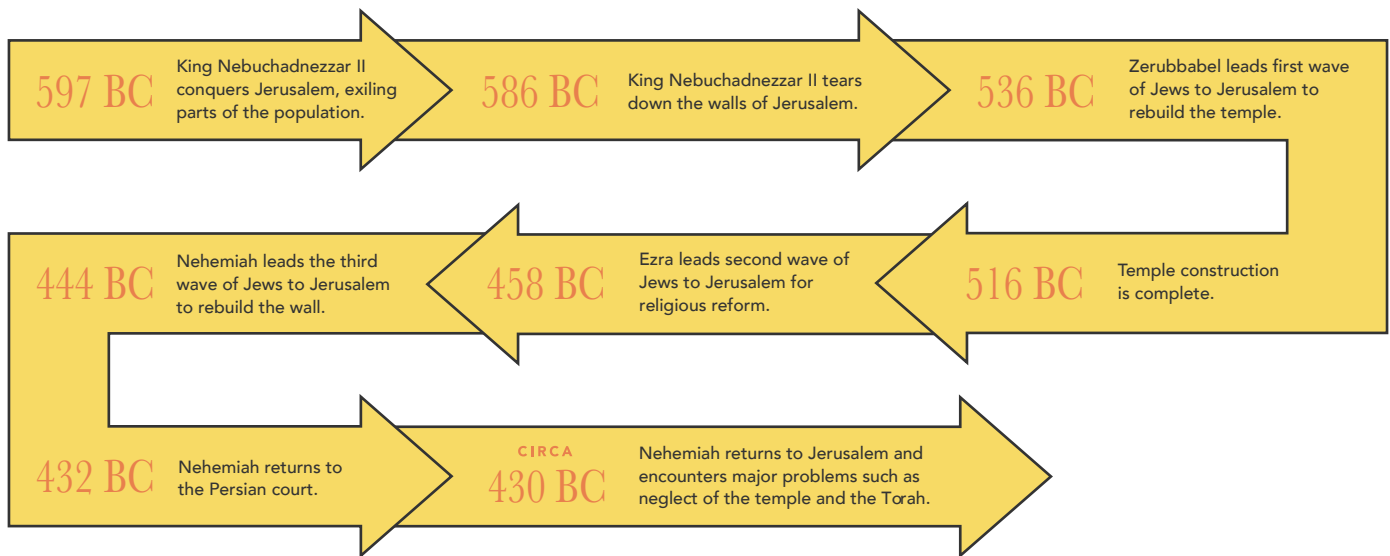


# Nehemiah Part 6: After Revival Comes Change Go Deeper Guide

## HISTORICAL TIMELINE FOR NEHEMIAH

To get a video table of contents that frames the story of Nehemiah within the greater biblical narrative, checkout Bible Project Video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkETkRv9tG8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkETkRv9tG8)



## SCRIPTURE

A significant part of Nehemiah's context is the efforts that Ezra, a student of the scriptures, undertook to help the people of Israel regain a love for reading God's word. So it's fitting that during this series you'll be invited to read larger portions of scripture in one sitting, something that has become a lost discipline in our culture as well.

So grab your Bible or use a device to access an online bible, and set aside 15-30 minutes to read a full chapter or two.

**This week you'll read Nehemiah chapters 9 and 10.**

## READ THIS OVERVIEW

How do you respond to the goodness of the Lord? We experience God's goodness in a variety of ways. Some

experience the goodness of God as they hike the great outdoors and watch the sunset in orange and purple hues. Others see the goodness of God in their child's rambunctious laugh, the caress of a loved one after a long day or even in the smell of a home cooked meal. Many of us respond with thanksgiving if we've taken the time to even notice how God continually expresses His goodness to us.

In chapter 9, the Israelites respond to the completion of the wall and the hearing of God's word with confession. They assemble with fasting and sackcloth, both are typically associated with a period of mourning. In response to the goodness of God, the Israelites assemble and they mourn the places that they and their ancestors have missed the mark. During this assembly they read from the word of the Lord and they recounted the journey of their ancestors. They recounted the might of the

Lord as He delivered their ancestors from slavery and brought them out of Egypt. They recounted the provision of the Lord as He sustained their ancestors for 40 years as they wandered through the wilderness. They recounted the favor of the Lord as He gave their ancestors victory when they went in and possessed the promised land. During this time of confession the Israelites remembered that at every step of the journey, God was faithful even when the Israelites complained and disobeyed.

In Chapter 10, the Israelites commit themselves to following the statutes of the Torah all over again.

## ENGAGE A PRACTICE

This week you are invited to practice the spiritual discipline of confession. While this discipline is beneficial in many ways it requires us to be vulnerable and transparent and this can be difficult. We are asking that you practice this discipline in the context of a safe relationship with a friend, family member, spouse, accountability partner, etc. Although the act of confession can be riddled with shame, know that God does not condemn you. Confession and repentance always lead to freedom, not condemnation. Be gentle with yourself and those you practice this discipline with.

Throughout the week schedule a virtual or in person meet up. During the meet up spend some time in worship, confession, and prayer. Below is an optional outline for a meet up. Feel free to do what works best for you, this is just a template that you can work from!

1. Play some worship music for 5-10 minutes and worship with one another.
2. During your time of confession, say this prayer and then share your heart with one another.

“I confess to almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done,

How do you respond to the goodness of the Lord? Like the Israelites we all can find ourselves in cycles of commitment to God, disobedience, and then renewed commitment. As we read the account of the Israelites we observe that out of an abundance of gratitude in their heart for God’s goodness they respond with examination and confession. This communal confession involved hearing from the Lord, remembering the past and recommitting themselves to the Torah. As we become more aware of God’s goodness to us, let it always move us from gratitude to examination to confession.

and in what I have failed to do; and I ask you, my brothers and sisters, to prayer for me to the Lord our God.”

3. After your sharing, encourage each other and pray for one another
4. Share in a meal with one another and then end your time together.

## WRAP UP WITH A PRAYER

**You have already spent time in prayer, but here is our prayer for you from Psalm 51.**

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God and put a new and right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit. Amen.