

# Nehemiah

Fill in the blanks, choosing words from the word list and then fit the words from the list into the Stack-a-Word puzzle on the next page.

Nehemiah lived in the palace at Shushan. He was a cupbearer for King Artaxerxes and wanted to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the city's broken walls. The city gates were ruined, too. They had been burned. The king gave Nehemiah permission to return to his country.

Sanballat, who lived near Jerusalem didn't want those walls to be rebuilt. He joined with other rulers and nobles and tried to stop the work. In front of the army of Samaria, he poked fun of the hard workers. One of the men said, "If a fox go up, he shall break down their stone wall." But Nehemiah and his men just went on working on the walls and tower. They worked with one hand while they held a sword or a shield in the other. Some men held spears. One man stood guard, next to Nehemiah. He had a trumpet and was to watch and blow it if there was danger. All of the men were obeying Nehemiah's command to arise and build. They knew God was with them.

Finally the wall was finished. Nehemiah counted all the people who lived in Jerusalem. There were 42,360, not counting the servants. He counted the animals too. There were 736 horses besides mules and camels.

Nehemiah offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Then Ezra, the scribe, brought out the Book of the Law and read the ordinances to the people. They wanted to celebrate the feast of booths. The people went out to the hills to get olive and pine, myrtle, and palm branches. They promised to serve God and to bring offerings of oil, wine, corn, and fruit. The Levites were to bring the vessels for the offerings to the sanctuary or temple. The priests were to get some of the offerings, but a part was also for those who would sing in the Temple.

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|-------|---------|------------|
| OIL   | WALLS   | HORSES     |
| FOX   | TOWER   | MYRTLE     |
| CORN  | GATES   | VESSELS    |
| EZRA  | SPEARS  | TRUMPET    |
| PINE  | BOOTHES | SAMARIA    |
| SING  | PRAYER  | NEHEMIAH   |
| WINE  | SHIELD  | JERUSALEM  |
| ARISE | NOBLES  | SANBALLAT  |
| WATCH | RULERS  | ARTAXERXES |
| SWORD | TEMPLE  | ORDINANCES |
|       |         | SANCTUARY  |

