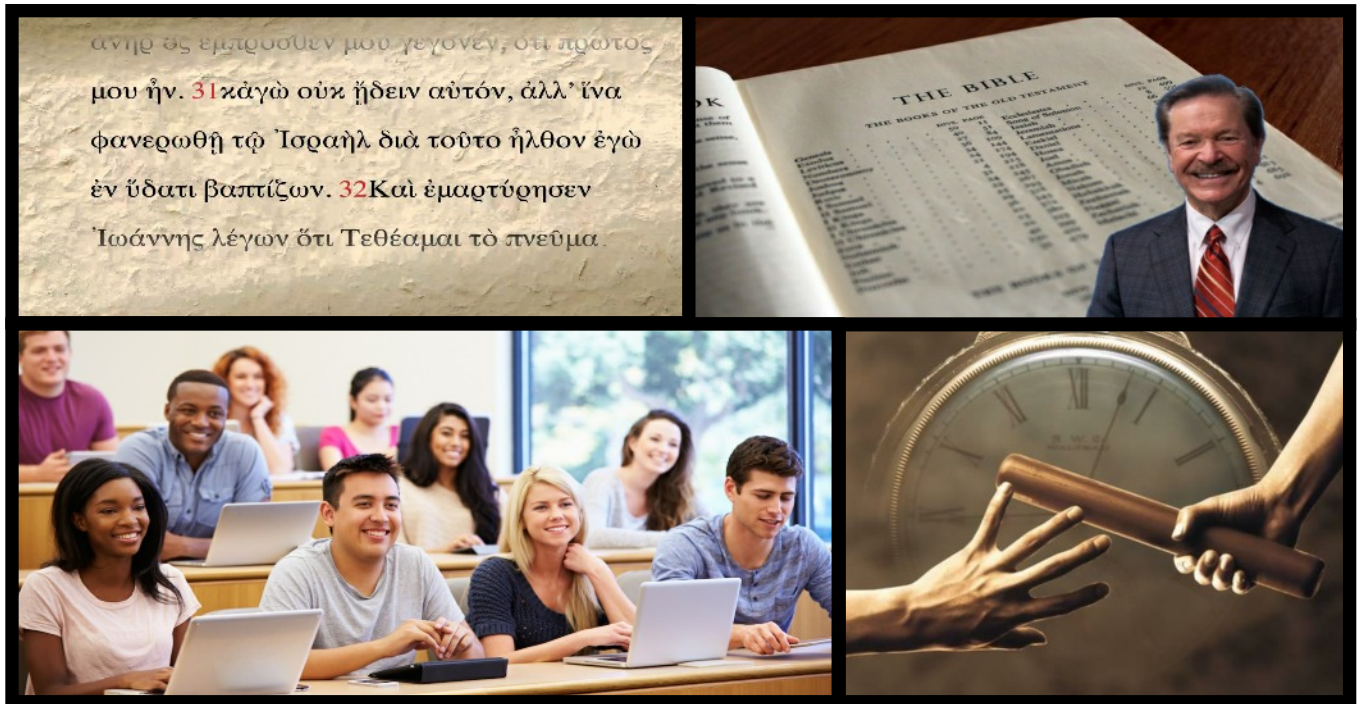


EMBASSY COLLEGE



SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

The Book of Nehemiah

OT644

Dr. Ron Cottle

The Book of Nehemiah

Dr. Ronald E. Cottle

Textbook for the Course:
Studies in Nehemiah
by Dr. Ronald E. Cottle

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COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course consists of studies in portions of Nehemiah, especially the first four chapters, with a view to understand the following:

- A. The history of Nehemiah and the restoration of Jerusalem;
- B. Spiritual principles of restoration found in the book;
- C. Principles of church order and ministry discovered in Nehemiah;
- D. How to apply these abiding principles to our lives today.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student shall have:

- A. Increased his/her awareness of the historical and political world of Nehemiah;
- B. Increased his/her appreciation of the value of Nehemiah to the biblical narrative;
- C. Increased his/her understanding of how God calls, equips and enables a person to do His will;
- D. Broadened his/her knowledge of the biblical order of the church today.

III. COURSE MATERIALS REQUIRED

- A. Syllabus: Cottle, R.E. *Studies in Nehemiah*. Columbus: Christian Life Publications, 1995
- B. Text Book: Cottle, R.E. *Studies in Nehemiah*. Columbus: Christian Life Publications, 1997
- C. Optional: Lecture CDs/DVDs of the course-available from the instructor.

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

Lesson	Topic	Read
Lesson One	Introduction–Orientation	Historical Background
Lesson Two	Nehemiah’s Prayer	Nehemiah 1:1–11
Lesson Three	Nehemiah’s Provision	Nehemiah 2:1–10
Lesson Four	Nehemiah’s Preparation A	Nehemiah 2:11–20
Lesson Five	Nehemiah’s Preparation B	Nehemiah 2:11–20
Lesson Six	Nehemiah’s Procedure A	Beginning–Nehemiah 3:10–30
Lesson Seven	Nehemiah’s Procedure B	Building–Nehemiah 3:10–30
Lesson Eight	Nehemiah’s Procedure C	Building–Nehemiah 3:10–30
Lesson Nine	Nehemiah’s Procedure D	Battling–Nehemiah 4:1–9
Lesson Ten	Conclusion	Review and Assign Exam

V. COURSE EVALUATION

- A. Attendance at lectures and course participation-required
- B. Final Examination

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- McCutcheon, Michael. *Rebuilding God's People*. Camp Hill: Christian Publications, 1993.
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- Redpath, Alan. *Victorious Christian Service*. Westwood: Revell, 1958.
- Seume, Richard. *Nehemiah: God's Builder*. Chicago: Moody, 1978.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Hand Me Another Brick*. Nashville: Nelson, 1978.

INTRODUCTION: BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK

I. MAN OF THE BOOK.

- A. NEHEMIAH — “*Yah*” — comforts, encourages — Son of Hacaliah.
- B. Three Nehemiah’s in Scripture:
 - 1. This one.
 - 2. One who returned from Babylon with Sheshbazzar (Zerubbabel) — Ezra 2:2; Nehemiah 7:7.
 - 3. One who helped build the “wall” — son of Azbuk; ruler of half of Bethzor – Nehemiah 3:16.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK.

- A. NEHEMIAH & EZRA were originally one book.
- B. Some say Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah were written by same author — compiler.
- C. Major sections of Nehemiah (4):
 - 1. Chapters 1–7: Rebuilding
 - 2. Chapters 8–10: Great Revival
 - 3. Chapters 11–12: Census
 - 4. Chapter 13: Reforms of Nehemiah
- D. Nehemiah made two visits from Artaxerxes I to Jerusalem.
 - 1. Nehemiah 2:1-6 – 445 B.C. (Build)
 - Nehemiah 2:6 — “And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.”
 - 2. Nehemiah 13:6–7 – 432 B.C. (Returning problem — solve)

III. THE TIME OF THE BOOK.

- A. Nehemiah — Ezra — Malachi = Israel (538-432 B.C.)
- B. Socrates — Plato – Aristotle = Greece (470-332 B.C.)
- C. Buddha — Siddhartha Gautama = India (560-480 B.C.)
- D. Confucius — Lao-Tzu = China (551-479 B.C.)
- E. Cyrus — Artaxerxes (Roman Empire) = Persia (516 B.C.)

IV. THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK.

- A. SANBALLAT = Governor of Samaria 407 B.C. — (Elephantine Papyri)
 - 1. (“Horonite”) = Beth-horon (Nehemiah 2:10)
 - 2. Controlled the major highway between Jerusalem and the Mediterranean Sea.
 - 3. This had a major effect on Jerusalem’s economy.
- B. TOBIAH — servant = in league with Sanballat
 - 1. Ammonite — fled Israel /Judah in 395 — Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion.
 - 2. Lived in Ammon (hated gentiles) while Israelites lost everything.
 - 3. Returned — “Carpet Bagger” — bought lands of destitute cheap.
 - 4. Lived in Temple — chamber.
 - 5. Was called “Servant” by Persian Ruler whom Cyrus defeated?/or – Name of disdain by Nehemiah
- C. GESHEM
 - 1. Arab — Ruler of Kedar — in league with Sanballat and Tobiah.
 - 2. A Vassal of Persia — Preyed on weaker neighbors
 - 3. Had personal power with tribes in desert of Syria, Southern Palestine, Egypt’s Delta and Northern Arabia.

Chapter One

I. INTRODUCTION

- See addendum #1, page 82

A. THE SETTING OF THE EVENTS OF NEHEMIAH.

1. The most _____ history books of the Old Testament are Ezra, Esther and Nehemiah, dating between 458–444 B.C.
2. We are not giving a full study of the Book of Nehemiah in this course. However, it will help to recall the major _____ which produced the book.

B. HIGH SPOTS OF THE HISTORY

- See addendum #2, page 83

1. 600 B.C.—Prophecy

- a. 2 Kings 24:3

Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; God said He would remove Judah “out of His sight.”