

# Nehemiah Study

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The Book of Nehemiah continues the history of the Jews who returned to Jerusalem after the exile to Babylon. Nehemiah gave up his job as a cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia to become governor of Jerusalem. Under his leadership, the people rebuilt and repaired the city walls.

Use the Old Testament Bible Study Method with the book of Nehemiah. Follow the steps as outlined in the article.

I studied this book twice using this method. I came away with principles about prayer, faith and personal leadership.

**Read the entire book** at least twice (in one or two settings) to get familiar with the whole book before moving on to study different sections. It is important to keep the context in mind as you dig deeper into individual sections.

**Suggestion for Divisions** - I tended to work on a section one to three days depending on the time I had or how the passage was speaking to me

- Nehemiah 1:1-11
- Nehemiah 2:1-10
- Nehemiah 2:11-20
- Nehemiah 3:1-32
- Nehemiah 4:1-23
- Nehemiah 5:1-19
- Nehemiah 6:1-9
- Nehemiah 6:10-14
- Nehemiah 6:15-19
- Nehemiah 7:1-5
- Nehemiah 8:1-12
- Nehemiah 8:13-18
- Nehemiah 9:1-37
- Nehemiah 9:38-10:39
- Nehemiah 12:27-43
- Nehemiah 12:44-47
- Nehemiah 13:1-14
- Nehemiah 13:15-22
- Nehemiah 13:23-31



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## Examples From My Personal Study

### Survey of Nehemiah

CHAPTER & VERSE	EVENT	GOD'S CHARACTER	PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY	APPLICATIONS
Nehemiah 1:1-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanai, Nehemiah's brother, visits Suza and brings a report of the exiles condition in Jerusalem</li> <li>• Nehemiah responds with several days of mourning, fasting and praying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God is faithful and gracious to keep a remnant of Israel and then allow them to return from exile</li> <li>• God is sovereign in placing Nehemiah in a place of leadership</li> <li>• God of Heaven, the great and awesome God</li> <li>• Attentive to our prayers</li> <li>• Redeemed His people by His great strength and mighty hand</li> <li>• He grants favor - we do not earn it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our first response to news that burdens us should be to pray</li> <li>• We need to act and take responsibility for the burdens God lays on our hearts</li> <li>• We must know the Word of God if we are to relate to Him by faith</li> <li>• As we undertake a work of God, we must look to Him to grant us favor - rely on His grace and not our own effort</li> <li>• We need to recognize our own position before God - helpless and with nothing to offer, before we can take responsibility for the work He calls us to so that we will trust in His provision to complete the work</li> <li>• We need to relate to god based on His revealed character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When faced with a crisis or an overwhelming situation, my first response is to pray</li> <li>• I need to seek God's help in knowing how to get involved and take a personal responsibility for the things He has burdened me for</li> </ul>



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Nehemiah  
2:1-10

- When Nehemiah is serving the king, God provides the opportunity for Nehemiah to act upon his burden
- Nehemiah lays out his plans and God's gracious hand was upon it so that the king granted Nehemiah favor
- Sanballat and others were disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites
- God is patient and is not in a hurry to accomplish His purposes
- God's gracious hand grants favor
- The source of Nehemiah's dependence
- God answers prayer
- We must be ready to take action on the opportunities that we are trusting God to provide
- We must persevere in prayer and faith for God to accomplish the things we are trusting Him for
- We must continue to depend on God when He presents the opportunity
- Where there is opportunity for fear, there is also an opportunity for faith
- It is God's grace not our actions that determine whether favor is granted to us
- Faith does require action to lay hold of the things that we are trusting God for
- The enemies of God are disturbed when someone promotes the welfare of His people (or the lost)
- The eyes of faith look for and recognize the opportunity to act
- We must plan so that we can take action when the opportunity comes
- I need to persevere in both prayer and in taking action
- I need to recognize that fear signals an opportunity for faith
- I need to have an attitude of expectancy that I would look for and recognize the opportunities to act in faith
- I need to have a time to plan



# Old Testament Book Study

## How to Apply Lessons From the Old Testament to Your Life

By Barbara G. Patriquin

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The Old Testament book study allows you to glean applicable lessons from the experiences of the Israelites, ordinary people like us, as they encountered God. In the study you will trace two aspects: God's character, and principles to live by. If your time is limited, however, you can study one of these aspects and leave the other for another time.

### Steps to Follow

**Step 1: Pick a book to study.** One of the more action-packed books filled with events would be the best place to start. Plan to read the book through in segments, taking one to three chapters at a time.

**Step 2: Make a chart** with divisions for chapter and verse, events, God's character, principles to live by, and application. (Example at the end of the article)

**Step 3: List references and the events as you read.** You may not want to write down every little situation, but rather the more detailed ones. For example, from Josh. 1:1-9 you might include the following: God commissioned Joshua to go in place of Moses to take possession of the Promised Land. With the commission was the promise of His presence and that He would give them the land. God told Joshua to keep the law and meditate on it always, as a means of success.

**Step 4: List the character traits of God,** qualities He displayed about Himself in each encounter with people. What can you see about the nature of God, His heart, mind, and will? For example, again from Josh. 1:1-9: God makes promises, He gives specific instruction, He expects obedience, and He understands our fears and addresses them.

**Step 5: Trace the principles or truths that can be learned** from transactions between God and His people. A principle, according to Webster's dictionary is "a fundamental truth, or motivating force upon which others are based; a rule of right conduct." A principle to live by can be supported as God's truth throughout the Scriptures. Here we are tracing principles or truths upon which God wants us to pattern our lives. For example, when God speaks to us we must listen and act upon what He says as truth. God always means what He says. God's Word is our road map; we are to follow it and cling to it for success in life. As we act on His Word, God's promises will go with us and be our confidence.

**Step 6: Write applications.** As you relate what you are reading to your personal life, the Holy Spirit may speak to you about some very specific circumstances in your own life where this Scripture applies. Jot it down with the intent to do something in response to God's leading. Another time you may just see general ways of relating the passage to your life. List these, too. The purpose of this step is to take note of what God is trying to tell you.



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**Step 7: Summarize.** When you have completed the entire book in this manner, review your findings. Reread your comments on the character of God and summarize them. Write down the most prevalent attributes of God that you traced throughout the book. Then review the principles you discovered. Which ones were reinforced most often through the book? Which ones seem most important? Finally, see if there are any patterns in your applications. One point may stand out above all the others, or they may be leading to one specific need in your life.

I use this Old Testament study method in my devotions and in extended times with the Lord. It has helped me get a better handle on the content of the Old Testament. The Old Testament has become relevant to my own experiences as I have seen God’s character throughout its pages and been able to relate the principles to my everyday life.

## Survey of Joshua

Chapter and Verse	Event	God’s Character	Principles to Live By	Applications
Joshua 1:1-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God commissioned Joshua to take possession of the land</li> <li>• Told him to keep law and meditate for success</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God makes promises</li> <li>• Gives specific instructions</li> <li>• Expects obedience</li> <li>• Understands fears and addresses them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When God speaks we listen and act</li> <li>• God always means what He says</li> <li>• God’s Word is a road map</li> <li>• Cling to the law for success</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If I’m going to be successful I must know God’s instructions to me and cling to His Word</li> <li>• Quiet time is a must</li> </ul>
Joshua 1:10-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshua commanded people to prepare to pass over the Jordan and take possession</li> <li>• Reminded people of Moses’ command to take possession</li> <li>• Commanded men of valor to help brothers take their land before settling themselves</li> <li>• People pledged obedience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desires brethren to stay together, support, and care for each other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate obedience</li> <li>• Step out on promises of God</li> <li>• A leader must take charge</li> <li>• God leads through His godly leaders</li> <li>• One must trust God to trust leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do I act on what God says during my quiet time?</li> <li>• I must trust God so much that I trust His being able to speak to my leaders</li> </ul>

