

Mapping Our Way through Nehemiah¹

Ref	Place	Time	Characters	Events	Prayer
1:1-3	Susa	Chisleb (see handout) 20 th year???	Nehemiah (1 st person reference) Hanani Certain men	Hanani and men come from Judah to Susa. Nehemiah asks about Jews who survived exile and about Jerusalem They report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remnant in great trouble and shame • Wall broken down and gates destroyed by fire 	
1:4-11	Susa	“for days”	Nehemiah	Nehemiah weeps, mourns, fasts, and prays for favor before “this man” Nehemiah is cupbearer to the king	Yes x2
		Nehemiah’s First Recorded Prayer—Content and Structure²			
		<p>And I said,</p> <p>A “I beseech You, O Yahweh, God of the heavens, the great and feared God, who keeps the covenant and steadfast love for those who love him and for those who keep his commandments.</p> <p>B [1:6] Let your ear be attentive and your eyes be open to listen to the prayer of your servant, which I am praying before you today, day and night, concerning the sons of Israel, your servants, and confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against you. Even I and the house of my father have sinned. [1:7] Surely we have acted corruptly against you, and we have not kept the commands, the statutes, and the judgments which you commanded Moses your servant.</p> <p>C [1:8] Remember the word which you commanded Moses your servant saying, “As for you, if you act unfaithfully I myself will scatter you among the peoples. [1:9] But if you return to me and guard/keep my commands and do them, even though your banished one is in the end of the heavens, from there I will gather them and return them to the place where I have chosen to make my name dwell. [1:10] Now, they are your servants and your people whom you have redeemed with your great strength and with your strong arm.</p> <p>A’ [1:11] I beseech You, my Lord,</p> <p>B’ let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name,</p> <p>C’ and make your servant successful today and give him compassion before this man.</p>			

¹ Scenic divisions are based on Philip Werth Penhallegon, “Presenting Himself as an Approved Worker: The Narratological Function of the Prayers in the Book of Nehemiah” (Ph.D. diss., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 2012) 66.

² Ibid., 114.

Ref	Place	Time	Characters	Events	Prayer
2:1-8	Susa	Nisan (see handout) 20 th year of Artaxerxes	King Artaxerxes Nehemiah	4 months later, Nehemiah fulfills role as cupbearer. King notices Nehemiah's countenance and asks about it. Nehemiah explains his sadness (Jerusalem is a mess, but he doesn't name the city) and asks to go to the city and rebuild it. King asks how long he will be gone. Nehemiah asks for letters for passage and supplies. King says yes.	yes
(Gap)	Travel	Undisclosed prep and travel time		(Text does not relate the preparations and travel that took place.)	
2:9-11	Beyond the River	Not indicated			
2:12-15	Jerusalem	Date of arrival not indicated. During the night after three days.			
2:16-18	Jerusalem	Next day?			
2:19-20	Jerusalem				
3:1-32	Jerusalem	Not indicated			

Ref	Place	Time	Characters	Events	Prayer
4:1-6	Jerusalem	During building of the wall			
4:7-11	Jerusalem				
4:12-14	Jerusalem				
4:15-23	Jerusalem				
5:1-13	Jerusalem				
5:14-19	Jerusalem	Not specifically indicated but during Neh's time in Jerusalem which v14 says is 20 th to 32 nd yr of Artaxerxes 444-432 BC			

Ref	Place	Time	Characters	Events	Prayer
6:1-9	Jerusalem	Not specified, but wall is built but gates not in place			
6:10-15	Jerusalem				
6:16-19	Jerusalem	25 th of Elul and following (see handout)			
7:1-3	Jerusalem	Upon completion of wall, etc.			
7:4-73a	Jerusalem	Not indicated			
7:73b-8:12	Jerusalem	V2 says 1 st day of 7 th month (see handout)			
8:13-18	Jerusalem	2 nd day to 8 th day (see handout)			

Ref	Place	Time	Characters	Events	Prayer
9:1-37 (see Handout)	Jerusalem	24 th day of 7 th month (see handout)			
9:38-10:39	Jerusalem				
11:1-36	Jerusalem & Vicinity	Sometime following the above, apparently...			
12:1-26		Days of Jeshua, Nehemiah, and Ezra			
12:27-43	Jerusalem	No date specified, simply "at the dedication of the wall"			
12:44-47	Jerusalem				

Ref	Place	Time	Characters	Events	Prayer
13:1-3	Jerusalem				
13:4-14	Jerusalem				
13:15-22	Jerusalem				
13:23-29	Jerusalem				
13:30-31	Jerusalem				