

A decorative frame consisting of two thick black L-shaped lines. One L-shape is on the left, with a vertical line extending downwards and a horizontal line extending to the right. The other L-shape is on the right, with a vertical line extending upwards and a horizontal line extending to the left. They meet at the top and bottom corners, framing the central text.

THE REFORMS OF NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah 12-13

Timeline of Nehemiah

- 444 BC – Nehemiah permitted to return to Jerusalem to help rebuild the wall [20th year of King Artaxerxes]
 - *25th day of 6th Month - Wall completed in 52 days [1-7]*
 - *1st Day of the 7th Month – the public reading of God’s word [8]*
 - *24th day of the 7th Month – read God’s word and confessed sins; made covenant [9-10]*
 - *12 years pass – Nehemiah is Governor of Judah*
- 432 - 32nd year of King Artaxerxes – Nehemiah returns to Persia. (13:6; Per his agreement in 2:6)
 - *Some unknown amount of time passes, and Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem [12-13]*

Reform #1 : Nehemiah 13:4-14

- The treachery of Eliashib the priest:
 - *Permitted Tobiah (an enemy of God's people) to make use of the temple storage rooms (:4-5,7)*
 - *The rooms which were for Temple articles/ offerings*
 - *The Levites were neglected (:10)*
- Nehemiah's Response:
 - *Grieved bitterly (:8a)*
 - *Contended with the rulers (:11)*
- Nehemiah's Reform:
 - *Kicked out Tobiah, cleansed the room, returned goods (:8b-9)*
 - *Set rulers in place, paid the Levites from the tithes (:11b-14)*

Reform #1 : Nehemiah 13:6-14

Application:
Beware of Evil Companions!

Reform #2 : Nehemiah 13:15-22

- The violation of the Sabbath:
 - *Jews working on the Sabbath (:15a)*
 - *Purchasing from foreigners on the Sabbath. (:16)*
- Nehemiah's Response:
 - *Warned them about the day (:15b)*
 - *Contended with the nobles (:17-18)*
- Nehemiah's Reform:
 - *Commanded the gates be shut before Sabbath (:19)*
 - *Warned the foreigners, threatened them (:20-21)*
 - *Commanded the Levites to cleanse themselves, sanctify the Sabbath (:22)*

Reform #2 : Nehemiah 13:15-22

Application:
God's holy times are important!

Reform #3 : Nehemiah 13:23-29

- The intermarriage with foreigners:
 - *Married women of Ashdod, Amon, Moab → Children that couldn't speak the language of Judah (:23-24, 28)*
- Nehemiah's Response:
 - *Contended with them, cursed them, struck some of them, pulled out their hair (:25a)*
 - *Reminded them of Solomon's transgression (:26-27)*
- Nehemiah's Reform:
 - *Made them swear not to intermarry (:25b)*
 - *Drove away the defiled priest (:28-29)*
 - *Drove out the foreigners (13:1-3) (c.f. Ezra 9-10)*

Reform #3 : Nehemiah 13:23-29

Application:
Marry a Righteous Person!

Summary of Reforms: Nehemiah 13:30-31

- Cleansed them of everything pagan (:30a)
- Assigned duties to the priests and Levites (:30b-31a)
- 3 times Nehemiah said: “Remember me, O my God...” (:14, 22b, 31b)
- 1 time his plea was, “Remember them, O my God...” (:29)

Summary of Reforms: Nehemiah 13:30-31

Application:
Plead for God's Mercy!

Dedication of the Wall: Nehemiah 12:27-13:3

- Judah came together with the priests who purified them(**12:27-30**)
- Brought the leaders up on the wall, arranged thanksgiving choirs (:31-42)
- They offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced with great joy (:43)
- Assigned temple duties according to the law, consecrated holy things (:44-47)
- Separated themselves from foreign peoples (13:1-3)

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