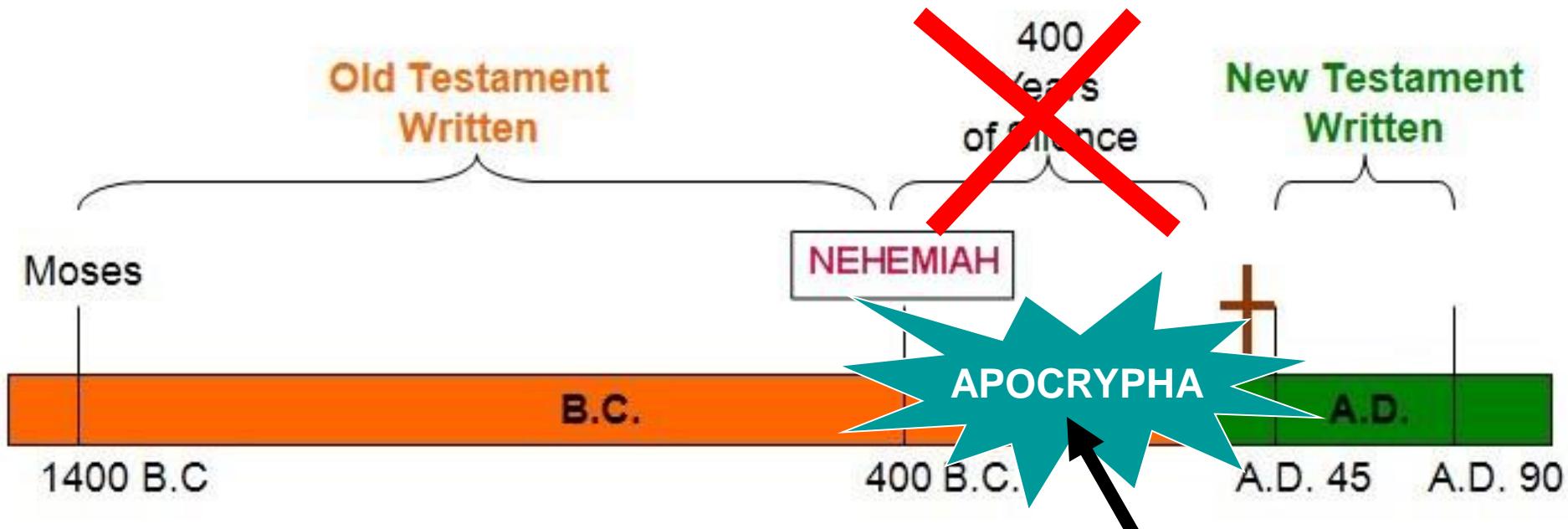
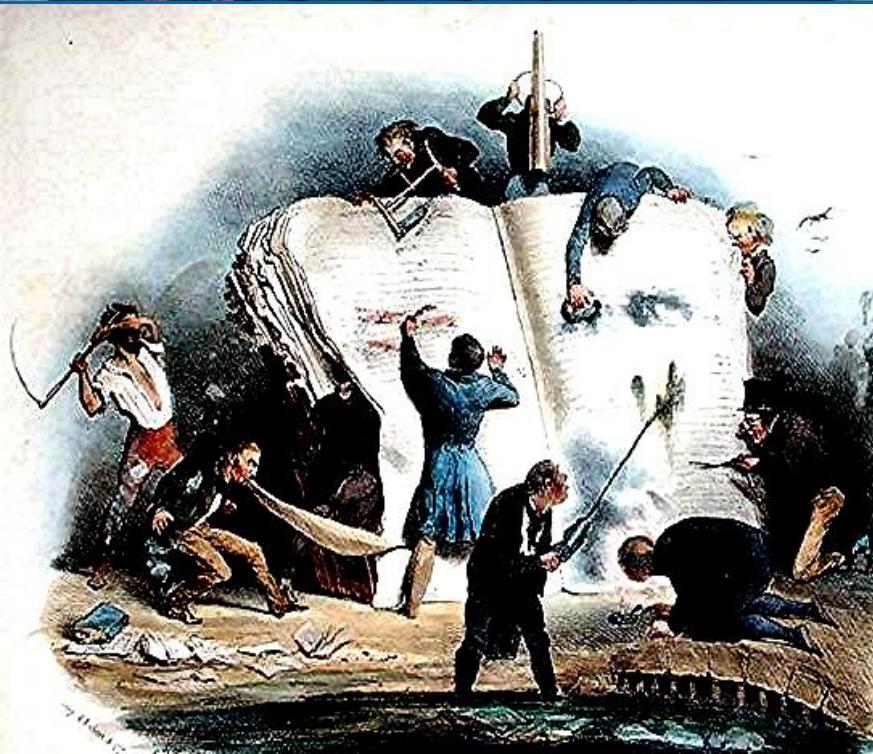
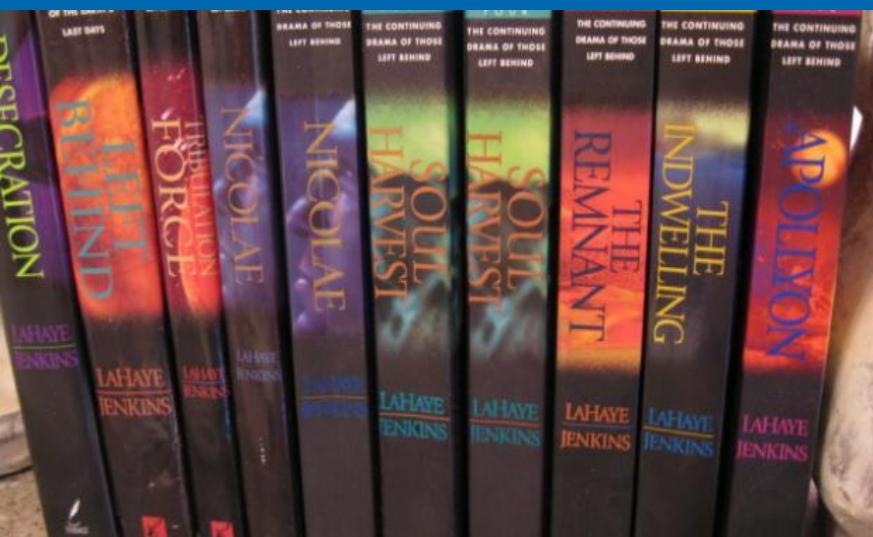


- Malachi lived and prophesied during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah
- By the Protestant Bible, after end of the OT, the next book is Matthew
- Nehemiah ends about 400 – 410 B.C., and Matthew begins about 4 B.C. **A 400 year gap**



- 15 books of the Apocrypha cover the “missing” 400 years
- History of the Hebrew people, truthful but of lesser divine inspiration
- KJ Version of 1611 contained the Apocrypha
- In the mid-1500’s Martin Luther eliminated the Apocrypha as “too Jewish”
- St. Jerome’s Latin Bible of 400 A.D. had the Apocrypha
- British and American Bible Societies removed it entirely in 1827²

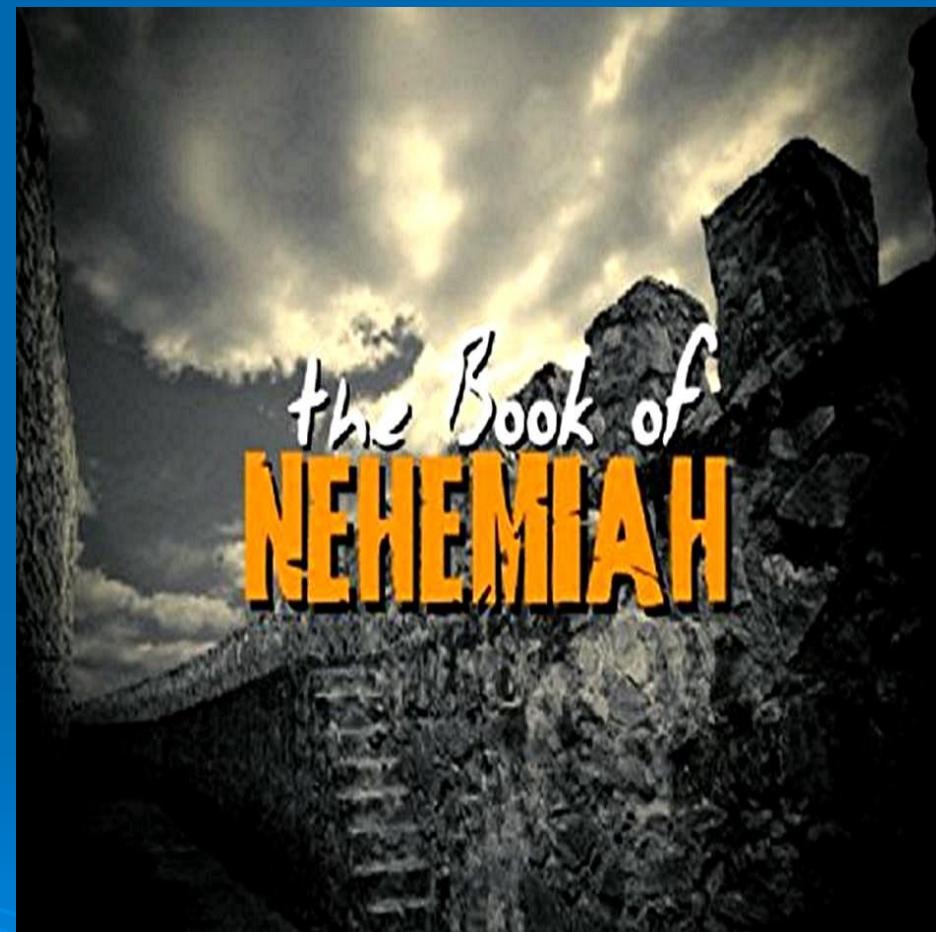
THE NEHEMIAH CONTROVERSY



- Bible is not an interconnected book series
- Literary Criticism and Textual Criticism arose around the time the Apocrypha was removed
- Studying Bible based on style, rhythm, and word usage according to the date written
- “Proof” amounts to opinions, expectations, and suppositions
- Nehemiah is doubted by Critical scholars at several levels

THE HISTORY OF NEHEMIAH

- More than one hand involved in writing the Book of Nehemiah
- Book is not a diary or journal
- Based on Nehemiah's memoirs, quotes, historical editorializing, and earlier materials
- 3 parts:
- 1) Ch. 1-6 Journey to Jerusalem
- 2) Ch. 7-12 Effort to improve the economy and repopulate Jerusalem
- 3) Ch. 12 –13 Goes back to Persia, then returns to Jerusalem only to find backsliding



NEHEMIAH THE CUPBEARER

- Nehemiah lives in Shushan
- King Artaxerxes Longimanus
- A cupbearer is a high position, trusted
- It's about 446 B.C., about 90 years after the exile ended
- Jews live freely wherever they choose



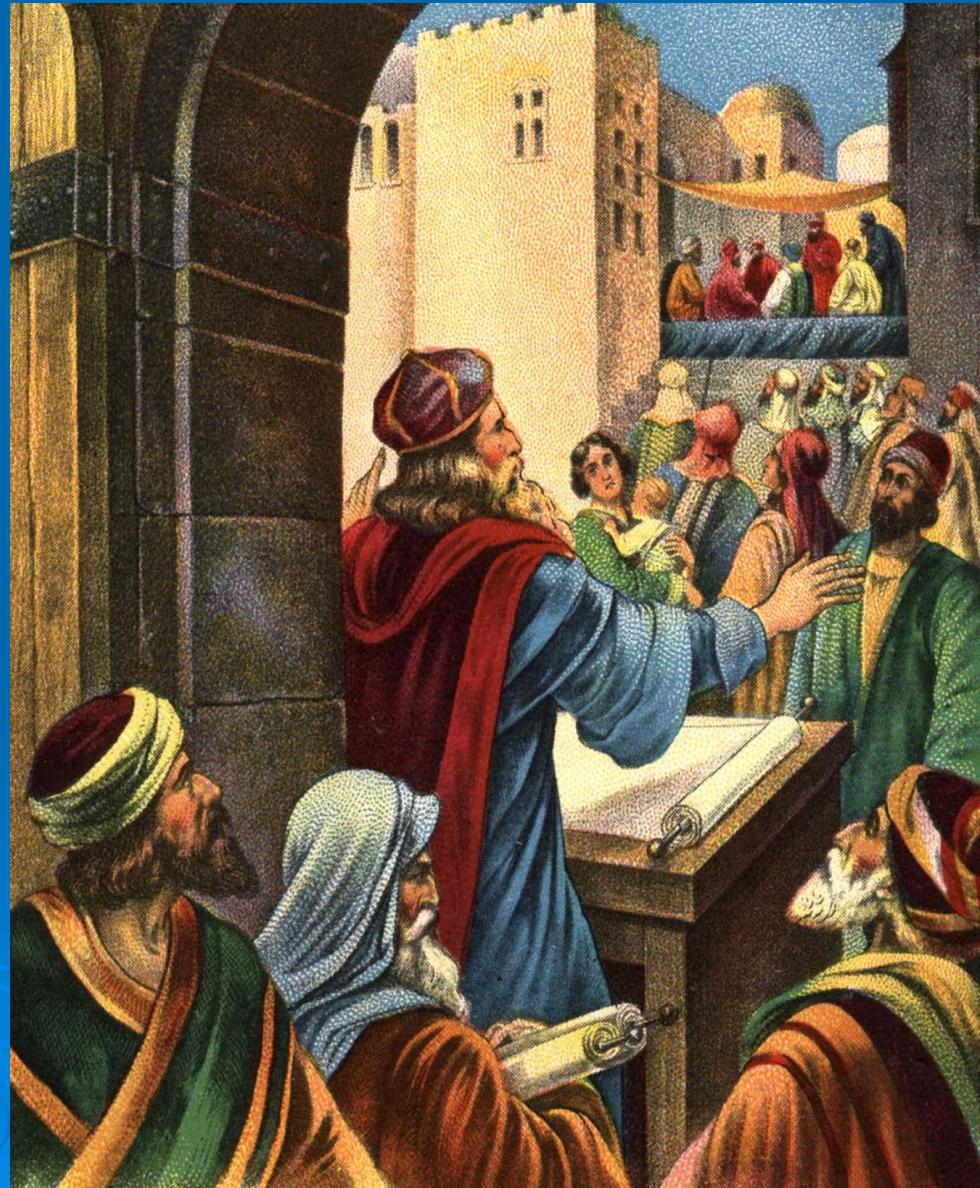
NEHEMIAH RECEIVES BAD NEWS



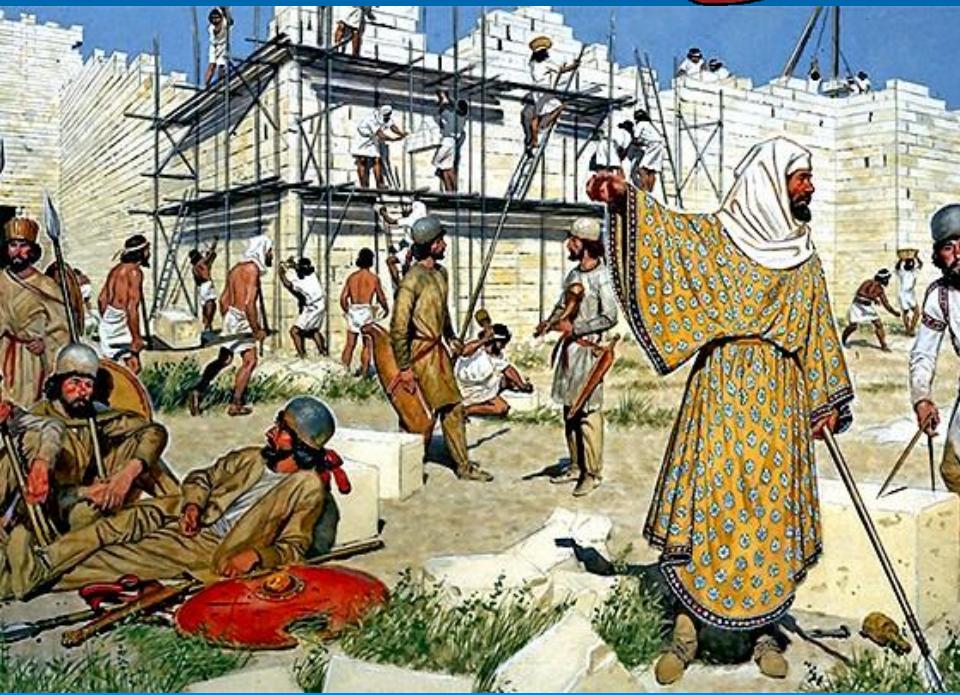
- Hanani comes from Jerusalem with bad news
- Nehemiah asks for God's help, and then goes to the king
- Artaxerxes helps Nehemiah go to Judah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem
- Enemies didn't want the walls reconstructed
- Poor Jews being taken advantage of
- Samaritans were the primary threat
- Nehemiah didn't back down, and the walls were completed

A NEW VOW AND COVENANT

- City is now secure, so security force set up to man the watchtowers
- Jews in the countryside enticed to move into the city
- In the 7th month (Tishri), people come to the Temple for Sukkot
- The Law regarding the New Moon and Sukkot is read by Ezra
- Levites confess sin in the name of the congregation
- Vow to obey covenant put in writing, sealed by Nehemiah
- Lottery is held so that 1 out of 10 families must move to Jerusalem to populate it



DIFFERENT MEN DIFFERENT JOBS



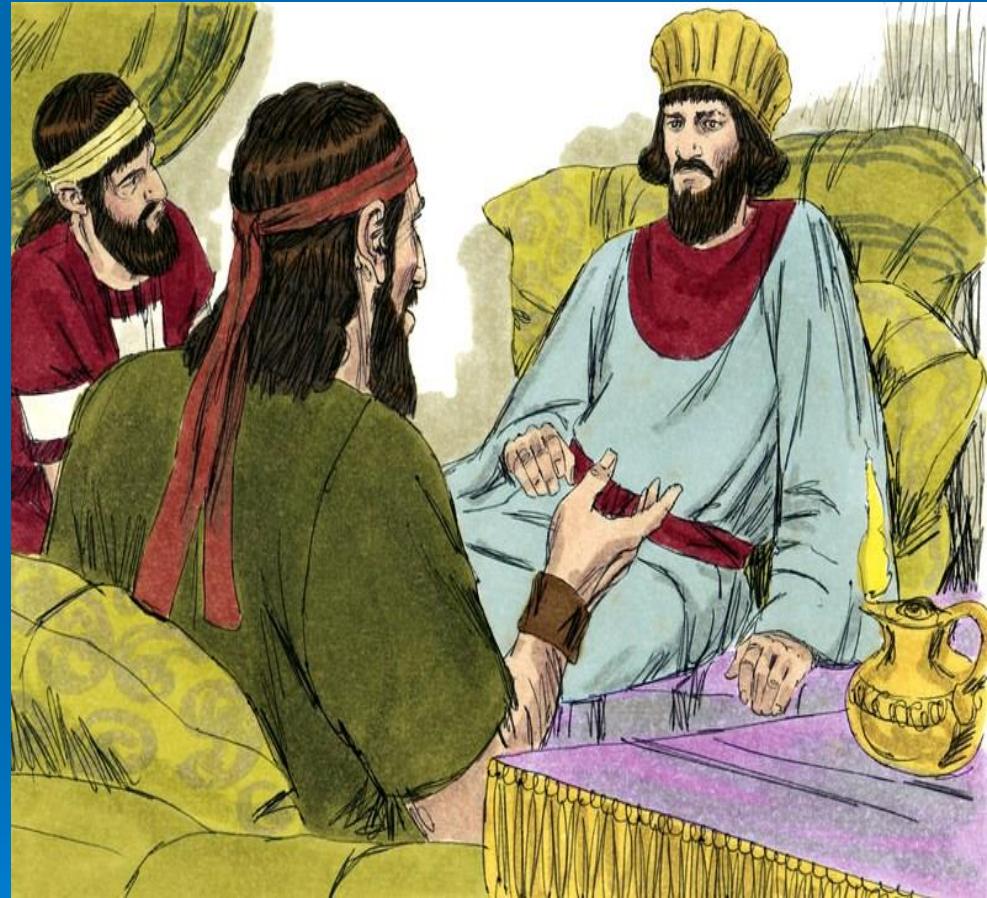
- Ezra concerned with the Temple, Priesthood, and spiritual matters
- Nehemiah concerned with practical matters, security, economics, population increase
- Yeshua said: Matt.6:31- 33
- ***“...seek first His Kingdom.. Then all these things will be given to you....”***
- First get spiritually ready, then go after the “other things”
- Ezra diplomatic, introspective
- Nehemiah bold mover and shaker



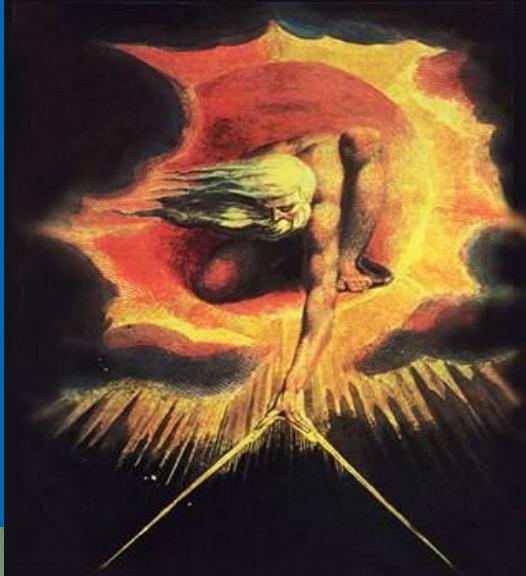
- Judah and Jerusalem a tiny part of the Persian Empire
- Greatly affected by regional politics
- Major rebellions all during the mid-400's B.C.
- Egyptian and Athenian alliance rebels
- At the time of Nehemiah going to Jerusalem, Megabyzus led the Trans-Jordan in revolt
- This rebellion had much to do with King Artaxerxes wanting Jewish support and Jerusalem's fortress to be rebuilt

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 1

- Nehemiah is in Shushan, about 446 or 447 B.C.
- His brother arrives from Judah in the month of Kislev, 20th year of Artaxerxes' reign
- **Ach** = brother
- No reason given why Nehemiah has a concern for Judah and the Judeans
- He had always been free to go to Judah but he had chosen to stay in Shushan
- Why the sudden interest?
- Why would he want to give up palace life for a tougher life in Judah?



THE MOMENT LIFE CHANGES



- Out of the blue comes a thought that captures your interest in an entire new direction
- God has been preparing you, undetected, for a new adventure with Him
- Only hindsight reveals how it happened
- Nehemiah probably experienced this
- He was put in the right position, with the right qualifications, for the right time by the Lord