

Some 1,000 years after the time of Moses and 400 years before the birth of Jesus, the nation of Israel and the Jewish people were in a desperate state. Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians and temple that Solomon build was destroyed and the residents were deported. Jerusalem was a ghost town. The deported Jews settled down in Babylon and some faithful Jews were raised up to places of prominence: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego became leaders in Babylon; Esther was made queen in the courts of a Persian king and Nehemiah was cupbearer to King Artaxerxes in Susa.

Read 2 Kings 25 and mark: *God/Lord, House of the Lord, Nebuchadnezzar/King of Babylon, Jerusalem/city*. The book is a diary written by Nehemiah who hears that Jerusalem is without walls and decides to restore them. The king appoints him as governor of Judah and he travels to Jerusalem. There he rebuilds the walls, despite the opposition of Israel's enemies (Sanballat and Tobiah), and reforms the community in conformity with the law of Moses. After 12 years in Jerusalem, he returns to Susa but revisits Jerusalem. He finds that the Israelites have been backsliding and taking non-Jewish wives, and he stays in Jerusalem to enforce the Law.

Your assignment will be to teach other Young Twigs about Nehemiah chapter _____.

Read carefully and and mark using a lightbulb, question mark, and arrow. Be ready to tell how your chapter fits into the whole story of Nehemiah and his mission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and help the Jews return to the commandments of God.