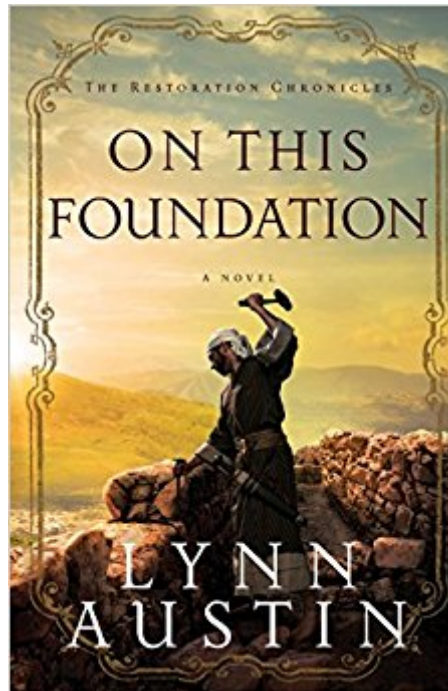




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On This Foundation (The Restoration Chronicles)



Synopsis

The Powerful Concluding Novel to The Restoration Chronicles When news that the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire, Nehemiah, Jewish cupbearer to King Artaxerxes in Persia, seeks God's guidance. After fasting and prayer, he's given leave to travel to Jerusalem and rebuild the city wall, not anticipating all the dangers that await him on his arrival. The leaders of the surrounding nations become his fierce enemies, plotting to assassinate him and halt the work. A drought, meanwhile, has left the country impoverished, many families resorting to selling their children as bondservants just to keep from starving. Capturing the rebuilding of the wall through the eyes of a number of characters, On This Foundation is a powerful exploration of faith in the midst of oppression, and hope that, in spite of appearances, the gracious hand of God is upon those who believe.

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Customer Reviews

"The Lord determined to tear down the wall around the Daughter of Zion. He stretched out a measuring line and did not withhold his hand from destroying. He made ramparts and walls lament; together they wasted away." Lamentations 2:8 Nehemiah shook his head, unable to grasp what he was hearing. "So you're telling me that the city and the temple mount are both completely vulnerable? Our enemies could come in and kill our people and destroy Jerusalem and the Almighty One's temple all over again?" "Completely vulnerable," the leader confirmed. "And because of it, the

number of robberies and vicious attacks has been escalating after two years of drought." Nehemiah felt a powerful anger building inside him as the picture of the city's helplessness grew clearer. "I need to return to my responsibilities in the citadel. We'll talk again," he promised as he left them. The leader's words continued to echo in Nehemiah's mind throughout the afternoon and evening, long after he returned to his spare living quarters in the citadel for the night. "'Great trouble and disgrace.'" The report appalled him, not only for the sake of the people who were being robbed and killed by their enemies, but for the Almighty One's sake. He opened the shuttered window and looked out at the vast sprinkle of stars above the roof of the palace. Just as the magnificent city of Susa brought glory and honor to the Persian king, so, too, should the city and temple of the one true God bring glory and honor to Him. Nehemiah closed the window and paced the floor. And although all of Nehemiah's instincts urged him to find a way to protect his brothers once again--to protect all of his people in Jerusalem--he had no way to do it. "'Our fellow Jews who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace.'" Alone, in his room, Nehemiah didn't try to stop his tears. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Stone by Stone, the Wall Will Rise Once More Around God's City When news reaches him that Jerusalem's wall is shattered and its gates burned with fire, a distraught Nehemiah seeks God's guidance in fasting and prayer. Granted an unexpected leave from his duty as cupbearer to the Persian king Artaxerxes, Nehemiah sets out for Jerusalem to rebuild the city wall--never anticipating all the dangers that await him on his arrival. The leaders of the surrounding nations become his fierce enemies, plotting to assassinate him and stop the wall's reconstruction forever. A drought, meanwhile, has left the country impoverished, with many families resorting to selling their children as bondservants just to keep from starving. Capturing the rebuilding of the wall through the eyes of a number of characters, On This Foundation is the powerful conclusion to The Restoration Chronicles. This exploration of faith in the midst of oppression offers hope that, in spite of appearances, the gracious hand of God is upon those who believe.

This is the third book in a "true" series. You have to read the first two books for this one to make sense. Over the course of the three books the full story of the return of the Jews to Jerusalem after their exile to Babylon, and the rebuilding they did, is beautifully told. I loved the characters in this book. There is a great variety of people and situations that they are dealing with during a very trying time in the history of the Israelites. I think that the ones I felt the most for were Nava and Chana. They both struggled with feelings connected to loving someone

they couldn't be with, even though the reasons for the separation were very different. They had to try and navigate their way during a time when women usually didn't have any say in what they could do and who they could be with. The continuing story of the rebuilding of Jerusalem after the exile to Babylon was fabulous. I thoroughly enjoyed reading how Lynn Austin brought Nehemiah on the scene. I don't remember there being very many details about his background in the bible other than that he was the cupbearer to the King of Persia. The story as it is presented in this book is very plausible. One of the things that I really liked about Nehemiah was his humility. He continued to seek God throughout the book wanting to make sure that he was the one chosen to complete the task and that it wasn't just his own idea. It held my attention from start to finish. I believe that reading this book is an incredible way to spend some of your leisure time. I received a free copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest opinion.

Lynn Austin's books are never the same. That is, her plots, characters, situations, locations, are never similar. And I have enjoyed ALL her books. The Restoration Chronicles novels are Biblically based on the time the Israelites returned to their homeland to rebuild the temple. She has just "fleshed out" that time to what may have happened in the lives of some of the major Biblical characters. Her books are wonderful.

Lynn Austin does a lot of background work to get the story right & if the reader also looks at the Bible scriptures that are given at the beginning of the book you can see that it is laid out for you as well. But Austin fleshes out the main characters as well as every day detail of minor characters & their lives. To me, it gives life to the Old Testament stories especially as she writes her books in series which it ties it all together which in this case is a continuing story that covers about 150 years spread over the 3 book series. Hope that there are more to come. The series Chronicles of the King are also well worth the read.

In this third book of The Restoration Chronicles, author Lynn Austin continues the saga of the Israelites rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. The intrigue hinted at in the biblical accounts is dramatically portrayed as we read about the various factions of opposition Nehemiah faced. Nearly every page directs the reader to trust God, the Almighty One, and obey His commands. Read all three books in this series to strengthen your faith in God's justice and mercy.

This final book in The Restoration Chronicles by Lynn Austin tells the story of the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls in the era of Nehemiah and Ezra. Lynn Austin enfleshes the Biblical characters making them live again in the minds of the readers. She simultaneously challenges readers to examine their own faith in the light of the faith of these men of God from a bygone era. This series is well worth reading.

We are first introduced to Nehemiah in the preface, he is a young boy who had just witnessed the murder of his parents on the 14 of Adar, when the Persians are allowed to attack and kill the Jews. He and his brothers are brought to Mordecai to protect and to raise. Chapter 1 fast forwards twenty-eight years. Nehemiah is in charge of security for the King of Persia. His brothers had gone back to Jerusalem with Ezra thirteen years before and have returned with a petition for the king. From them, Nehemiah learns of the deplorable condition of the city's walls. It not only is an embarrassment to all Jews, but it has become unsafe allowing Judah's enemies to wander at will. Nehemiah is devastated to learn this and the King agrees to send Nehemiah back with the title of governor to rebuild the wall. During the course of the rebuilding of the wall, we are introduced to other characters who give a heart and face to story. Judah had been in drought, so many had to send a family member to become a bond servant to their landlord. This was a true occurrence to which the Bible speaks. It was inspiring to read of the people working together to quickly rebuild the wall. This is the third book in The Restoration Chronicles which cover a timespan following the decades of the Jews returning from captivity back to Jerusalem. As always, Lynn Austin's books are well researched and bring history to life, in this case Biblical history. Her characters are real and it is wonderful to see God's hands at work through the characters in her books. She really made the story of Nehemiah come to life. I received this from the Book Club Network in exchange for my honest opinion.

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