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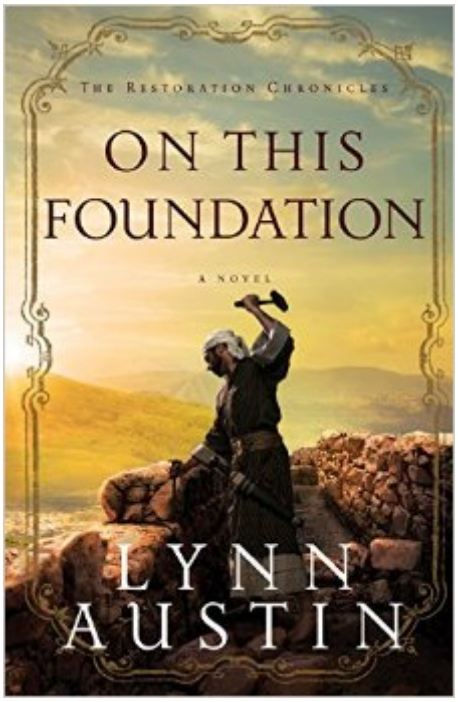
On This Foundation (The Restoration Chronicles)



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Synopsis

The Powerful Concluding Novel to The Restoration ChroniclesWhen 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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On This Foundation starts with Mordecai thanking God that the threat of annihilation ÃƒÂ Â“ as described in the book of Esther ÃƒÂ Â“ has passed. He soon learns, however, that there have been fatalities. HeÃƒÂ Â™s introduced to Nehemiah and his brothers, three young children who witnessed their parentsÃƒÂ Â™ murder, and becomes responsible for their welfare. The book then moves ahead 28 years to when Nehemiah is cupbearer to the Persian king. He receives the news that the Jerusalem temple has been rebuilt but that it lacks suitable defenses. Nehemiah is

responsible for the kingÃ¢Â Â™s security, but feels helpless when it comes to the safety and security of his own people. Through prayer and divine intervention, he is able to leave Persia for Jerusalem with the kingÃ¢Â Â™s blessing.There are parts of the Bible I might have passed over if not for Biblically-based fiction. The book of Nehemiah is an example of this. After reading On this Foundation I went back to the Bible and read it. There are little details Lynn Austin included in her book that I thought had been imaginatively created, but I was wrong. Did you know that the rebuilding of JerusalemÃ¢Â Â™s wall was a community project? Small groups were responsible for various sections of it. Did you know that some women were also involved? Look up Nehemiah 3:12. Austin includes a fictional storyline of three sisters, based on this one verse.On This Foundation concludes The Restoration Chronicles. ItÃ¢Â Â™s been an interesting and entertaining series, based on the return of the Jewish people to their homeland after the long exile in Babylon. IÃ¢Â Â™ve also found it to be Biblically-accurate, something important to me. ItÃ¢Â Â™s a series I definitely recommend, although I do suggest reading them in order.Thank you to Bethany House for my complimentary copy of On This Foundation, which I received in exchange for my honest review.

Old Testament Biblical Fiction at its finest! The entire series starting with Ã¢Â ÂœReturn to MeÃ¢Â Â•, then Ã¢Â ÂœKeepers of the CovenantÃ¢Â Â•, and finally, Ã¢Â ÂœOn This FoundationÃ¢Â Â• is absolutely riveting. Each book is better than the previous, and I thought the first one was amazing. This is the 118th book IÃ¢Â Â™ve read this year, and I can honestly say itÃ¢Â Â™s my favorite for the year.I had never read Lynn Austin prior to this series but I have discovered that she has the gift of building characters and weaving their stories together in an incredible way. I have to be honest, I slowed down tremendously during the last 50 pages of this story because I did not want it to end.This novel is based on Nehemiah and his calling from God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem some 120 years after they were destroyed by the Babylonians and the Jews were carried off into exile. It is a wonderful story of GodÃ¢Â Â™s mercy and grace demonstrated even in the Old Testament towards His people. I really enjoyed the supporting characters of Nava, Chana, Malkijah, and NehemiahÃ¢Â Â™s brothers. On This Foundation is absolutely my favorite novel of the year. I highly recommend it along with the first two books in the series.I received a copy of this book from the publisher, through The Book Club Network (bookfun.org) in exchange for my honest review.

Thank you to Bethany House for sending me a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review.On This Foundation is book three in the Restoration Chronicles series (the other two are

’Return to Me’ and ’Keepers of the Covenant’). Lynn Austin does a fantastic job throughout the series of bringing the Old Testament to life.The fact that she picked Biblical people that most would tend to look over, I love. ’On This Foundation focuses on Nehemiah. That was a huge factor for me in choosing this book to review because I have always loved Nehemiah (the name and the person). The other factor was that it was the third book and I wanted the whole series so far for my collection.One of my favorite Bible verses was mentioned in the book: Joshua 1:9 - Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.As far as the characters, I really enjoyed Chana and her family. Her father was so cute with his daughters, and her sisters made me smile because their personalities were so on point with how sisters are. The relationship she had with her sisters was wonderful and made me happy.Nava bugged me until later on in the story. At first, I liked her and understood her - but she stayed a bit too much the same for the majority of the book. Once she realized the truth of God, I liked her once again.Shimon was my favorite character! I LOVED him! He was so kind and reminded me of a wonderful father figure. His secret didn’t surprise me as I had guessed it early on in the book, but I am a writer - so just because I guessed it doesn’t mean everyone will.The interaction between Nehemiah and Chana made me laugh more than once. I loved the way Nehemiah wanted to take care of his siblings. It made him seem even more real. One thing I really liked was how Lynn brought Ezra back into the series. That made me happy because I really liked him from the other book.I don’t want to give too much away, so I will just summarize my review. There were many moments when I laughed, a few when I cried, my heart broke at a few spots. Overall, it was a wonderful story.However, the ending seemed a bit too rushed and it didn’t really explain how the story about Nehemiah and his enemies ended. I think Lynn could have expanded that section a bit more. Also, I would have liked to see certain characters get what they deserved instead of it seeming like it was almost "shoved under the rug".The other thing that bugged me was Lynn’s use of the NIV. I am not a stick in the mud about having only use the KJV, but there is a lot that has been removed from the NIV (and other versions) that is essential to God’s word.Anyway, as I said overall it is a wonderful book and will have a place on my shelf happily. I give it a 4 1/2 out of 5 because of the rushed ending and use of NIV.

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