

# A Cry for Our Time



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# QUESTION

How do you handle the news about crisis, moral decay & ruin in our time?

# NEHEMIAH 1:1-3

Now it happened in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capitol,<sup>2</sup> that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> They said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.”

# NEHEMIAH 1:4-5

When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> I said, "I beseech You, O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,

# NEHEMIAH 1:6

let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father's house have sinned.

# NEHEMIAH 1:7

We have acted very corruptly against  
You and have not kept the  
commandments, nor the statutes,  
nor the ordinances which You  
commanded Your servant Moses.

## NEHEMIAH 1:8-9

Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; <sup>9</sup> but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.'

# NEHEMIAH 1:10

They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.



# NEHEMIAH 1:11

O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man.” Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

# A CRISIS RESPONSE

- Worship
- Prayer & Fasting
- Persistence
- Repentance
- Remember the Promises of God

## NEHEMIAH 2:1-2

And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, that wine was before him, and I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.<sup>2</sup> So the king said to me, “Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart.” Then I was very much afraid.

## NEHEMIAH 2:3-4

I said to the king, “Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?”<sup>4</sup> Then the king said to me, “What would you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.

## NEHEMIAH 2:5

I said to the king, “If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.”

## NEHEMIAH 2:6

Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, “How long will your journey be, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a definite time.

## NEHEMIAH 2:7

And I said to the king, “If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah,

## NEHEMIAH 2:8

And I said to the king, “If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah,



## NEHEMIAH 2:9

and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the [a]temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go." And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me.

# THOUGHT

When we are given over to prayer and persist in our pursuit of God, remembering His promises, He grants us unusual favor.

## JOEL 2:12-13

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning; <sup>13</sup> And rend your heart and not your garments.” Now return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.

## JOEL 2:17

Let the priests, the Lord's ministers, Weep  
between the porch and the altar, And let  
them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord, And  
do not make Your inheritance a reproach, A  
byword among the nations. Why should  
they among the peoples say, 'Where is  
their God?'"

## HEBREWS 10:19-25

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,<sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,<sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

## HEBREWS 10:19-25

<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

## HEBREWS 10:19–25

<sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

## JOHN 17:13-21

But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.



## JOHN 17:13-21

<sup>15</sup> I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

## JOHN 17:13-21

<sup>19</sup> For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. <sup>20</sup> “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

# JOHN 13:35

By this all men will know that you are  
My disciples, if you have love for one  
another.”

# THOUGHT

Our testimony is not merely a matter of our words, rather, it is to be demonstrated by our actions.

## JAMES 2:17–18

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.<sup>18</sup> But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”