

“REBUILDING BROKEN PLACES”
STUDIES IN THE BOOKS OF EZRA, NEHEMIAH, AND HAGGAI
Nehemiah 1:1-2:20
“Let Us Rise Up and Build”

Introduction: The book of Ezra ends with a completed temple and a demonstration of corporate repentance. Zerubbabel led the rebuilding of the temple and Ezra led the religious revival. But the work was not complete.

- I. What is the Condition of the City? (Nehemiah 1:1-3)**
 - a. Nehemiah (God comforts) son of Hachaliah (who waits for the Lord). Thirteen years after Ezra’s arrival to Jerusalem Nehemiah receives an update.
 - b. Walls and gates were part of the image of the city. Jerusalem is called the stronghold of Zion (2 Samuel 5:7). The Canaanites were able to maintain control of the city for over 400 years after Joshua conquered the land. Jesus referred to Jerusalem as the city of the great king (Matthew 5:35).
- II. What is Your Response to the Condition of the City? (Nehemiah 1:4-11)**
 - a. Why did Nehemiah have such a strong emotional response to this news? Why did he have such a burden for this situation? God gave him a supernatural burden for his people. What is your response to the condition of your people and the condition of your nation?
 - b. This prayer is born out of a supernatural burden for a people. First, He appealed to the character of God. He appealed to God’s covenant faithfulness (John 9:31). Next, he confessed their sins.
 - c. Nehemiah confessed the sin of disobeying the Law of Moses. The consequence of this sin was exile. Discipline or chastisement is a consequence, but it is not condemnation. Discipline and chastisement are meant to be corrective not punitive. Sometimes pressure is needed to motivate repentance (Isaiah 45:22).
 - d. Nehemiah appealed to God – the highest authority, before he appealed to the king – delegated authority.
- III. The Heart of the King is in the hand of God (Nehemiah 2:1-8)**
 - a. In this section we see the Q&A with the king of Persia. The cup bearer was an important position in the king’s court (Genesis 40:1). This position demonstrates the level of integrity Nehemiah demonstrated.
 - b. Question #1 Why is your face sad since you are not sick? Nehemiah explained how his homeland is in distress. Question #2 What do you request? Send me to Judah that I may rebuild it. Question #3 and 4 How long will your journey be? And when will you return? I set him a time.
 - c. Nehemiah anticipated some needs – letters of permission for regional governors, specific resources (materials for building project and provision for room and board).
- IV. Leading with Kingdom Authority (Nehemiah 2:9-20)**
 - a. Nehemiah had a conversation with the regional leaders backed by a security force assigned by the king. Sanballat and Tobiah were disturbed by Nehemiah’s mission. Why would someone be mad that he cared about his people?
 - b. The text indicates he inspected the southern portion of the wall. He started at the Valley gate (faced southwest toward the Hinnom valley) then to the Serpent or Dragon well (southeast edge) then to the Refuse gate (southernmost tip – garbage dump) then to the Fountain gate (southeast toward Kidron valley) then to the King’s pool (southeast edge – pool of Siloam) and back to the Valley gate.

- c. Nehemiah reveals his plans and invites the leaders to join the work. Nehemiah explained the favor from God and the resources committed to the work by the king. Everything fell in place for Nehemiah – the people simply had to do the work. What has God resourced us to do?
- d. The opposition mocked and tried to discourage the work by bringing false accusations. Nehemiah stood strong and bold against the mockers – he put his trust in God to give the victory.

NEHEMIAH HAD AUTHORITY FROM GOD AND AUTHORITY FROM THE HUMAN KING TO COMPLETE GOD'S MISSION OF REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM. AUTHORITY FROM GOD MAKES A DIFFERENCE. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE KING OF KINGS. DO YOU LIVE AND LEAD OUT OF THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY GIVEN BY THE LORD JESUS? HAVE YOU SURRENDERED TO THE AUTHORITY OF LORD JESUS? HAVE YOU TURNED FROM YOUR SIN AND TURNED TO THE LORD JESUS FOR SALVATION?

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