

An aerial, black and white photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, featuring a prominent domed building in the center. The sky is filled with dramatic, layered clouds. The text 'nephemialh' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font across the middle of the image.

nephemialh

building a community for God's purposes

Why Study Nehemiah?

We can learn how God births vision in us

Nehemiah's impact on his world was out-sized

We learn how a whole community came together to change the world

There are key lessons about how to deal with opposition

An aerial, black and white photograph of a cityscape. The central focus is a large, ornate building with a prominent dome and classical architectural details. Surrounding it are various other buildings, including modern high-rises and older structures. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, suggesting a dawn or dusk setting. The overall tone is historical and evocative.

n e h e m i a h

the soul of a builder

Nehemiah 1

¹ The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

Nehemiah was deeply interested in his world

1400

1200

1000

800

600

400

David

Saul

Solomon

538
Daniel

444
Nehemiah

period of the Judges

entrance into Canaan

Split of Kingdoms

Fall of Northern
Kingdom Israel

Fall of Judah

458
Ezra

Exile



North (Israel)

South (Judah)

Nehemiah 1

³ They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

Nehemiah was confronted with the broken-down walls in his world

Jerusalem = the work of God in the world through His people

people of
God were
meant to be
light to draw
the nations
to God

cultural compromise

true doctrine

money

financial generosity

sex

sexual purity

power

servant leadership

Nehemiah 1

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Jerusalem = the work of God in the world through His people

Walls = protection from the enemy

rest for the people of God

the ability of the people of God to come together to do what God called them to do

The walls of today's church are broken down. This is why we have societal breakdown.

Nehemiah 1

⁴ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah is not complacent. He takes his broken heart to God.

His heart is broken over the state of the people of God

Nehemiah 1

⁵ Then I said: "Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

Nehemiah is not complacent. He takes his broken heart to God.

His heart is broken over the state of the people of God
He is reminded of the love, sovereignty and power of God

Nehemiah 1

⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.

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His heart is broken over the state of the people of God
He is reminded of the love, sovereignty and power of God
He passionately intercedes for his people

Nehemiah 1

I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. ⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. ⁸ "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

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His heart is broken over the state of the people of God

He is reminded of the love, sovereignty and power of God

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He confesses the sin of the people of God

Nehemiah 1

¹⁰ "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

Nehemiah is not complacent. He takes his broken heart to God.

His heart is broken over the state of the people of God
He is reminded of the love, sovereignty and power of God
He passionately intercedes for his people
He confesses the sin of the people of God
He reminds God of the identity of His people

have you been hurt
by the church and
distanced yourself?

are you clear on
who you are?

do you need
physical healing?

Response

have you been hurt
by the church and
distanced yourself?

Response

Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you.⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.⁸ "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

have you been hurt
by the church and
distanced yourself?

Response

Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, **6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.** I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. ⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. ⁸ "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name. ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

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