

**Main Text: Nehemiah 1**

**1** The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.

It came to pass in the month of Chislev, *in* the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, <sup>2</sup> that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> And they said to me, “The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province *are* there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem *is* also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.”

<sup>4</sup> So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *for many* days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

<sup>8</sup> Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘*If*

you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;

<sup>9</sup> but *if* you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, *yet* I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’

<sup>10</sup> Now these *are* Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand.

<sup>11</sup> O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

For I was the king’s cupbearer.

**Review:**

**Premise: #1** Private property is the hallmark principal of freedom, wellness, purpose, and security. Private property - What is yours is yours and what’s mine is mine. This includes but is not limited to our time, the fruit of our labor, and our privacy.

**Premise: #2** Walls exists to secure our private property thus our freedom, wellness, purpose, and security.

**A. What is a wall and why are they important?**

Wall – is a barrier that protects and keeps hidden what inside from what is outside

Walls have 2 primary purposes

- Protection
- Privacy

One of the 1<sup>st</sup> lessons that the Bible teaches us after Adam fell is about walls. Gen. 3:6-25

## **B. A Quick History of the Old Testament:**

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Flood
4. Nimrod, Babel, and the formation of the nations
5. Time of the fathers
  - Abram
  - Isaac
  - Jacob
  - Joseph
6. 400 years in Egypt
7. Moses
8. Conquest of Canaan
9. Judges
10. United Kingdom
11. Divided kingdom (Idolatry)
12. Exile
13. Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah (Post exilic period)
14. Intertestamental period (400 years of silence)

## **II. Lesson Notes: Nehemiah 1**

1. **Israel's idolatry exposed them to attack and exile, their walls were reduced to rubble, and they were in great need of revival.**
  - How do you know when your walls are in the state of rubble?
    - When what is supposed to be out of our lives is in, and when what is supposed to be in our lives is out.
2. **VV 1 Nehemiah: Someone that God could use to make a difference.**
  - God is looking for someone who cares enough to make a difference when the walls in life are down.
3. **VV 2-4 Nehemiah receives news of the rubble back home and was driven to do something about it.**
4. **VV4-11 Nehemiah used what he had to get to where he needed to be.**
  - Nehemiah had great influence with the King, but more importantly he had influence with the King of Kings.
  - Nehemiah prayed a prayer that sparked revival.

**5. Nehemiah 2:1-8a records Nehemiah's dangerous strategy to reach the king.**

- He cashed in his personal equity.
  - How do you judge your equity?
    - You consistently, obviously do more than you are supposed to toward the goals of others.
    - You do what others can't or won't do.
    - You have something stellar on your record that resulted in an exponential result.
- He didn't hide his feelings.
- He didn't attempt to manipulate.
- He spoke clearly and directly to the king about his issues.
- He offered a clear proposal with a clear timeline.

**6. Nehemiah 2:8b-9 The king granted Nehemiah's request PLUS.**

- The king granted Nehemiah's request.
- Plus, the king dispatched a security force to accompany Nehemiah to assure his safe return.

Questions:

1. From Sunday's Sermon, was there a particular point, comment, or scripture that caught your attention or challenged you?

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2. How did Israel wind up in exile?

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3. What is idolatry? What statement does it make to God?

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4. Why did Israel's enemies destroy its walls?

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5. Why does the devil want to destroy your walls? How do you know if your walls are down?

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6. What 2 relationships did Nehemiah possess that could be leveraged to help his people?

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7. Are your people in trouble today? How? What relationships do you have that can help your people?

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8. What is personal equity? How can you develop it? How and when should you spend it?

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9. How did Nehemiah's strategy teach us to approach authority figures to help us get important things done?

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