

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, ² 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.

³ 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.”

⁴ 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.

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

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

⁹ 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.’

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

¹¹ 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.

Introduction:

A. 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)

- B. Israel's idolatry exposed them.
- C. Their walls were reduced to rubble.
- D. 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.
- E. Israel was in great need of revival.

Lesson Notes: **Nehemiah 1**

1. **VV 1 Nehemiah: Someone that God could use to make a difference.**
 - a. God is looking for someone who cares enough to make a difference when the walls of life are down.
2. **VV 2-4 Nehemiah receives news of the rubble back home and was driven to do something about it.**
3. **VV4-11 Nehemiah used what he had to get to where he needed to be.**
 - i. He had influence with the King.
 - ii. He had influence with the King of Kings.
 - iii. Nehemiah prayed a prayer that sparked revival.

Questions:

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

2. What is a wall? Where do we 1st see them in scripture?

3. Why were Israel's walls important? Why are walls important today?

4. In your group go over the history of Israel. Briefly discuss each section.

5. Why was Nehemiah important in the history of Israel?

6. Why do you need to be like Nehemiah?

7. What should we do when we are faced with rubble in our lives?

8. How does prayer work when we are faced with rubble in our lives? Does it always work the same way?

9. How can we use what we do to attempt to repair the rubble in our lives?
