

NEHEMIAH

“Chapter 1: Compassion, Prayer and Action”

February 21, 2016

A LOOKING OUT IN COMPASSION (1:1-3,11)

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, 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. 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”... I was cupbearer to the king. Nehemiah 1:1-3, 11

Abraham (2000 B.C.): Making a People of Faith

Moses (1500 B.C.): Building a People of Influence

Judges (1500-1000 B.C.): Chasing a People of Rebellion

Monarchy (1000 B.C.): Realizing Ideals and Failures

Exile (722 and 586 B.C.): Experiencing Consequences for Sin

Return (538 B.C.): Hearing Promises for a Future

Nehemiah (444 B.C.): Rebuilding Life with God

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A LOOKING UP IN PRAYER (1:4-10)

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 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, 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. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 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.’ “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. Nehemiah 1:4-10

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A LOOKING FORWARD IN ACTION (1:11)

Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." Nehemiah 1:11

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Reflection Questions:

1. What situations do I find myself in that may be the result of sin in my life? Have I confessed these things to God? Am I presently walking in forgiveness and hope?
2. Amidst the current challenges that I face, am I holding on to the character and words of God? Am I familiar enough with God to do this effectively?
3. What about the current condition of the world, and the Church, grieves me enough to move me to the point of prayer and action?
4. Am I willing to forego personal comfort and safety for "God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done?"

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