

Nehemiah, part 1:
“Praying for the Spiritual Recovery of God’s People”
Nehemiah 1

God is pleased to utilize the means of grace in the spiritual recovery of His people.

1. The Need for Spiritual Recovery vv. 1-3

(1) The Setting *“It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year,
as I was in Shushan, the citadel...”*

- 446 BC
- After God’s disciplinary exile of His people
- Yet to this point only a small remnant of Jews had returned.
 - 1- 537 BC – Zerubbabel & Joshua and 50,000 others – to re-institute the Temple
 - 2- 458 BC – Ezra & 1500 others – to seek to buttress the true religion

- Some significant encouragements, yet a crisis point had been reached.

(2) The Servant: Nehemiah

- A devout Jew – a contemporary of Ezra
- “Cupbearer” to Artaxerxes, King of Persia
- A high-ranking and trusted official in the King’s court

Note: What to do while in captivity?

(3) The Specific Report *“The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province
are there in great distress and reproach.*

- **Opposition!** *The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down,*
- **The remnant in a very weak and vulnerable state!** *and its gates are burned with fire.”*

(4) The Significance

- Why was Jerusalem so important in this day?

- The condition of the city, its walls, its temple, indicative of the spiritual state of God’s people

2. The Prayer for Spiritual Recovery

vv. 4-11

(1) Borne out of grief (4)

(2) Resting upon the Greatness and Faithfulness of God! (5-6a)

(3) No Minimizing of the Sin of God’s People! (7)

(4) Resting upon the Promise of God! (8-9)

(5) Appealing to God’s Glory above All (10)

(6) Leading to Specific Petition (11)

Further Application: