

God's Call to Nehemiah Nehemiah 1

I. God's Impact on Pagan Kings

1. Humbled Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 1-4
Used Daniel & friends to Impact Nebuchadnezzar
2. Defeated Belshazzar who defied Him – Dan. 5
Turned kingdom over to Medes & Persians
3. Used Cyrus to rebuild Temple – Ezra 1
4. Impacted Darius with Daniel & Lions – Dan. 6
5. Led Ahasuerus to save Israel – Esther
Chose Esther & made Mordecai Prime Minister
6. Touched Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem – Neh. 1-2
Gives Nehemiah leave to rebuild the wall

II. Introduction to Nehemiah

1. The Story of Return from Exile
Ezra 1-6 – First group led by Zerubbabel
They rebuilt the Temple at Jerusalem
Ezra 7-10 – Second group led by Ezra
He focused on spiritual restoration
Nehemiah – Third group led by Nehemiah
They rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem
2. Nehemiah believed to be the author
He was the son of Hachaliah, brother of Hanani
He was King Artaxerxes's cupbearer – 1:11
Much of the Book is in a "first person" account

III. Concern of Nehemiah – 1:1-4

1. Visitors come from Jerusalem – 1
Nehemiah's brother & friends come to Susa
2. Nehemiah asks for a report - 2
Concerned enough to ask about Jerusalem
3. Their report is not good - 3
People are in great affliction and reproach
Wall of Jerusalem was broken down
Gates were burned with fire
4. Response of Nehemiah – 4
He wept, mourned, fasted and prayed – 4

IV. Prayer of Nehemiah – 5-10

1. He acknowledged God's greatness – 5
You are the great and awesome God
You are a God who keeps His covenants
Bases his prayer upon God's promises
2. He confessed Israel's sin – 6-7
Includes himself & his family in this confession
We have acted very corruptly against you
We have not kept your commandments or laws
3. He reminded God of His promise – 8-9
He noted God had warned them of exile
Also reminded Him of His promise to restore
If Israel repented and returned to God
4. Pled on Israel's relationship with God – 10
Your servants, your people, whom you redeemed

V. Volunteered with God's Help - 11

He volunteered to go & do what he can – 11
Sometimes God wants us to be part of the answer
After 4 months of weeping & praying he is ready
Note the months mentioned in 1:1 and 2:1
Asks God to intercede as he approaches the king
He was a cupbearer, a trusted servant
But he was willing to go and become a builder
God desires those who have a willing heart
We often don't know what we can do until we say "yes"