

Nehemiah 1



The book of Nehemiah is written as a historical piece of literature. Nehemiah believed that God was leading him in the rebuilding of the walls (2:12). It is obvious that God was with him, behind him and helping him.

Things we know:

- The events begin in Nov-Dec (Jewish month of: Chislev) in the year 445 B.C. (20th year of Artaxerxes reign) - v. 1
- Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the Persian king—v. 11. This is more than a butler, he is a trusted advisor.
- Nehemiah asks about the condition of the people back in Jerusalem (v. 2)

The Report

- People: DISTRESSED
- Walls: BROKEN
- GATES: BURNED



The Report Caused Five Reactions From Nehemiah (4):

1. He _____ down
2. He _____
3. He _____
4. He _____
5. He _____ → (v. 5-11 is Nehemiah's prayer)

What you may not know:

It is commonly thought that Nehemiah is referring to the destruction caused by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

- that occurred nearly 150 years before this
- There was another attempt to rebuild the walls (Ezra 4:7-23)

Artaxerxes crushed this attempt (Ezra 4:23)

Nehemiah's Challenge:

- He is 800 miles away in Persia
- He has a job serving the king
- The king, not only is pagan, but he has already stopped one attempt to rebuild the walls

Nehemiah begins by praying to God

The Prayer

He acknowledges God's g_____ (5)

He _____ the nation's sins and his own sins (6-7)

He reminds God of His own _____ (8-10)

He asks ONE request: God would make the king grant him _____ (11)

Prov 21:1 God can turn a king's heart

What Meaningful Prayer Will Do:

1. Make you _____ and rely upon the Lord
2. Clears your _____
3. _____ the heart
4. Activates your _____

Take-a-way:

You have an important conversation that you are dreading...use Nehemiah's example of praying to God for an open heart and compassion. Pray first!

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.