

January 6, 2019

Time to Act
Nehemiah 1
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

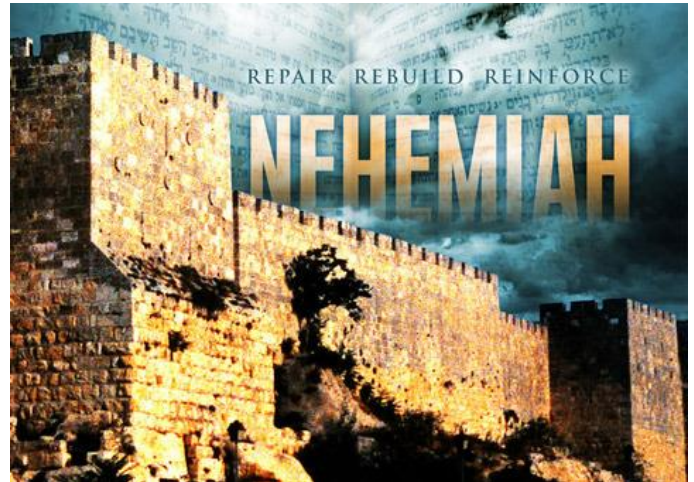
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



To kick off the New Year we will be starting a new book of the Bible. For the next few weeks we will be looking at the book of Nehemiah. This week we start with the first chapter of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was living as an exile in Susa under King Artaxerxes. News comes to Nehemiah that the walls around Jerusalem were torn down and in disrepair. This was very troubling to Nehemiah. He felt passionately that the city of Jerusalem, where God chose to have His temple, should have a wall and be a place that is fitting to house the Temple of God. So Nehemiah takes action making it his mission to rebuild the wall. Join us this week as we talk about the need to act in order to do the work of God.

Nehemiah 1 (NASB)

Nehemiah's Grief for the Exiles

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month Chislev, *in* the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capitol, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped *and* had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem. ³ They said to me, "The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire."

⁴ When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵ I said, "I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, ⁶ let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your

servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. ⁸ Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; ⁹ but *if* you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.' ¹⁰ They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man."

Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. Why was the wall torn down?

9. Why was Nehemiah upset about the wall being torn down?

10. What all does Nehemiah do as a response to the news that the wall was torn down?

11. How does Nehemiah pray about the wall, what all does he include?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

12. What kind of things break your heart like Nehemiah was broken for Jerusalem?

13. How important is it that we confess our sins in prayer like Nehemiah did in his prayer?

14. What is the role of fasting as seen in Nehemiah and what is its role for us today?

15. Do you think Nehemiah had reason to be hesitant to act? Why? When are we hesitant to act?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes