

Nehemiah: Rebuild and Renew

Lesson 1: Nehemiah's Burden and Prayer

Nehemiah's Burden (1:1-4)

- Who is Nehemiah and when did he live?
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 - o Confession of sins admits that we have no claim on God.
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- Yes, God promised to scatter them if they were disobedient, but he also promised to gather them if they “return to me and obey my commands” (v 9).
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 - o A cupbearer was an incredibly trusted position.
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- Yes, God promised to scatter them if they were disobedient, but he also promised to gather them if they “return to me and obey my commands” (v 9).
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Nehemiah: Rebuild and Renew

Lesson 1: Nehemiah's Burden and Prayer

Nehemiah's Burden (1:1-4)

- Who is Nehemiah and when did he live?
 - o Nehemiah was a Jewish captive in the court of Artaxerxes.
 - o The Babylonian captivity had come to a close when Cyrus the Great had allowed many of the exiles to return to Jerusalem in 538 BC.
 - o Temple construction began in 537 BC and after much starting and stopping was finished in 516 BC. Haggai and Zechariah prophesied during this time.
 - o Ezra, a Jewish priest, returned to Jerusalem in 458 BC. His efforts included some efforts to improve the city's fortifications, but most of his work involved a reinstitution of Jewish law/religion.
 - o This story begins sometime in 445 BC, thirteen years after Ezra returned to Jerusalem (see Ezra 7:7).
 - o Susa was the winter resort of the Persian kings.
- Jerusalem's disgrace (vv 2-3).
 - o Under the Persian kings, travel was permitted back and forth between people's homeland and the empire.
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