

NEHEMIAH

Introduction:

1. Nehemiah's Accomplishments were Significant to God

A) Nehemiah receives news in Persia from home

- > He has risen to a position of trust – the king's cup bearer (Nehemiah 1:11d)
- > His heart is moved by what is happening in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:1-4a)

B) Nehemiah's life will change drastically because of his burden for Jerusalem

- > From a palace in Susa to the broken down city of Jerusalem
- > From a place of safety to a battle zone (Nehemiah 5:16-17)

C) Nehemiah's burden and actions make him a significant historical/redemptive person (Nehemiah 13:31b)

2. Nehemiah's task was dependant upon Divine Intervention

A) Nehemiah takes his burden to the Lord

- > His request was not an addendum to a prayer
 - Nehemiah fasted and prayed before the Lord (Nehemiah 1:4b-6)
 - Nehemiah prayed that the Lord would intervene before the king (Nehemiah 2:1-4)
 - Nehemiah prayed because he recognized his life and task were at stake (Nehemiah 4:4-5)

B) The nature of his prayers

- > His prayers were rooted in the Word of God (Nehemiah 1:5-9 1 Kings 8:46-53)
- > His prayers were accompanied by action
 - Before the king (Nehemiah 1:11-2:5)
 - Before his enemies (Nehemiah 4:4-6, 9)

* Prayer wasn't an excuse for inaction it was a precursor to faith!

C) Nehemiah was careful to acknowledge God's hand in his life

- > In relationship to the king (Nehemiah 2:6, 8; 3:18, 20)

> In relationship to the rebuilding of the wall (Nehemiah 6:15-16)

3. Nehemiah was committed to God's Word and passionate about Obeying It

A) In Nehemiah we notice that God's Word was essential to Israel's identity (Nehemiah 1:9; 5:6-9; 9:3; 13:1)

> These returning exiles – raised in foreign lands and with foreign customs, would have to learn how to live as the people of God

B) Reform and revival came as a result of the reading and teaching of God's Word (Nehemiah 8:1-18)

> The proclamation of God's Word (Nehemiah 8:1-8)

> The impact of God's Word

It produced conviction (Nehemiah 8:9-12)

It required celebration (Nehemiah 8:13-18)

It resulted in repentance (Nehemiah 9:1-3)

It led to a renewal to the Covenant (Nehemiah 10:28-29)

4. The Impact of Nehemiah's Life

A) Nehemiah returned to his position of cup bearer to the King

> Only to return to Jerusalem again (Nehemiah 13:6-7)

B) Consider what had happened in Jerusalem in Nehemiah's absence

> The temple was being defiled by Tobiah (Nehemiah 13:7)

Nehemiah's response? (Nehemiah 13:8-9)

> Those assigned to be spiritual leaders in Israel were abandoned (Nehemiah 13:10)

Nehemiah's response? (Nehemiah 13:11-14)

> The regulations for the Sabbath were abandoned (Nehemiah 13:15-16)

Nehemiah's response? (Nehemiah 13:17-22)

> The Israelites were intermarrying with the people of the land (Nehemiah 13:23-24)

Nehemiah's response? (Nehemiah 13:23-27)

> The priesthood had been defiled (Nehemiah 13:28a)

Nehemiah's response? (Nehemiah 13:28b-29)