

A Broken Wall & A Broken Heart

Nehemiah 1-2

Small Group Study, week commencing 13th September 2021.

For Starters

What kind of things “make your heart break”?

Read

Nehemiah 1-2.

Context

In 587 B.C. most of the people of Judah were exiled to Babylon, with only a few people left behind. Fifty years later Cyrus the Great, the Persian emperor who had in turn conquered the Babylonians, sent some of the people back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple, but the people of Judah were still very vulnerable, as Jerusalem’s walls had been torn down by the Babylonians. Nehemiah had grown up in exile, and was an official (1:11) in the Persian empire, and the story begins when he receives a visit from Hanani, one of his Jewish brothers.

For a great overview of Ezra and Nehemiah, take a look at the [Bible Project](#). If you just want to learn about Nehemiah, start the video from about 5 minutes in, but understanding Ezra as well will give you a better understanding of the context of the book of Nehemiah.

For additional resources, you might like to watch some of the video content that Ian White prepared for Pevensey Bay Baptist Church, based on [Nehemiah 1:1-4](#), [Nehemiah 1:5-11](#), and [Nehemiah 2](#). All videos are about 20 minutes in length.

Study

[Nehemiah 1:1-11](#).

1. What do you notice in Nehemiah’s response and prayer with respect to

- His heart and his actions?
- Praise and worship?
- Persistence in prayer?
- Identification with others in prayer?
- Recalling God’s promises?
- The specific nature of the request?

2. A popular acronym for prayer is ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Which forms of prayer do you use in your own prayer life?

3. What evidence is there that Nehemiah expected to be part of the answer to his own prayer? What prayers are you praying at this time for which you might in part be the answer?

A Broken Wall & A Broken Heart



Nehemiah 1-2

Nehemiah 2:1-10.

4. What evidence is there that Nehemiah was well-prepared for the opportunity to make his request to the king?
5. Nehemiah's attitude and approach pleased the King of Persia and the King of Heaven (verses 5-8). What can we learn from his example?

Nehemiah 2:11-20.

6. Why was it important that he conducted his own personal examination of the wall? What problems might this have caused him?
7. Take a closer look at verses 17-18. What strategies did Nehemiah employ to motivate and mobilise the people?

Prayer

When we are engaged in God's work, we can expect opposition (verse 19). But if we are doing God's work in God's way, "The God of heaven will give us success" (verse 20).

Pray for yourself, for the wider church, and particularly for your leaders (including, but not limited to, staff and deacons) – for a heart for God's Kingdom, and for prayer and practical skill to carry it out.

Resources

In addition to the Blog posts, all small group studies can also be located in chichesterbaptist.org/smallgroupresources. The Blog posts will continue to be posted on the Sunday preceding the message, but the studies may be available sooner from this page.