

A Broken Wall & A Broken Heart

Nehemiah 1

Small Group Study, week commencing 30th August 2021.

For Starters

What kind of things “make your heart break”?

Read

Nehemiah 1.

Context

In 587 B.C. most of the conquered 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.

Study

Verses 1-4.

1. What was the news that Hanani brought Nehemiah? How did Nehemiah react?
2. Think about some of the verbs in verse 4, particularly ‘wept’, ‘mourned’, ‘fasted’, ‘prayed’. Do the ‘great trouble’ and ‘disgrace’ of God’s people (verse 3) today affect us in anything like the same way?

For an additional resource relating to these verses, you might like to watch some or all of the following video that Ian White prepared for Pevensey Bay Baptist Church: [Nehemiah 1:1-4](#) (20 minutes).

Verses 5-11.

3. What do you notice in Nehemiah’s prayer with respect to

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

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

5. 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?

For an additional resource relating to these verses, you might like to watch some or all of the following video that Ian White prepared for Pevensey Bay Baptist Church: [Nehemiah 1:4-11](#) (20 minutes).

Prayer

Turn some of the thoughts from this chapter into your own prayers for God's people – locally, or further afield.

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.