

A Time to Rebuild

Nehemiah 1:1-5 NKJV

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.

It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, 2 that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

5 And I said: "I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, 6 please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. 8 Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; 9 but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which

I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’ 10 Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. 11 O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

For I was the king’s cupbearer. 1

Introduction

- Although we may not know where to start, the important thing is that we do start. Moreover in order for us to build we must begin with God in prayer, so we can receive the instruction we need as well as a vision, so we not only can have favor with Kings, but so we can lead people in building what God has called us to build.

¹ [*The New King James Version*](#). (1982). (Ne 1:1–11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Context

Message

I. Nehemiah channeled his grief through prayer.

- As we read Nehemiah's story, the first thing we see Nehemiah do was go to God in prayer. Moreover, Nehemiah's time of prayer wasn't just a one-time deal. Scholars say that Nehemiah prayed for four months before he went before the king.
- Matthew 11:28
- Philippians 4:8-10

1 Timothy 2:1-5 (NLT):

2 I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them. 2 Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and pleases God our

Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. ⁵ For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. ⁶ He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone.

A. Nehemiah prayed a prayer of repentance.

Nehemiah 1:5-9

⁵ And I said: “I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, ⁶ please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes,

nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. ⁸ Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; ⁹ but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.²

B. Nehemiah acknowledged and repented of their sin (his own as well as Israel's sin).

- **Deuteronomy 4:25-31.**

C. Nehemiah changed his Mind (he moved from sorrow to action).

Nehemiah 1:11 NKJV

11 O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants

² [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Ne 1:5–9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

For I was the king’s cupbearer.

II. Nehemiah developed a vision and strategy.

- “The only thing worse than being blind, is having sight but no vision.” – Hellen Keller

Conclusion:

III. Nehemiah surveyed the land and led the people.

A. Nehemiah surveyed the land.

B. Nehemiah led the people.

In Conclusion. Although we know our community is in distress at this time. People are in pain, and often times when in pain it can be hard to see the possibilities that can come out of this. However, like Nehemiah rebuilt the wall that would restore the city and allow the people of God who had been exiled to return to the place God had for

them, maybe we are being called to rebuild in our city, homes, etc. Whatever the case may be, in order for us to rebuild we must first go to God in prayer, develop a vision and strategy, so we can effectively lead the people.