

07 June

TOPIC: Nehemiah Chapter 1



Let's hear your story

1. What does Nehemiah's name mean? (**Yahweh has comforted**)
2. Who was Nehemiah? (**A cupbearer – see verse 11**).
3. What did Zerubbabel rebuild, and what was restored? (**Temple to restore worship – see Ezra chapter 4**).
4. What did Ezra, the priest restore? (**The law of God**).



Let's go deeper

5. How do we know Nehemiah was an important man? (**He lived in the palace of the king – see verse 1**).
6. What were two things Nehemiah asked from those returning from Jerusalem? (**How are the people and city – see verse 2**).
7. How did Nehemiah respond after he heard the people were in great distress, the walls broken down and gates burned with fire? (**He sat down, wept, mourned for days – fasting and praying – see verse 4**).
8. What can we learn from Nehemiah? (**He understood the importance of God's call, and he was a man of prayer**).



Let's apply this

9. **In the same as God used Nehemiah to bring comfort to the king of Persia and later to the Jews of Jerusalem; God wants to use you this week. But how?**

Nehemiah was deeply moved by the condition of the people and city of Jerusalem. When you walk or drive around in the city what moves you to action:

- Prayer and fast to seek God for His answers.
- Bringing comfort by sharing God's Word and His promises.
- Giving of your time; talents or resources to help those in need.

SUMMARY:

Read: Nehemiah 1:1 – 11; Ezra 4

Nehemiah means Yahweh has comforted. Before we even begin reading the book of Nehemiah, the name reveals that the words will bring comfort. The book falls into two sections: Rebuilding the wall (chapters 1 – 7); and Rebuilding the people (chapters 8 – 13). God is calling us to build His Kingdom and help restore His people.

- **Who was Nehemiah?**

Nehemiah 1:11; Nehemiah writes; "I was cupbearer to the king." The cupbearer was a high position in court; His responsibility was to choose and taste the wine before it was served to the king to make sure that it was not poisoned. Since he enjoyed closest access to the king, he was a highly trusted man. Early documents also reveal that the cupbearer could be the keeper of the royal signet, be in charge of administration of the accounts, and even serve as second to the king.

- **Background to the book of Nehemiah:**

In 537 B.C. Zerubbabel and Ezra, rebuilt the temple and laid a spiritual foundation for Israel. In 458 B.C. Ezra completes his book and returns to Jerusalem and the Law is taught and another spiritual foundation is laid for Israel, and Nehemiah's book begins 13 years after the Book of Ezra ends; and some 150 years after the city of Jerusalem was destroyed.

- **The book of Nehemiah chapter 1:**

v.1; Nehemiah lived in Shushan, the capital city of the Persians, and he lived in the citadel – that is, the fortified palace of the Persians. He was someone important.
v.2; He wanted to know from those returning how the people and city were doing.
v.3; The people were called survivors. They were in great distress and reproach, and the walls of the city itself were broken down and the city gates burned with fire.

v.4; He didn't just feel bad for Jerusalem and its people; right away, there was no strength in his legs (I sat down), and he began to weep and to mourn.

v.5; Prayer is essential to leadership.

v.6 – 7; Humility also understands my complete dependence on God.

v.8 – 9; This, is the secret to great power in prayer: to plead the promises of God.

v.10 – 11; He concluded by asking God to bless him when he speaks to the king.

- **What can we learn from Nehemiah?**

1. He understood the importance of God's call.
2. He was a man of prayer.