



When Your Gates Have Been Destroyed Nehemiah 1:1-11

Series Summary

The book of Nehemiah lays out the blueprint for every nation, every church, and every individual to learn how to rebuild the broken walls of life. Nehemiah led the nation back to Jerusalem to rebuild the ruined walls of the city. The people were weak and without protection as long as the wall laid in ruins which is also true with your life and mine. The trials and difficulties of Life tend to knock down the walls of our faithfulness, strength, courage, and perseverance, leaving us vulnerable and fearful. God reminds us in this amazing book that it is possible to rebuild those broken walls. We find His plan for rebuilding life on the right foundation in the Book of Nehemiah.

Main Text

Nehemiah 1:1-11 (ESV) – ¹The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, ²that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.” ⁴As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father’s house have sinned. ⁷We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. ⁸Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ ¹⁰They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear

your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.” Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Big Idea – Rebuild Your Life God’s Way = Pause, Plan, Piece Together, and Persevere

Three Commitments of the Faithful Follower

Commitment #1 – Hear the Need, See the Need, and Respond to the Need with Concern and Compassion

Nehemiah 1:1-4 (ESV) – ¹The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.” ⁴ As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Commitment #2 – Respond Rightly – Establish Your Foundation with Prayer

Nehemiah 1:5-7 (ESV) – ⁵ And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father’s house have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.”

Commitment #3 – Return to the Redeemer with an Attitude of Humility and a Heart of Service

Nehemiah 1:8-11 (ESV) – ⁸ “Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹ but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.” Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Memory Verse

1 Peter 3:12 (ESV) – For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears

are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

Challenge:

You are called to consistently apply the divine principles and truths found in the Word of God. Take the next step in your study by (1) Discussing and applying the sermon with your small group or (2) Participating in a Sunday School class.