

THE HEART GOD USES

Nehemiah Chapter 1

A brief background to Nehemiah
(*Jeremiah 25, 29; 2 Chronicles 26; Daniel 9; Psalm 137; Ezra 1*)

1. Despite the **PRIVILEGES** Nehemiah had in Persia, he had a heart for **HOME**. (Hebrews 3:13, 10:24-25, 11:24-26; Psalm 73:25, 122:1, 133:1; Ruth 1:16; Acts 2:42; James 4:4; 1 John 1:7; Colossians 3:2)
2. Nehemiah's heart was **SENSITIVE** and **BURDENED** for something far greater than himself. (Philippians 1:21, 2:1-8; 1 John 3:16-18; Galatians 6:2,9; Ephesians 4:11-12; Matthew 22:1-12; Acts 20:35; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Colossians 3:23; Hebrews 12:1)
3. Nehemiah had a heart to **REMEMBER** who God **IS** and to rehearse the truth of His **WORD**. (Psalm 33:4, 46:10; Joshua 21:45; 2 Timothy 3:16; Romans 8:28; Deuteronomy 7:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:3)
4. Nehemiah had a heart to earnestly **PRAY** for God to move and a heart to **INTERCEDE** for the people. (1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16; Romans 12:12; Philippians 4:6; Acts 4:29-30, 12:5; Luke 11:11-13; Isaiah 43:19; Colossians 1:9; Psalm 126:3; Jeremiah 33:3)
5. Nehemiah had a **REPENTANT** heart. (Joel 2:12-13; Psalm 51:17, 106:6-7; Romans 3:23; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 3:8; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Isaiah 30:15; Ezekiel 18:32; Zechariah 1:3)
6. Nehemiah had a heart that was **WILLING** to get involved, take **RISKS**, and trust God for **SUCCESS**. (Isaiah 6:8; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 John 3:16; 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 25:35-40; 2 Kings 7:4; 1 Samuel 14:6; Proverbs 3:5; Matthew 25:14-30; Joshua 1:8)



Taking it further to help you *THRIVE*...

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1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. God had told his people way ahead of time (multiple times) what would happen if they wandered from Him in sin and disobedience and rebellion, yet they did it anyway. We may tend to look down on them for this, but there are ways we can be just like them. How are we similar? Why do we do this? What lessons does God have for us in today's verses (and in the intro to Nehemiah) regarding this?
3. What was Nehemiah's response when he heard of the "trouble and shame" (verse 3) and destruction his people were having to endure? When we see and hear of the disarray, disunity, chaos, etc. all around us in our own country, what is our attitude and response? How is it similar/different than Nehemiah's? Biblically, what should our attitude/heart/response be?
4. Review Nehemiah's prayer in verses 4-11a. List the different components of his prayer and the significance of each component? In what ways can/should we model Nehemiah's heart as we pray?
5. Nehemiah prayed that God would grant him success in what was on his heart to do (verse 11), which we will read about in upcoming chapters. But the primary goal and desire of Nehemiah was that he and the people would "return to" God (verse 9). This is a prayer for revival! In what ways do we (corporately and individually) need revival / renewal / to 'return' to God?