

NEHEMIAH

HEARTBREAK AND HOPE

Nehemiah 1:1-11
January 12th, 2020
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What do you know about Nehemiah, the book, and Nehemiah, the man? Take a few minutes to orient yourself to this time period in world history, geography, and the biblical timeline. You may find a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or a map helpful.

What is the crisis Nehemiah is responding to? Why is the broken-down condition of Jerusalem so concerning to Nehemiah?

Nehemiah's first response is to mourn and pray (1:4). What does this tell us about him? How is it instructive for you as you hear tragic news? Why is mourning and lamenting an important part of Nehemiah's reaction? How will biblical lament lead to hopeful prayer?

What stands out to you about Nehemiah's prayer? Why does he pray the way he does and present his heart to God in this way? Repentance is a key theme in Nehemiah's prayer. How prominent is repentance in your prayer life?

Read Deuteronomy 4:25-31. How has this decree from God come to pass in Nehemiah's time? What promise does God offer his people in the midst of hardship and oppression? Why is prayer a critical part of returning to the Lord?

Nehemiah does not yet know what action God will call him to take. His first step is to express his trust in God through prayer. What situation are you facing that is unsure and where you do not yet know what action to take? How can you faithfully express your heart and mind to God while trusting his sovereignty?