

Nehemiah 1:4-11 – Nehemiah Prays for His People!

3/23/19 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

What a Friend We Have in Jesus – Alan Jackson - The Maranatha! Singers

1. *What a friend we have in Jesus All our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer. Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer*
2. *Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.*
3. *Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.*

Nehemiah Prays for His People! (Neh. 1:4-11)

The report (Neh 1:1-3) - As cupbearer to the king, Nehemiah (a Jew) held a high position in the court. He was close to the king and could share his confidence. But Nehemiah was not forgetful of his own people, for he eagerly asked his brother for news about Jerusalem. Read [Psa 122:1-9](#) and [Psa 137:5-6](#). Oh, that saints today had as much interest in their heavenly Jerusalem! The news was distressing: the remnant was suffering shame, the walls were broken down, and the gates were burned. See [Psa 79:1-4](#). Instead of being a city of praise and glory, it was a city of shame and reproach.

The response (Neh 1:4) - Nehemiah was immediately burdened for his city. The fact that he was more than 700 miles away made no difference; nor did it matter that he was enjoying luxury and prestige in the palace of the king. He did not say, "The city's plight is not my fault!" Immediately his heart was touched and he wanted to do something to save his city. For four months (from Dec. to April; see [Neh 1:1](#) and [Neh 2:1](#)) he wept and prayed. See [Dan 9:1-27](#) and [Ezr 9:1-15](#).

The request (Neh 1:5-11) - This book shows Nehemiah to be a man of prayer ([Neh 1:4-11](#); [Neh 2:4](#); [Neh 4:4](#); [Neh 4:9](#); [Neh 5:19](#); [Neh 6:9](#), [Neh 6:14](#); [Neh 13:14](#), [Neh 13:22](#), [Neh 13:29](#), [Neh 13:31](#)). The book starts and ends with prayer! [Neh 1:6](#) tells us he prayed day and night, so burdened was he for the city. Note that Nehemiah confesses his sins and the sins of his people. He also reminds the Lord of His gracious promises ([Neh 1:8-9](#)) and then offers himself to be God's servant to do something about Jerusalem's plight. "Here am I, Lord, send me!" In [Neh 1:11](#) we see that he has faith to ask God for servants, other Jews who would help him in the task.

Nehemiah's Prayer

Neh 1:4 *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.*

- Nehemiah's actions and response are excellent examples for us to follow. What great emotion shown by Nehemiah! But, I just a cupbearer, what can I do? Jerusalem is 800 miles away!
- Prayer is essential to leadership. If your vision is so big that only God can accomplish it, then you obviously must pray. If prayer isn't absolutely necessary to accomplish your vision, your goal isn't big enough.

Neh 1:5 *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,*

- Note the perfect address of the prayer; [Exo 20](#): *but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. [Deu 7:9](#) *"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; [Dan 9:4](#) *And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,***

Neh 1:6 *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.*

- What a heart for Jerusalem and the Israelites there. So, he goes to prayer! 6 How quickly are we likely to go to the necessary confession and repentance whenever we have sinned? Praying *day and night!* When is the last time I prayed day and night? [2Ch 6:40](#) *Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and let Your ears be*

attentive to the prayer made in this place. **Dan 9:20** Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God,

Neh 1:7 We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

- How concerned are we when fellow believers ignore God's commandments?

Neh 1:8 Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;

- Can that same thing be said of us? To what degree?

Neh 1:9 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.'

- Do we usually stand on a promise or promises of God, that He has made, when we pray?

Neh 1:10 Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand.

- Is that how we pray?

Neh 1:11 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.

- What an example for us – to seek the Lord even when we are in a totally tenuous position with respect to the world, as Nehemiah was!

SUMMARY:

- **BUT WHAT CAN I DO?** Nehemiah's actions and response are excellent examples for us to follow.
- **I'LL PRAY!!** What great emotion shown by Nehemiah! What a heart for Jerusalem and the Israelites there. But what can a cupbearer, 800 miles away from Jerusalem, do?
- **A RIGHT ADDRESS IS IMPORTANT IN OUR PRAYERS!** Here Nehemiah has a good address!
- **CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & HUMILITY!** How quickly are we likely to go to the necessary confession and repentance whenever we have sinned? Praying *day and night!*
- How concerned are we when fellow believers ignore God's commandments?
- Can that same thing be said of us? To what degree?
- **STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF GOD!** Are we actually claiming our promises of God?
- **HEAR OUR PRAYER! GRANT US MERCY!** What an example for us – to seek the Lord even when we are in a totally tenuous position with respect to the world, as Nehemiah was!
- **HIS TIMING!** Answer was 4 months later! Are we usually running ahead or behind His timing?
- **RIGHT PERSON; RIGHT PLACE; RIGHT TIME!**

TO GOD BE THE GLORY – F. Crosby – Maranatha Praise Band

1 To God be the glory, great things He has done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To every believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)

3 Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

Pray for World Leaders, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi - India; Donald Trump – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Muhammadu Buhari - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin - Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel; Angela Merkel – Germany; Theresa May – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Moon Jae-in – South Korea.

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