

Nehemiah: A Prayer

Nehemiah 1

We're looking at the life of Nehemiah: a person who aligned with God's heart, followed God's plan, and formed God's people into a community that would change their culture. A person who saw brokenness, and chose to build. Today we're focusing on Nehemiah's heart as it aligned with God's in what it loved, where it broke, and how it was moved through prayer.

Nehemiah 1:1-2

These are the words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

It so happened that in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year, I was in Susa the citadel. Hanani, who was one of my relatives, along with some of the men from Judah, came to me, and I asked them about the Jews who had escaped and had survived the exile, and about Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 1:3

They said to me, "The remnant that remains from the exile there in the province are experiencing considerable adversity and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem lies breached, and its gates have been burned down!"

Nehemiah 1:4a

When I heard these things I sat down abruptly, crying and mourning for several days.

Declan Lang, Bishop

Last year 100 homes of Christians were burnt down in one part of Lahore, and churches have been bombed...

We pray also for the Church in Pakistan which has shown such courage and faith, that their and our response to the atrocities they suffer will be truly Christ-like:

Expressing Love's victory over evil, in the words of the dying Crucified One,
"Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Matthew 9:35-36

Then Jesus went throughout all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were bewildered and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:37-38

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."

Nehemiah 1:4b

"Grant your servant success today and show compassion to me in the presence of this man."

Now I was cupbearer for the king.

Nehemiah 1:11b

"Grant your servant success today and show compassion to me in the presence of this man."

Now I was cupbearer for the king.