



**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

Week 1

Nehemiah 1-2

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Day 1- Nehemiah 1-2

Read Nehemiah 1-2 in your Bible.

- Pray as you read, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in understanding, praise, confession, thanksgiving, and petition in light of the truth you are reading.
- Underline/highlight key words, phrases, and verses that stand out to you.

Day 2- Nehemiah 1:1-4

The events of Nehemiah begin 13 years after Ezra arrived in Judah with his group of exiles.

1. From the information in verse 1 and 11b, where was Nehemiah and what was his job?

Scholar's Note: *The position of cupbearer to the king was a high office and involved regular access to the king. -ESV Study Bible Notes*

2. According to verse 3, what are the exiles experiencing because the walls and gates of Jerusalem are broken down? Why do you think this is so?
3. What was Nehemiah's response in verse 4, to the bad news?
4. What does Nehemiah's intense reaction to the news he received tell us?

Day 3- Nehemiah 1:5-11

5. In verse 5 Nehemiah's prayer begins with praise for God. What statements does Nehemiah make about who God is?

6. What kind of attitude does Nehemiah display in verse 6 and 7?

7. What does Nehemiah demonstrate knowledge of, in verses 8 and 9?

-In what ways has this promise of God been fulfilled?

-Why do you think Nehemiah is reminding God of His promise now?

8. What does Nehemiah ask for in verse 11?

Picture and Ponder: *"For Nehemiah worldly success did not spell spiritual failure, and royal society left his appetite for divine fellowship unimpaired. The place of the fear of God in his heart was so great as to banish wholly the fear of man."-W.J. Martin quoted in Expositor's Commentary*

For Discussion: Why does the fear of God banish the fear of man?



Even though Nehemiah was living away from the land of Promise, serving as trusted advisor to a pagan king he had such a fervent love for God's kingdom and people! How did he cultivate a heart that cared so much for the things of God?

We learn right away that Nehemiah is a man of prayer, and he knows God's promises.

Everything we will see about Nehemiah- his love, his perseverance, his sacrifice, his wisdom, his sense of justice, flow from the foundation of prayer and knowing and trusting God's Word.

- What evidence is there in your life that you care deeply for the things God cares about?
- How can you cultivate a love for God's kingdom and people in the midst of our culture?

Day 4- Nehemiah 2:1-10

9. According to the time mentioned in 2:1, four months have passed. At this time what did the king observe about Nehemiah in verse 2? Why do you think this is observable just now?

10. How does Nehemiah demonstrate his total dependence on God in verse 4?

11. What evidence do you see in verses 5-8 that Nehemiah had a plan prepared?



Prayer and planning are not mutually exclusive. Nehemiah did not pray and just sit back waiting for God to do something. He also did not utter a 2-minute prayer then set about to planning. He continued fasting and praying for 4 months! From the bedrock of God's Word and the fruitful soil of that time in prayer his plan is formed and he sends off a quick plea to God before he plunges in.

It is as we spend time with God in prayer that our plans can be shaped by God. J.I. Packer explains, "God guides our minds as we think things out in His presence." Nehemiah expresses this thought in 2:12 saying that *God had put this plan into his heart*. God wants to be in relationship with us and prayer is the way that relationship is forged. We join in to what God is doing by working together with God through prayer and active obedience.

- Do you tend to pray and not plan, or plan and not pray?
- What place does God's Word have in your prayer life?
- Prayerfully make an outline of what you want your prayer life to look like.
- Stop now and ask God to give you the desire and diligence to put this plan into action.

Day 5- Nehemiah 2:9-20

12. Who traveled with Nehemiah according to verse 9?

How does this differ from Ezra's trip? (See Ezra 8:22)

How were both men displaying trust in God?

What implications does this have for us as we endeavor to trust God?

13. How does verse 10 summarize Nehemiah's mission?

14. How does Nehemiah motivate the people in verses 17 and 18 to help him rebuild?

15. What do Nehemiah's enemies equate rebuilding the walls with in verse 19? How, in verse 20, does Nehemiah boldly defend himself against the derision of his enemies?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?