

From Ruin to Revival

A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

Introduction: It has been said that leaders are **made**, not **born**. Leadership is a skill that can and must be learned. In our day of moral ruin and compromise, people are **desperate** for leaders—godly leaders who are willing to stand in the gap.

1. Nehemiah's **Person** (1:11b)

- a. His **lineage** as a child of Israel.
- b. His **legacy** as a captive in Babylon.
- c. His **leadership** as a servant to the King.
 - i. He served as the **cupbearer** in Babylon.
 - ii. He served as the **governor** in Jerusalem.

2. Nehemiah's **Problem** (1:1-3)

- a. The **Chronicle** of His History.
 - i. The fall of Jerusalem to the **Babylonians** (586 BC).
 - ii. The rise of **Belshazzar** as the last Babylonian ruler (553 BC).
 - iii. The fall of Babylon to **Cyrus**, king of Persia (539 BC).
 - iv. The reign of **Darius** the Mede (522 BC).
 - v. The reign of Xerxes or **Xerxes** (486 BC).
 - vi. The reign of **Artaxerxes** I Longimanus (465 BC).
 - vii. The arrival of **Ezra** in Jerusalem (458 BC).

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viii. The arrival of **Nehemiah** in Jerusalem (445 BC).

b. The **Condition** of His Homeland (v.3).

i. Jerusalem: the **Reality**.

ii. Jerusalem: the **Representation**.

c. His **Concern** for His Heritage (v.1-3).

3. Nehemiah's **Prayer** (1:4-11).

a. He recognized his **need** for God (v.4).

b. He revered the **character** of God (5-6a).

i. He is a **great** God.

ii. He is a **faithful** God.

iii. He is an **approachable** God.

c. He repented of his **sins** toward God (v.6b-7).

d. He reminded God of His **promise** (v.8-10).

e. He requested **specific** help (v.11).

f. He remembered to be **persistent** in prayer (v.4, 6, 1:1, 2:1).

Concluding Illustration: Luke 11:5-10