

NEHEMIAH - CHAPTER 1

NOTES FROM LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE _____

V1-2. SETTING THE STAGE

- WHO: NEHEMIAH WHEN: 20TH YEAR (OF KING ARTAXERXES I REIGN)
- WHERE: SUSAN, THE PERSIAN CAPITOL AND LOCATION OF THE KING'S SUMMER PALACE
- EVEN THOUGH THE BOOK IS WRITTEN IN 1ST PERSON, IT IS LIKELY EZRA WAS INVOLVED IN THE WRITING. THE BOOKS OF EZRA AND NEHEMIAH WERE ORIGINALLY ONE BOOK-LATER SEPARATED.
- HE HAS VISITORS, ONE IS A BROTHER AND HE INQUIRES ABOUT THE REMNANT OF JEWS AND THE HOLY CITY. HIS CONCERN SHOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF GENERATIONAL TRAINING. CLEARLY NEHEMIAH WAS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD'S REDEPTIVE PLANS FROM HIS FAMILY WHO MUST HAVE BEEN A FAITHFUL REMNANT IN ORDER TO HAVE A BURDEN FOR PEOPLE HE NEVER MET.
- NEHEMIAH SHOWS SINCERE CONCERN AND GRIEF FOR THE HOLY CITY.
 - *What makes you weep outside the circumstances of you or your loved ones?*
 - *Where can you see sin around you, or need, or possibility?*
 - *What do you pray for? What is it that you see that no one else does?*
 - *God uses humble people every single day who are willing to act on a burden from the LORD with human commitment and passion for the Glory of God.*
- MOST OF US DO NOT NATURALLY THINK OUTSIDE OURSELVES. NEHEMIAH DID. HOW DID HE? HE WAS INTERPRETING THE CALL OF GOD ON HIS LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE ENTIRETY OF SCRIPTURE. HE KNEW IT WASN'T ABOUT HIM. HE HAD A BIG PICTURE OF THE HISTORICAL HIGHWAY FROM RUIN TO RENEWAL
- HE KNEW THE SCRIPTURES, HE KNEW GOD'S PLAN TO REDEEM HIS PEOPLE AND RESTORE THEM TO A PLACE OF PROMISE WHERE THEY COULD WORSHIP GOD AGAIN.
 - *Do you read the scriptures to know how you can partner with God in His plan to restore people to Him, or do you read them looking for a quick fix for yourself or your circumstances?*

V3. THE REPORT IS NOT GOOD

- THE THIRD WAVE OF EXILES ARE ABOUT TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM.
- THE WALLS ARE THE FORTIFICATION FOR THE CITY. THE WALLS ALSO REPRESENT THE POSTURE OF ITS PEOPLE. THROUGHOUT THE BOOK WE CAN SHIFT PERSPECTIVES AND LEARN FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES. THE WALLS PROTECTED THE CITY, IT'S PEOPLE AND THE TEMPLE.

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- IF YOU ARE IN CHRIST, YOU ARE NOW THAT SAME TEMPLE-THE VERY DWELLING PLACE OF GOD
 - *Can you personally identify with the vulnerability of the picture of a city without walls?*
 - *Have there been times in your life that you wish your walls were stronger—more protective?*
 - *Can you relate to the rebuilding process after the destruction of man?*
 - THE JEWS WERE A PEOPLE CHOSEN BY GOD TO BE RESTORED TO HIM AND A PLACE OF WORSHIP
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| 1. ZERUBBABEL | REBUILT TEMPLE/ALTAR | 536-530, 520-516BC | EZRA 1-6 |
| 2. EZRA | TEACH THE TORAH | 458BC | EZRA 7-10 |
| 3. NEHEMIAH | REBUILD THE WALLS | 445BC | NEH 1-7 |

V4-11. PRAYER IS NEHEMIAH'S FIRST RESPONSE WHEN HE MOVES HIS FAITH INTO ACTION

- PRAYER IS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN HIS CALL AND HIS ACTION (16 WEEK SPAN-NEH 2:1)
- THIS PRAYER SHOWS THE TRAJECTORY OF HOW HE PRAYED OVER THAT TIME.
 - REORIENTS HIS HEART AND HIMSELF IN LIGHT OF THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE
 - PERSPECTIVE SHIFT OF HIS HIGHNESS AND OUR SMALLNESS
 - CONFESSES SIN INDIVIDUALLY AND CORPORATELY
 - ELUDES TO THE EXODUS
 - ASKS FOR SUCCESS.... NOT FOR HIMSELF OR HIS GLORY, BUT FOR GOD'S
 - POSTURES HIMSELF AS A SERVANT OF THE LORD
- WHAT: NEHEMIAH IS ABOUT TO APPROACH THE KING, BECAUSE GOD PUT HIM IN A POSITION OF TRUST AND PROXIMITY FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS (SIMILAR TO ESTHER)

There is an incredible amount of talents, skills, resources, gifts,, and time in this room that is not yet fully mobilized to bring God glory.

That is why we are here.