

## Passion for Our People: Nehemiah 1:1-11

In this talk on the first chapter of Nehemiah, we will learn about courageous leadership from Nehemiah's passionate and persevering prayer for his people.

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### I. Historical Background

- A. 538 BC People begin to return from Exile to Jerusalem.
- B. 516 BC The Temple is rebuilt.
- C. 458 BC Ezra returns to Jerusalem.
- D. Rebuilding of the walls begins and is stopped.
- E. 445 BC Nehemiah is introduced.

### II. Bad News from the City (1:1-3)

- A. Queries about the people and the city
- B. Trouble and shame

### III. Burden for the City (1:4A)

- A. The tendency of "Outsiders" to be critical

- B. The tendency of “Insiders” to resignation
  - C. “Outsiders” with commitment can ignite passion
- IV. Persevering Prayer (1:4B)
- A. Four months of prayer
  - B. *Proskartereo*: To persist, to be devoted to
  - C. Not because God is reluctant to bless
  - D. We are engaging in war (Ephesians 6:18)
  - E. When people with a burden join hands – a prayer movement begins
    - 1. Jeremiah Lanphier
- V. A Leader Who Prayed
- A. A brilliant leader who also was committed to prayer
    - 1. Moses – Deuteronomy 9-10
    - 2. Peter – Acts 6:4
    - 3. Samuel – 1 Samuel 12:23

VI. Nehemiah's Prayer 1:5-11

A. A prayer that considers God's covenant 1:5

B. A prayer of confession 1:6-7

C. A holistic prayer 1:6-7, 11b

D. A prayer of solidarity 1:6

E. A Judgement influenced prayer 1:8-9

F. By one passionate for God's honour 1:10

G. By one who delights in God 1:11