

Ezra-Nehemiah Part 8

Major Theme

Study the Bible, pray, and advance the Gospel

Historical Setting and connection to Ezra

- Nehemiah begins around 445 BC. Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in 458 BC.
- Susa was the king of Persia's winter residence. It is a significant city, but not the capital.
- The walls being broken down and the gates burned are very likely the result of the events of Ezra 4.
 - Enemies attacked the Israelites
 - A letter was sent to Artaxerxes
 - Artaxerxes ordered the building to stop

The Report And Nehemiah's Prayer - Nehemiah 1:1-11

- Nehemiah's heart is broken because God's Kingdom is being attacked.
- Nehemiah's prayer shows that he knows who God is.
 - God of the heavens
 - Awesome, amazing, mighty
 - Gracious and keeps His promises
- Nehemiah's prayer shows that he knows the Bible
 - Nehemiah's prayer is based off of Deuteronomy 4:25-31
 - "But when they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their ancestors — their unfaithfulness that they practiced against me, and how they acted with hostility toward me, and I acted with hostility toward them and brought them into the

land of their enemies — and when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember my covenant with Jacob. I will also remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land." // Leviticus 26:40-42 (CSB)

- Nehemiah's prayer includes confession
 - "If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." // 1 John 1:8-9 (CSB)
- Nehemiah prays for the people of God
 - "We always thank God for all of you, making mention of you constantly in our prayers." // 1 Thessalonians 1:2 (CSB)
- Nehemiah's request is centered on the Kingdom of God
 - "In addition, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you," // 2 Thessalonians 3:1 (CSB)
 - "At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains, so that I may make it known as I should." // Colossians 4:3-4 (CSB)