

Twelve Lessons

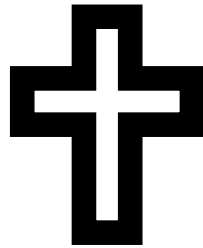
on

Nehemiah

Compiled and Written

by

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THE NEEDS OF NEHEMIAH – LESSON 1

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Introduction: Notice Verse 2 – This is the key verse of chapter 1. This verse shows the needs of Nehemiah. There is a parallel between Nehemiah and every church. Both need Revival.

Lesson Goals:

1. To qualify a genuine revival.
2. To verify the people of a genuine revival.
3. To vindicate the promises of a genuine revival.

Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:

1. Remnant – The part of a community or nation that remains after a dreadful judgment or devastating calamity, especially those who have escaped and remain to form the nucleus of a new community (Isa 10:20-23). The survival of a righteous remnant rests solely on God's providential care for His Chosen People and His faithfulness to keep His COVENANT promises. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
 2. Mourning – The experience or expression of grief, as at a time of death or national disaster. In biblical times, the customs of most cultures encouraged a vivid expression of grief. The people of that time would be puzzled by our more sedate forms of mourning. The Old Testament has many Hebrew words for mourning. These words range in meaning from anger and indignation to the more common idea of grief over a calamity or death. In addition to wailing and weeping, outward forms of mourning included tearing the clothes and wearing SACKCLOTH (Gen 7:34), fasting (Ps 35:13), and throwing dust upon the head (Lam 2:10). (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
 3. Covenant – An agreement between two people or two groups that involves promises on the part of each to the other. The concept of covenant between God and His people is one of the most important theological truths of the Bible. By making a covenant with Abraham, God promised to bless His descendants and to make them His special people. Abraham, in return, was to remain faithful to God and to serve as a channel through which God's blessings could flow to the rest of the world (Gen 12:1-3). (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
1. A Classic on Revival or Rebuilding a Life
 2. A Builder's Manual – Plans for renovating the Church does not mean building, for Jesus has already done that as He prophesied in Matt. 16:17. The Church needs Revival. There are 13 chapters in Nehemiah divided into two themes:
 - a. First 7 Chapters – Rebuilding, Reconstruction. Revival is a rebuilding of things we've let become decayed.
 - b. Last 6 Chapters – Revival, Restoration
 - c. There are some subtopics in the book of Nehemiah:
 - (1) There is no winning without warfare; this is a principle that is found in Nehemiah and the experience of every believer is that the devil declares war on anyone who tries to be a winner.
 - (2) There is no opportunity without opposition; we know Satan opposes every opportunity that is afforded the church.
 3. Every Revival – Like a House Needing Restoration
 - a. Like a building, the membership of the church weathers storms that cause destruction or decay upon the materials. Shingles on the roof, paint on the walls, and caulking around the windows are types of things that need repair. Wind and weather has an effect on buildings like the world, the flesh, and the devil effects Christians.
 - b. God has need of an individual to do his rebuilding.
 - (1) God uses people to win others, invite people to church, pray for Revival, and build churches.
 - (2) Charles Finney said to go home, draw a circle around yourself, and ask God to send revival to the person inside that circle.
 4. Nehemiah's Problem – He was not a preacher or a prophet but just an ordinary person that God could use to restore Jerusalem.
 - a. Nehemiah's problem was that he was too busy. He was the Kings cupbearer. His duties were to taste wine and guard the entrance to the Kings chamber.
 - b. Church members have "too" many irons in the fire. They are over committed to things that will look mighty small at the Judgment Seat.
 5. Nehemiah's Problem – Non-involvement

- a. This generation is condemned because there are more willing to be a spectator than a participator.
 - b. Illustration – Every church is divided into three groups: those who work, those who don't work, and those who don't care.
 - c. These two sins, being too busy and non-involvement, hinder revival. In verse 6, Nehemiah begins to confess his involvement in the sins of Israel. Notice his words, "*which WE have sinned against thee: both I and MY father's house have sinned.*"
6. Nehemiah – Vs. 2 – He is acting like he is concerned. He opens with an inquiry and needs an answer. He asked them how things are back home.

I. AN UNAFRAID WITNESS – Vs.3 – His question was acknowledged with a bold answer. This generation needs somebody to give them an answer!

A. We need a straight answer from God's Men.

- 1. There are three kinds of Preachers today:
 - a. Entertainers – A lot of people want a preacher to entertain them. They want them to preach "smooth things" to them. They want to be patted on the head, tickled under the chin and told sweet stories about the flowers on "Little Willie's Grave." This generation does not need to be entertained.
 - b. Enlighteners – People make the excuse, "I like to go to that church because he feeds me." The truth is that the only children fed at the house are babies, everyone else feeds themselves. Many people like "deep" preaching and want to know what the Greek and Hebrew definition is when they are not even practicing the English.
 - c. Exposers – Rom. 1:16 – "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation.*" The root word for "power" is dunamis. This is where we get our word "dynamite." Dynamite, if it does anything, blows the cover off, and therefore it exposes.
- 2. There are Three Messages Delivered
 - a. People – Afflicted – Vs. 3 – "*The remnant...are in great affliction and reproach*". We're sick, diseased, and afflicted from the top to the bottom.
 - b. Protection – Walls – "*The wall of Jerusalem also is broken down*"
 - c. Praise – Gates – "*the gates thereof are burned with fire*"
- 3. Country in Trouble – Type of Sins – Do an acrostic of sins using the alphabet. A – anger, b – bitterness, etc. There are plenty of sins to preach about if one would just investigate.
- 4. The beginning of Revival was when someone gave a straight answer.

II. AN UNCONTROLLED WEeping – Vs.4 – "*And it came to pass, when I heard these words*" – The result of a straight answer was uncontrolled weeping.

A. Needed to Weep

- 1. Three Results – Vs. 4 – "*I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.*" We should weep because there is a:
 - a. Lack of Brokenness – "sat" is to just to crumble, pass out, slump.
 - b. Lack of Burden – "mourned" – as Funeral mourning
 - c. Lack of Beseeching – "fasted and prayed" – We have our priorities wrong. We are more concerned about keeping a *saint* out of Heaven than keeping a *sinner* out of Hell.
- 2. God never has done anything until someone has gotten desperate. Do we need to get desperate about our country, and our churches?
 - a. Statistics – Every day in the U.S.A. there are 3,000 unwed teenage mothers, 4,000 abortions, and 2,000 teenagers who run away from home.
 - b. Open wicked sins like drugs, drinking, sex, pornography, and gambling are on the rise. Dead churches and dead preachers are producing no revivals, no converts and no changed lives.

III. AN UNFORGOTTEN WORD – Vs. 5

A. Needed Help – From the promises of God there is help on the way.

- 1. Claim the Promises – Verse 5 – He is a covenant keeping God. Isa. 54:10 – "*For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.*"
 - a. 33,000 promises of a covenant keeping God – We have a promise keeping God.
 - b. Claim promises like Jer. 33:3
- 2. Comply with the Promises – Verse 9

Conclusion: Nehemiah got what he needed. He was too busy and uninvolved but God met his needs and began to send Revival. In the next chapter, he got an audience with the King.