



1

Historical Background to Nehemiah

The Exile

The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and its temple in 586 BC, forcing many Jewish people into exile in Babylon.

The Return

Decades later, the Persian Empire conquered Babylon and allowed the Jewish people to return to their homeland in three main waves.



3

What do you
do when you
receive some
bad news?



5

Who was Nehemiah?

A Jewish cupbearer to the
Persian King Artaxerxes....

and someone with a close
relationship with God.



2

Three Returns

Nehemiah's story is part of the third wave of returning exiles.

First wave

Led by Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple (around 538 BC).

Second wave

Led by Ezra to teach the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures (around 458 BC).

Third wave

Led by Nehemiah to rebuild the city walls (around 445 BC).



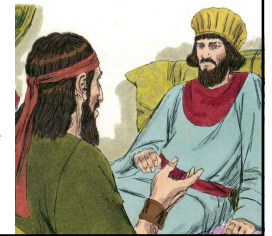
4

What did Nehemiah do when he received bad news? Nehemiah 1 verses 1 to 4 (Page 328)

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:
In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

³ They said to me, 'Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.'

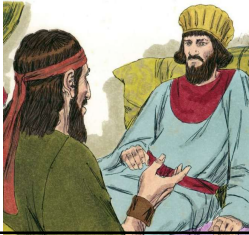
⁴ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.



6

What did Nehemiah do when he received bad news?

Sat down
Wept
Mourned
Fasted
Prayed



7

How did Nehemiah seek God's heart in prayer?

Praise
(verse 5)
Nehemiah lifts up praise and thanks to God for who He is and what He has done



9

How did Nehemiah seek God's heart in prayer?

Ask
(verses 8 to 10)
Nehemiah spoke words of faith for God's power to change the situation



11



NEHEMIAH

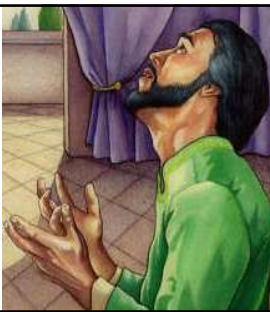
Pray Plan Revive

Seeking the Heart of God in Prayer - Nehemiah 1:1-11

8

How did Nehemiah seek God's heart in prayer?

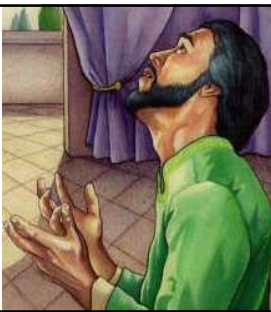
Repent
(verses 6 & 7)
Nehemiah allows God to show him things in his life that need to change



10

How did Nehemiah seek God's heart in prayer?

Yes!
(verses 10 & 11)
Nehemiah listened for God's voice & obeyed Him



12

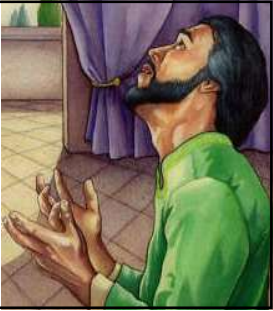
How did Nehemiah seek God's heart in prayer?

Praise

Repent

Ask

Yes!

An illustration of a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a green robe, kneeling in prayer with his hands clasped and looking upwards. He is in a room with a purple curtain in the background.

13

Praise ↑ Lift up praise & thanks to God for who He is and what He has done

Repent ↻ Allow God to show you things in your life He wants to change.

Ask ↓ Speak words of faith for God's power to change situations

Yes! ➡ Listen for God's voice and obey what He lays on your heart.

- Use Bible passages to fuel your prayers
- Write down daily notes
- Be ready to share your experiences next week!

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

15

6 day

PRAYER CHALLENGE

A close-up photograph of two hands raised in prayer, palms facing up, against a soft, golden light background.

14