

## Nehemiah, Man of God, Staying in the Flow

**Text:** Nehemiah 1:1-11, 2:1-5, Luke 10:9

**Prayer:** Our Father --- who art in heaven --- hallowed be thy name --- thy kingdom come. O lord God of my salvation, we stand here to day and some of us have been crying day and night for you to intercede in our lives, praying for all of us to be on one accord, praying for the resources to reach out to those that are lost, praying for release of any affliction and reproach that have crept into our midst.

**Focus: On a Man, Nehemiah, Stimulated to Pray**

- Leader --- A man of influence
- A man with impeccable character
- A humble man who was **honest and upfront** about how himself and the rest of Israel
- A man who when bad news came --- was **stimulated** not to react but to pray; and stimulated to pray for “certain” days
- Nehemiah means --The consolation of Yah --- One whom Yah comforts, aides
- Son of Hachaliah meaning one whom Yehovah enlightens
- Where was Nehemiah – In a place called in Shushan, where Persian Kings resided
- When: In the month Chisleu
- Nehemiah’s position – The King’s Cupbearer ”

**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:8**

*“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.”*

## Impact of the News brought to Nehemiah

1. Troubling and pressed hard upon him
2. Distressing --- perhaps resulting in anxiety, sorrow and pain
3. Perplexing --- the king's cupbearer --- without any resources to deal with the situation: the kind of thing that can be embarrassing --- without a clue as to which way to turn --- or how to go before the king! **Lord, what do I do!!!**
4. Undoubtedly caused him to meditate extensively about the **persecution that he would endure** from the Geshems and other enemies people that would try and drive him away, molest him, cause trouble, pursue --- in a hostile manner, and in any way, try to stop him from completing the assignment

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## Six Key Points

1. Being proactive versus being reactive
2. Putting first things first
3. Confessing and repenting
4. Remembering the word given to Moses – and not making the same mistakes
5. Benefits of **turning or returning unto** God and keeping His commandments
6. What happens we have favour with king, not just the Persian king but King Jesus

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## Point 1 Being proactive versus being reactive

**Verse 4** When I heard (**a careful hearing --- he responding appropriately**) this I **sat down** and **wept** (placing one's eyes in the palm of the hand) and **mourned** (flowing of tears) for **days** and **fasted** and **prayed [constantly]** before the God of heaven, (amp)

- *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

## **Point 2: Put God first and recognize who he is ---**

**Verse 5** *And said, I beseech (PLEADING) (I pray to the loving God) thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great (the one who is important in my life) and terrible (awesome) God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:*

- The "nun" is the fourteenth letter of the alef-beit, which equals "David," the progenitor of the eternal Kingdom of Israel. The heir to David is Mashiach ben David, of whom is said: "As long as the duration of the sun his name shall rule.<sup>1</sup> See Matthew 1:1, 9:27, 20:31
- Make it a mandate! Put first things first --- recognizing who God is --- **our life line**
- Our father who art in heaven, hallowed (**set apart**, **to be pure**) be thy name

## **Point 3 Confessions of a servant for the children**

**Verse 6** *Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and \*\*confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.*

- Lord I need your full attention
- I am praying before you **now, day and night**
- For the **children** of Israel thy **servants**
- **\*\*His amazing confession: meaning to throw, to throw down, to cast**

## **Point 3a Confessions of a servant for the children**

**Verse 7** *We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments (code of wisdom), nor the statutes, (to cut out, decree, inscribe, set, engrave, portray, govern) nor the judgments (to judge, govern, vindicate, punish), which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.*

- Dealt very corruptly --- To destroy, spoil, deal corruptly, offend, to be ruined
- Totally out of alignment ---- No where near the target

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<sup>1</sup> Exert from Grant Luton's book, In His Own Words. Here, he teaches on the Hebrew alphabets. David's name is spelled with the dalet, vav, and dalet, adding up to 14. Fourteen happens to be the 14<sup>th</sup> letter of the Hebrew alphabet and pictures a faithful man bent over in humility and walking in righteousness, called a *tzaddik*, a *righteous man*. See [www.hebrewforchristians.com](http://www.hebrewforchristians.com). This is an excellent site for someone who wants to begin studying the Hebrew language.

- And thou shalt **bind them** for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. (Deut. 6:8)
- Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: **bind them** about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: (Prov. 3:3)
- When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house: (1 Kings 8:33)
- And if thy people Israel be put to the worse before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee; and shall return and confess thy name, and pray and make supplication before thee in this house; When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them; (2 Chronicles 6:24, 26)
- If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

#### **Point 4 Remember words of Moses and not make the same mistakes**

**Verse 8** Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, **If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:**

**Note: God always says what he means and means what he says!**

- And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. (Lev. 26:33)
- <sup>63</sup>And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. <sup>64</sup>And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. <sup>65</sup>And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: <sup>66</sup>And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: <sup>67</sup>In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. (Deut. 28:6-63-67)

**Important: This is a stimulating message – to do the right thing!**

**Point 5** The benefits of turning unto God and keeping His commandments

**Verse 9-10** *But if ye **turn** unto **me**, and keep (to guard, to observe, to give heed, be a watchman, keep within bounds) my commandments, and **do (deal with it)** them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there. Now these [are] thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.*

- If you **return**, meaning – to return, to turn back, to turn back from evil and turn back to God – same word as repent.

**Strong's # 7725, שׁוּב, shuwb (shuv)**

- **Promise: “I will gather them from thence” --- Southern Kingdom, Judah and Jerusalem, the capital**

**Point 6 Favour with king (not just the Persian king but King Jesus)**

**Verse 11** *O LORD, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.*

**The Outcome**

- *Cupbearer who found favor king --- a Persian king*
- A man of influence: “nothing less and nothing more” (Maxwell)
- Provided with all the resources needed to bring restoration in 52 days!

Grace Tabernacle, World Ministries, there will be times when situations will arise that may be troubling --- as Nehemiah was troubled --- things that could lead to distress, even be perplexing and even leading the enemy, our adversary to try with all their might to **persecute the church and stop us from expanding the kingdom.**

What do we do? We follow the Pattern that the LORD, Yehovah, has laid down for us.

Flawless Plan Laid Out in the OT and Carried Forth in the New Testament when the Apostles and those in the upper room received the Promise, the Holy Spirit.

*“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. (Acts 2:42-43)*

What we do with our lives means something to God, especially when we humble ourselves and pray and seek his face. He will respond.

### **Other Things to Remember When We Pray**

- Be careful and to be devoted to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone and pleasing to God. (Titus 3:8)
- Share what you are doing on a need-to-know basis (Nehemiah 2:15-16) and let us all always continue to consider and motivate (stimulate), provoke, and encourage one another unto love and doing good works. (Hebrews 10:24)
- The work that Nehemiah was doing was a “good work” (Nehemiah 2:18). The enemy is always on his job (Nehemiah 2:10, 19). We have to be on our job as well (Nehemiah 2:18, 20). We have to keep pressing toward the mark --- enhance our prayer life and be an example to the flock and to those that are outside of the arc of safety.
- Remember, it’s not when we pray, it’s not if we fast, it’s not if we study, no, the operative word is “when”, not “if.”
  - Don't be like the hypocrite who uses vain repetitions
  - Enter thy closet and pray in secret
  - Take time each day to be alone with God -- away from the noise and any thing that hinders your private time with God.
  - Acknowledge who God is, confess, repent and return unto God, follow the pattern