



HAND ME MY SWORD

Eschatology | Unfolding Ancient Prophecies



NEHEMIAH SERIES

Nehemiah's Journey

02



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The Journey of Nehemiah

- Leadership should always start with serving – cupbearer.
- God only uses men & women of character – a life without lies.
- God has a habit of using layman – people without importance.
- Leaders classically make use of people closest to them – of the same beliefs.
- God loves working with people who see opposition as a challenge – endurance.
- Passionate people who have the heart to rebuild become His most active workers.





When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. I said, "I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father's house have sinned. "We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. "Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.' "They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand. "O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man." Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

Nehemiah 1:4-11





RECORDING THE JOURNEY

Jewish tradition identifies Nehemiah himself as the primary author of this historical book. Much of the book is written from his first-person perspective. Jewish history, plus the Bible, unfolds Nehemiah's story as a servant - serving in the Persian royal court as the personal cupbearer to King Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 1:11–2:1). His position was not lowly. Cupbearers are the highest & most trusted positions within a king's service.

IT ALL STARTS WITH SERVITUDE

NEHEMIAH'S PERIOD OF SERVICE

The book of Nehemiah opens in the Persian city of Susa (now Iran) in the year 444 BC. Later that year, Nehemiah traveled to Israel, leading the third of three returns by the Jewish people following their seventy years of exile in Babylon. (The book of Ezra describes the earlier two returns.) Most of the book centers on events in Jerusalem. The narrative concludes around the year 430 BC, and scholars believe the book was written shortly thereafter.



The Last Book Before Christ's Arrival

Nehemiah is the last historical book of the Old Testament. Although the book of Esther appears after Nehemiah in the canon, the events in Esther occurred in the period between Ezra 6 and 7, between the first and second returns of the people to Israel. The prophet Malachi was a contemporary of Nehemiah.

Savior to The **JEWS**

Under Nehemiah's leadership, the Jews withstood opposition and came together to accomplish their goal. Nehemiah led by example, giving up a respected position in a palace for hard labor in a politically insignificant district. He partnered with Ezra, who also appears in this book, to solidify the political and spiritual foundations of the people. Before God, Nehemiah's humility provided an example for the people. He did not claim glory for himself but always gave God credit for his successes.



A HEAVENLY DEMONSTRATION OF LEADERSHIP

NEHEMIAH

Model of LEADERSHIP

Nehemiah's life provides a fine study on leadership. He overcame opposition from outsiders as well as internal turmoil. He exercised his administrative skills in his strategy to use half the people for building while the other half kept watching for the Samaritans who, under Sanballat, threatened attack (Nehemiah 4–7).



Secretive Intel

God Makes Use of Intel

One day, in the 20th year of the reign of King Darius, Nehemiah was speaking to his brother Hanani. He asked Hanani how the Jews who had journeyed to Israel years earlier were doing. The Temple had been rebuilt more than 12 years before this, and the Jews of Babylon were eager to hear news of their fellow Jews' lives.



Primary Principles of Our Lesson

Remembering The Top Points of Governing Authority

1.

RECORD

Document your journey with Jesus Christ for future generations.

2.

SLAVE

Consider your bond-slavery to Jesus Christ. Avoid anti-slavery movements.

3.

SAVIOR LEADERS

Don't muzzle the mouths of prophets & leaders of the Living God. Empower them.

4.

GODLY SUBMISSION

Honor all existing authorities – good & bad. Worldly submission demonstrates Godly submission.

We Are Just Getting Warmed Up

03

Nehemiah's Leaders

Quality leaders gain information from loyal followers.

Great leaders are as effective as the leaders who serve them. Greatness comes from the blueprint of authority.





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