

NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

Introduction

Imagine being ripped away from your home and family, carried away to a country that you had only heard about, but never been to. You didn't speak its language. You were not familiar with its customs. You only knew these people as the ones that had invaded your country, destroyed your homes, killed your neighbors and separated you from your family. How would you feel about living under such a government? It sounds like something out of World War II, doesn't it? However, it is something that has repeatedly happened throughout history. It has happened to God's people. In the 700's BC the Assyrians invaded the northern portion of Israel and deported the people, destroying their land and taking them to Assyria. It happened to the southern portion of Israel as the Babylonians completed their conquest by destroying the capital city of Jerusalem in 586 BC and deporting its people leaving utter devastation in its wake. How would you feel about living under a government that had inflicted such pain on you, your family, your people? It would be difficult to say the least. You might seek any chance for even the slightest bit of revenge.

Nehemiah found himself living during such a period of time. He knew the history of how his government had treated his ancestors. How did Nehemiah live under such a government? Let's listen and learn.



NEHEMIAH 1:1-11 READ & REVIEW

1. When and where did Nehemiah live?
2. What was Nehemiah interested in learning from his fellow-Jew Hanani?

3. Describes Hanani's report to Nehemiah.

4. How did Nehemiah respond to this news?

5. Look at Nehemiah's prayer. What did Nehemiah admit about the destruction that had fallen on Jerusalem?

6. When we see what is taking place in our own country, how is our response similar to Nehemiah's?

7. What position did Nehemiah hold within the Persian government? What does this say about Nehemiah?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As we are saddened and frustrated by the things that we see taking place in our country, let's begin by following Nehemiah's example. Let's be grieved by what we see and the sin that has brought it about, our own sin and the sin of others. Let's pray for the Lord's forgiveness and mercy that he may bring people to recognize him as God and Savior. Let's pray for wisdom and strength to make use of opportunities for us to help. Along the way let's be faithful in whatever the Lord calls us to do never knowing what opportunities may come from it.