

Rebuilding Our Defense
Nehemiah 1
Hear, Weep, Pray

A little historical background...

- 586 BC King Nebuchadnezzar conquers Jerusalem, Jews are taken in exile to Babylon. Destruction of the temple.
- 539 BC King Cyrus of Persia overthrows/ conquers Babylon.
- 538 BC King Cyrus issues decree that the Jews in exile are free to return home.
- 537 BC First group of exiles returns to Jerusalem.
- 536 BC Rebuilding of the temple begins.
- 516 BC Temple complete.
- 458 BC Ezra arrives in Jerusalem.
- 445 BC Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem- work begins on rebuilding the walls.

“As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”

Nehemiah 1:4

Life Application: God longs to hear and answer prayers of repentance and humility.

Point: Listen intently to what others are saying.

“And I asked them concerning the Jews...And they said to me...”
Nehemiah 1:2,3

Point: Pray passionately and specifically in response to the needs you hear about.

How does Nehemiah pray?

1. He acknowledges who God is and His faithfulness and love.
2. He requests God’s full attention.
3. He prays for God’s people- not himself.
4. He confesses the sins of his people.
5. He confesses that he and his household are guilty of sin as well.
6. He remembers God’s promises and prays them back to God.
7. He requests favor and mercy.

Principles of Nehemiah’s Prayer

1. He hears the need and is driven to deep prayer.
2. Nehemiah prays- he does not ask others to pray.
3. He prays before he takes any action.
4. He responds and will then lead from a posture of constant prayer.

Personal Application...

If you see a need, pray, then do something about it! If you do not see a need, you are not looking!

Sermon by Pastor Dave Williams on Sunday, June 14th, 2015
Next week: Rebuilding our Defense, Nehemiah 2 & 3