



Mount Vernon
Baptist Church

Midweek Study

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REBUILDING my BROKEN WORLD



Through Nehemiah

God Speaks Through a Burden

Nehemiah 1:1-4

I. THE CONCERN

586 BC – Babylon destroys Jerusalem

2 Chronicles 36:18–19 (NKJV) — And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions.

Psalms 137:1-6 (NKJV) — 1 By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion. 2 We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it. 3 For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” 4 How shall we sing the LORD’s song In a foreign land? 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget its skill! 6 If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth— If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy.

538 BC – Zerubbabel leads people back to Jerusalem

516 BC – The Temple rebuilt

2 Chronicles 36:22 (NKJV) — 22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

Isaiah 44:26 (NKJV) — 26 Who confirms the word of His servant, And performs the counsel of His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be inhabited,’ To the cities of Judah, ‘You shall be built,’ And I will raise up her waste places;

Isaiah 44:28 (NKJV) — 28 Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, “You shall be built,” And to the temple, “Your foundation shall be laid.”’

Isaiah 45:1 (NKJV) — 1 “Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:

200 years before this moment, Cyrus was prophesied about by name.

445 BC – Nehemiah, under Artaxerxes

He was the cupbearer of the king.

He hears about the troubling news:

- 1) The walls are broken down
- 2) The city is defenseless against attack
- 3) The reproach on the name and reputation of God Himself. Is this God’s place/city? What kind of God is this, Who cannot even protect His city from ruin?

II. THE COMPULSION – Nehemiah “wept”

2 Corinthians 5:14 – the love of Christ COMPELS us.

Matthew 9:36 – Jesus was MOVED WITH COMPASSION.

Before you can rebuild, you first have to weep over the ruins.

- Psalm 30:5 – “weeping endures for the night, but joy comes in the morning.”

- Matthew 5:4 – “blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.”

When did you last cry? What was it about?

Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision, was taken to an abandon child in China by a poor woman who asked, “What will you do about this?” He committed to sending \$5 per month to help the child and World Vision was born. He once said, “Oh God, may our hearts break for what breaks Your heart.”

III. THE CALLING

Robert Jeffress once said “Need + Opportunity + Passion = Calling”

Isaiah 49:14–16 (NKJV) — 14 But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me.” **15** “Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. **16** See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.