A Renewed Remnant

Lesson 10

Nehemiah Is Distraught Over Jerusalem (Neh. 1)

Introduction

Coming to Nehemiah's portion of the remnant's story, these facts must be remembered…

- It has been 91 years since Zerubbabel led the 1st return (Ezra 2)
- It has been 71 years since the temple was completed (Ezra 6:15)
  - The remnant wasted 16 years before completing it by ignoring this important work
- It has been 13 years since Ezra led the 2nd return (Ezra 7:8)

In many ways the remnant was still struggling mightily. The people were in great reproach & distress. Without walls, the city still had no sense of permanence, and continued to evidence the shambles left by Nebuchadnezzar. It definitely had no protection.

The remnant's first 2 returns focused on ***spiritual*** necessities…

- Building the Lord's house; reinstituting proper worship
- Re-establishing the "spiritual infrastructure"; teaching those who were ignorant of the Law

The conditions reported to Nehemiah (v. 3) were of a ***physical*** nature. No doubt, these physical conditions also had a negative impact upon the spiritual health of the remnant. The situation was definitely dire. As we would say..."*Somebody has to do something."* Nehemiah would be that "somebody."

1) What is the "time marker" given in v. 1?

2) Who comes to Nehemiah? (v. 2a) What was Nehemiah's question and what as Hanani's answer? (vv. 2b-3) How long had Jerusalem's walls been in despair?

3) How did Nehemiah react? (v. 4)

4) What did Nehemiah do in vv. 5-11a? Outline this prayer.

5) What information does Nehemiah provide about himself in v. 11b? Research what you can find about this position.