

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; reinstating 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 was Hanani's answer? (**vv. 2b-3**) How long had Jerusalem's walls been in despair?

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

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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.