

Nehemiah “Hand Me a Brick”

Paving the Way

Nehemiah 1:1-4 ESV

- 1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel,
- 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem.
- 3 And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”
- 4 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.

Paving the Way

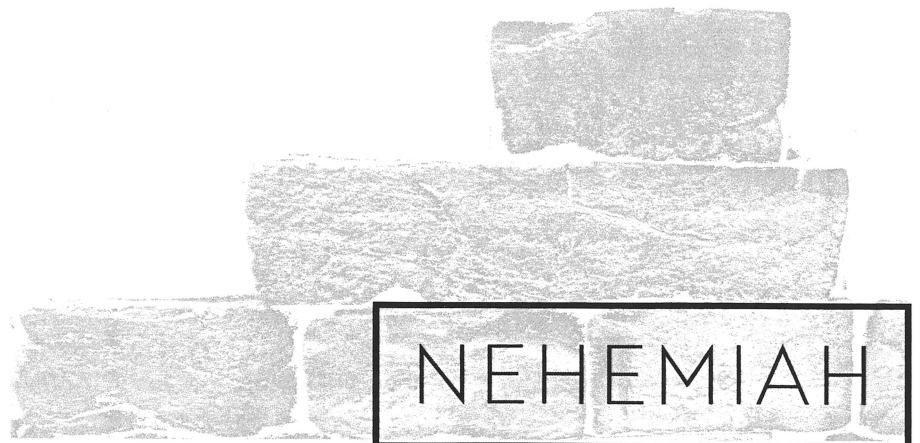
Look to the _____ of God’s people! Verse 2

Have _____ on God’s people! Verse 4

_____ for God’s people! Verse 4

The only footprints on the
sand of time that will
really last are the ones
made after kneeprints!

C. W. Renwik



Paving the Way for God

May 29, 2022

Open: What are your relationships like with your extended family?

Read & Discuss: Nehemiah 1:1-4

1. From verses 1-2, what can we learn about Nehemiah and the situation of the Jewish people? From what you know of biblical history, what else could you share that might be helpful to understanding the context of Nehemiah? (*See Ezra 1:1-4; 7:11-13; Nehemiah 2:5-8. Your Bible's study notes might also help.*)
2. Verse 2 tells us Nehemiah had a concern for the welfare of God's people in other places. Why should we be concerned with other believers outside of our own church? What do you find helps you stay informed about the welfare of believers in other places?
3. Why would the situation of the Jewish people, as described in verse 3, cause Nehemiah such great concern?
4. Start by thinking globally. What are some situations of Christians around the world that cause you concern? Which of these have stirred you to action? What sorts of things have you done to help remedy those situations?
5. Now think about our own church. What are some situations in our own church that have caused you concern? Which of these have stirred you to action? What sorts of things have you done to help remedy those situations?
6. What can we learn from Nehemiah's example in verse 4 about how to respond when we see God's people in need? What should we do if we don't have such a heart for God's people?

Apply: Take some time this week to seek God's leading regarding where His people are in need and where His hand is needed. Write down your thoughts and bring these before God. Ask Him to incline your heart toward right responses and to move His hand in mercy and grace.

Pray: As a group pray for the state of our world. Pray for mercy for the victims of these horrible recent shootings. Pray for those who are experiencing persecution for the cause of Christ. Lift up the families of Christian martyrs who are grieving the loss of their loved family members. Pray for spiritual vitality in the body of Christ, both locally and globally.

Nehemiah 1:1-4

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³ And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

⁴ 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. (ESV)