

## **Nehemiah (God is Faithful)**

October 30, 2022

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### **Nehemiah 1:1-3**

*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.”*

### **2 Timothy 3:15-17**

*15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. Cf. 2 Timothy 1:5; 13-14*

These sacred writings are the Torah and Prophets.

**Jeremiah** speaks of Israel’s unfaithfulness to God. He prophesies that God will judge them through Babylon, which ends up being for 70 years. God would not abandon his people and there is hope and healing to come.

In **Ezra**, Cyrus comes to conquer the Babylonians (1:1-5). Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel, and Jeshua lead the return and rebuilding of the temple (1-6). Ezra, the priest, leads a return and restoration of the Torah and Temple (7-10).

**Nehemiah** leads the return and rebuilding the city walls (1-7), covenant renewed established with Israel (8-12a), Temple or Torah ignored (12b-13)

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- Nehemiah was a layman, not a priest like Ezra or a prophet like Jeremiah.
- Month of Chislev – is a winter month
- Susa – was the capital of the Persian Empire, modern day Iran.

*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.”*

- Cities were built inside of walls and gates which were their primary defense system to protect and survive as people.

**2 Timothy 2:13** *if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.*

### **Discipleship Homework:**

Read through the book of Ezra this week.

Spend time writing stories of God's faithfulness in your life.

Some Recommendations:

1. Begin prayerfully. Before writing, start with a brief prayer. You can ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your memory examples from your life where God has shown up.
2. Read scripture. Scripture can give context of who God is and what God does. Make sure to write down scriptures in your stories.
3. Talk with others in your life. Conversations will sometimes unlock memories we have that can point to testimonies of God in our life.
4. End with gratitude. Make sure to give God glory He is due.