



\*Nehemiah #1

08/24/08

## “Building and Battling for the Kingdom of God”

### *Does Anybody Really Care?*

Nehemiah 1:1-11

#### 1. He cared enough to ask (Neh. 1:1–3)

Nehemiah was a layman, cupbearer to the great “Artaxerxes Longimanus,” who ruled Persia from 464 to 423 B.C. He is identified as the son of Hachaliah to distinguish him from other Jews of the same name (Neh. 3:16; Ezra 2:2).

*Nehemiah means “The Lord has comforted.”*

#### 2. He cared enough to weep (Neh. 1:4)

\*The Jews sit down when they mourned (Ezra 9:1–4; 2:13\*Psalms 137:1).

\*Sometimes weeping is a sign of weakness; but with Nehemiah, it was a sign of strength, as it was with Jeremiah (Jer. 9:1), Paul (Acts 20:19), and the Lord Jesus (Luke 19:41).

#### 3. He cared enough to pray (Neh. 1:5–10)

*a. Ascription of praise to God (1:5)*

*b. Confession of sin (1:6–9) \*Deuteronomy 28:63–67 and 30:1–10*

*c. Expression of confidence (Neh. 1:10–11) \*Proverbs 21:2*

#### 4. He cared enough to volunteer (Neh. 1:11)

*\*Abraham Cared... \*Moses cared... \*David cared... \*Esther Cared...*

*\*Paul Cared... \*Jesus\* Cared and died on the cross for a lost world!*

*Q. Do I Care enough to advance the Kingdom of God?*

*Q. What is God able to do in and through me?... \*Ephesians 3:20-21*

God is still looking for people who care, people like Nehemiah, who cared enough to ask for the facts, weep over the needs, pray for God’s help, and then volunteer to get the job done.

*“Here am I, Lord—send me!” Isaiah 6:8*

Settlements of the Persian Province of Judah  
According to Ezra and Nehemiah



## **NEHEMIAH PREFACE: “BE DETERMINED!”**

Speaking of Nehemiah, **Charles Spurgeon** said, “*We are not called to govern, as he did, with an iron hand, but we ought to be equally inflexible, decided, and resolute for God, and for His holy will.*”

In other words, God calls us to **Be Determined!**

God’s work has never been easy, and in these last days it is getting more and more difficult to serve. The enemy is hurling his ammunition at us as never before and is setting his subtle traps where we least expect them.

But the same great God who enabled Nehemiah to finish building the walls of Jerusalem will enable us to finish our course with joy and accomplish the work He has called us to do. There is no reason to quit or even to despair!

In my estimation, when it comes to leadership, Nehemiah stands with Old Testament heroes like Moses, Joshua, and David. It has done my heart good to study this book afresh and learn from Nehemiah the secrets of resolute leadership and successful service. **I trust that reading these chapters will increase your own determination to serve God faithfully and finish your ministry with joy.**

*Warren W. Wiersbe*

### **Nehemiah Outline**

#### **I. Repairing the Walls (1–6)**

##### **A. Preparation** (1–2)

1. A concerned leader (1)
2. A cooperating king (2:1–8)
3. A challenged people (2:9–20)

##### **B. Cooperation**—the people work (3)

##### **C. Opposition** (4:1–6:19)

1. Ridicule (4:1–6)
2. Force (4:7–9)
3. Discouragement (4:10)
4. Fear (4:11–23)
5. Selfishness (5)
6. Guile (6:1–4)
7. Slander (6:5–9)
8. Threats (6:10–19)

#### **II. Reviving the People (7–13)**

##### **A. The citizens registered** (7)

##### **B. The Word of God proclaimed** (8)

##### **C. The nation’s sins confessed** (9)

##### **D. The holy covenant ratified** (10–12)

##### **E. The nation’s sins cleansed** (13)