

Ebenezer Youth Fellowship
Text: Nehemiah 1: 1-11
Message 1: The Book of Nehemiah – Chapter 1

1. Introduction to the Book of Nehemiah

- (a) Date: 420BC; Author: Nehemiah
- (b) Historical setting: Return of the Jews from 70 years captivity.
There were 3 returns led by Zerubbabel (536BC), Ezra (458BC) & Nehemiah (445BC).
- (c) Summary of the Book: Chapter 1-7: Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem
Chapter 8-13: Spiritual restoration of the people
- (d) Lessons to be learned: Leadership, Serving God, Overcoming Difficulties

2. Introduction to the man Nehemiah (1:1,11b)

- (a) Nehemiah means “comforted by Jehovah”. He was a Jew in captivity. He served in Shushan, the palace of the king of Persia as the king’s cupbearer.
- (b) Date of record: Chisleu (9th month); 20th year of reign of Persian king Artaxerxes.

3. Report of the conditions in Jerusalem (1:2-3)

- (a) Nehemiah was concerned to ask
- (b) The conditions in Jerusalem were very bad

4. Nehemiah’s Response: Prayer to the God of Heaven (1:4-11)

- (a) Tears and mourning – lead to fasting and prayer. Shows a deep concern for God’s people and God’s House
- (b) Model Prayer to follow:
 - Worship (v.5)
 - Confession of sins (v.6-7)
 - Petition (v.8-11)

Nehemiah: Man of Concern & Man of Prayer

Memory Verse: Nehemiah 1:4 “ And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.”