“Weeping Over The City”
Nehemiah 1:4-11
Never Underestimate The Power of Prayer!

What Happened Between Nehemiah 1:3-4?
“great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down…”

And

Nehemiah 6:15 – “So the wall was completed... in 52 days!”

EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR THE JEWS!
The **Backdrop and Parallels to Today**

*Judah carried into captivity, Babylon, 587 BC*

*Babylon **overtaken by Cyrus/Persia**, who released the Jews to return to Jerusalem in 539 BC:*

* Vs. 1 – “20th year” about 445 B.C.

* The report from Jerusalem
  “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire” (Nehemiah 1:3)
How Nehemiah Prayed

Note: Addressing **Core** Issus

Vs. 5 – **Praise** for God’s character and ways

Vs. 6 – **Appeal for His ear** – “day and night”
i.e. a consuming burden on his heart

Vs. 6 – Confessed **national** and **personal** sins

Vs. 7 – Including **specific points** of deviation

Vs. 8-9 – Called on God’s promises

Vs. 10-11 – Personal petitions – what he needed
Note The Focus of His Burden:

**Sin! Not the Captivity!**

Strategic here:
Nehemiah came to terms with the discipline of captivity

“all the exiles I (the Lord) have sent into exile…”

....“When 70 years have been completed”

(Jer. 29:10).

So his focus was = **redemption** not resistance!

**Confession**, not complaint!
The **Message** of His Tears...

*Our* circumstance fraught with ANGER ...  

Anger says...  

“I want what I have coming...my way!”  

“I want control!”  

“I will neutralize/overcome obstacles...”

Nehemiah’s tears:  

* had nothing to do with Babylon!”  

* deep, broken regret over sin!”

BTW – on the cross – Jesus “Father, forgive them”  

NOT a complaint against his crucifiers”

2 Chronicles 7:14 – “If MY people...”
God Moves When Hearts Are Burdened!

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled…” (Matt 5:6).

Nehemiah was cupbearer (1:11). And sacrificed worldly pleasure/treasure for Kingdom advance! ... is what you’re living for worth dying for????

Fasting is designed to break down the physical appetites
“His Burden Drove Him to Personally Inspect Jerusalem in Shambles!”

Don’t miss this – Nehemiah 2:5,11,15 – He had to confront and inspect the consequences of their corporate sin before it could be corrected!

The disarray he saw broke his heart for passionate prayer!

Nehemiah WEPT over the city of Jerusalem!!
Good News! God Responds

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:17).

“And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me” (Nehemiah 2:8)
500 Years Later Another One Wept Over Jerusalem

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem....how often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings” (Matthew 23:37).

The spiritual rubble Jesus found in Jerusalem:

* Closed hearts – John 1:11
* Religious, legalistic hearts – strain at gnat, swallow a camel (Matthew 23:24).
* Hatefulness to the Light (John 10:31).
Praying for Our Nation
Monday Night, Nov. 7th 7:00 p.m.

Praying for our nation!

Repentance from personal/family/national sin

Pray His promises!

Pray for a burden – to the point of fasting/prayer!