

# Calling America Back To God

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Nehemiah 1:1-3

*1 It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan[a] the citadel, 2 that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."*

Introduction:

Historical Setting: the nation of Israel has been taken captive and Nehemiah gets a report from Jerusalem about the condition of the city and the people there.

I believe our nation has been taken captive by the world, the flesh, and the devil.

God gave us abundance we have turned it to greed.

God gave us freedom we have turned it to license.

The country was dedicated by our founding fathers to God, but there are strong forces and voices out there today that would have God removed from every public arena.

We need Recovery where we have been taken captive.

We need Revival where there is no life.

We need to Rebuild where walls have been torn down.

Nehemiah goes back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls around the city.

We need walls of:

protection

separation

conservation

identification

Rebuild in our nation with the gates of liberty and freedom.

**Nehemiah did 3 things to be able to rebuild the walls. I believe we need these same 3 things in America.**

I. Nehemiah was able to visualize the needs

*1 It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan[a] the citadel, 2 that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, “The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.”*

A. He saw that the walls of defense had fallen. In 1808 John Coran said: “Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.”

There are 9 steps toward growth and disintegration of a nation or society.

1. From bondage to spiritual faith
2. From spiritual faith to courage
3. From courage to liberty
4. From liberty to abundance
5. From abundance to selfishness
6. From selfishness to complacency
7. From complacency to apathy
8. From apathy to dependence
9. From dependence back to bondage

B. He saw that the walls of decency had fallen.

50% of Americans say those who have children out of wedlock should not be subjected to moral reproach of any kind.

Ages 18-34 – 70% said that there should be no judgment as to whether or not a couple should be married to have a baby. There are 4 questions that are asked today.

1. Does character make any difference in the election of public officials?
2. Does wisdom make a difference in the election of public officials?
3. Does example make a difference in the election of public officials?
4. Does trust make a difference in the election of public officials?

### C. He saw that the wall of doctrine had fallen

We are told that we must tolerate a new and modern gospel for a new and modern era.

## II. Nehemiah agonized over the needs

*4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*

*5 And I said: "I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You[b] and observe Your[c] commandments, 6 please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. 8 Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;[d] 9 but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.'[e] 10 Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. 11 O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man."*

*For I was the king's cupbearer. Nehemiah 1:4-11*

Four elements of Nehemiah's prayer:

#### 1. It was a prayer of Contrition

*4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:4*

"He sat down and wept and mourned for many days"  
Someone has described the church today as a "dry-eyed church in a hell-bent world."

#### 2. It was a prayer of Confession

*5 And I said: "I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You[b] and observe Your[c] commandments, 6 please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I*

*have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. Nehemiah 1:5-7*

- a. He confessed their National sin
- b. He confessed their Personal sin.

“. . . and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against you. Both my father's house and I have sinned.”

“If my people . . .” 2 Chronicles 7:14

### 3. It was a prayer of confidence

*8 Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;[d] 9 but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’[e] 10 Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. Nehemiah 1:8-10*

### 4. It was a prayer of commitment (v. 11)

*11 O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”  
For I was the king's cupbearer. Nehemiah 1:11*

## III. Nehemiah organized to meet the needs (Chapter 2)

*1 And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. 2 Therefore the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart.”*

*So I became dreadfully afraid, 3 and said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?”*

*4 Then the king said to me, “What do you request?”*

*So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it.”*

*6 Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), “How long will your journey be? And when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.*

*7 Furthermore I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River,[a] that they must permit me to pass through till I come*

to Judah, **8** and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple,[b] for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Nehemiah did 3 things to organize:

1. He sought the King's permission

*5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."*

*6 Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.*

2. He received the King's protection

*7 Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River,[a] that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah,*

3. He obtained the King's provision (v 8)

*8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple,[b] for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.*

**Conclusion: God does business with those who mean business.**

We sometimes can't win the game for stumbling over our own players.

*We give without sacrifice. We pray without fasting.*

*We witness without tears. No wonder we sow without reaping!*

*The question to ask is: **God what are you saying to me?***