

Strategy Lessons from the Life of Nehemiah

**Nehemiah's
Prayer Strategy**



Spiritual “LIFE” Messages In Nehemiah

1. No Winning without Working and Warring
2. No Opportunity without Opposition
3. No Triumph without Trouble
4. No Victory without Vigilance
5. No “Open Door” without Adversaries
6. There is a Cross in the way of every Crown that is worth wearing

•*Nehemiah Bible Commentary*

HIDDEN MESSAGE FOUND THROUGHOUT NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah 1:1-2 The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah

- *Nehemiah—Jehovah Comforts*
- *Hacaliah—Jehovah Enlightens*
- *Susa—"lily"; restoration and abundance after repentance; beauty*
- *Hanani—Gracious*
- *Kislev—9th Month...His Confidence; Number of finality & judgment*
- *Number 20—Expectation*

THE MESSAGE: OUR ASSIGNMENT IS BIRTHED OUT OF INTIMACY WITH GOD

Whom Jehovah enlightens, by His grace He comforts, and we find ourselves in a place of His confidence, fully expecting the final outcome of the dream of restoration and abundance that He has planted in our hearts.

THE REPORT & NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

Nehemiah 1:3–4 (NLT)

3 They said to me, “Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.” **4** When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

1. NEHEMIAH SAW THE NEED
2. NEHEMIAH WAS COMFORTABLE WHERE HE WAS...CUPBEARER
3. NEHEMIAH LOVED THE CITY, JERUSALEM
4. NEHEMIAH CARRIED GOD'S PASSION
5. NEHEMIAH PRAYED

Whom Jehovah enlightens, by His grace He comforts, and we find ourselves in a place of His confidence, fully expecting the final outcome of the dream of restoration and abundance that He has planted in our hearts.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER STRATEGY

#1: RECOGNIZE GOD'S NAME AND CHARACTER

Nehemiah 1:5 (NLT)

Then I said, “O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments

Matthew 6:9 (TPT)

Pray like this: ‘Our Father, dwelling in the heavenly realms, may the glory of your name be the center on which our lives turn.

GOD IS HIS NAME!

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING WHO GOD IS!

- **Jeremiah 9: 24 (NLT)** — 24 But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: **that they truly know me** and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the Lord, have spoken!
- **Psalms 91:14** "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because **he knows my name**
- **Daniel 11:32** but the people that do **know their God** shall be strong and do *exploits*.
- **John 17:3** Now this is eternal life: that **they may know you**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

#2: CONFESS ALL SIN

Nehemiah 1:6–7 (NLT)

6 listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! 7 We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

- 1 John 1:9 (NLT) — But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.
- Proverbs 28:13 (NLT) — People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

CONFESSION MUST LEAD TO REPENTANCE

- Confession means to agree with God on His assessment of our actions and thoughts, and to name our sin to God.
- Confession is not pleading for forgiveness. Jesus forgives confessed sin. Confession must lead to a turning away from the sinful behavior.
- Jesus forgives...we confess and repent – turn away from the confessed sin.
- Cheap grace is preaching confession of sin without repentance.
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

#3: REMEMBER OUR COVENANT

Nehemiah 1:8–9 (NLT)

8 “Please remember what you told your servant Moses: ‘If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. 9 But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.’

- **Psalms 89:34** — My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.
- **Hebrews 8:6** (NLT) — But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

WHAT HAS GOD PROMISED THE BELIEVER?

- **FAMILY**...YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD WILL BE SAVED (Acts 16:31)
- **FINANCES**...GOD TEACHES YOU TO PROSPER (Isaiah 48:17; 58:11, Jer. 6:16)
- **HEALTH**...HEALS ALL YOUR DISEASES (Psalm 103:3; 1 Peter 2:24)
- **PEACE**...KEEPS US IN PEACE IF OUR MINDS ARE STAYED ON HIS (Isaiah 26:3)
- **WISDOM**...ASK AND RECEIVE (James 1:5; John 15:7)
- **PROTECTION**...AUTHORITY OVER THE ENEMY (Luke 10:19; Psalm 91)
- God's covenant was ratified by Christ for us, and every promise of God is ours **if we are in Christ.**
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NLT) — *For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.*

#4: ASK ACCORDING TO GOD'S REVEALED WILL

Nehemiah 1:11 (NLT)

O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me.” In those days I was the king’s cup-bearer.

- **1 John 5:14–15 (NLT)** — 14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. 15 And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.
- **Romans 8:27–28 (NLT)** — 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will. 28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

#5: TRUST GOD'S TIMING

Nehemiah 2:1–5 (NLT)

1 Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. **2** So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified, **3** but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." **4** The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, **5** I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

- Must know the timing of God to act when other people are involved

#5: TRUST GOD'S TIMING

Nehemiah 2:7–8 (NLT)

7 I also said to the king, “If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. **8** And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king’s forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself.” AND THE KING GRANTED THESE REQUESTS, BECAUSE THE GRACIOUS HAND OF GOD WAS ON ME.

- Nehemiah had processed his needs and was prepared for the right time
- “Success is when preparation and opportunity meet”.
- Must recognize and move during opportune moments
- Nehemiah received all he needed for the assignment.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER STRATEGY

1. RECOGNIZE THE CHARACTER OF GOD THROUGH HIS NAME
2. CONFESS ALL SIN
3. REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISES
4. ASK ACCORDING TO GOD'S REVEALED WILL
5. TRUST GOD'S TIMING