

# Introduction

Nehemiah is a man of God whose events are recorded nearly a hundred years after the first return of the exiles with Zerubbabel and about fifteen years after another group returns with Ezra. History sets the events of this book taking place in 445BC, making these events some of the last recorded events before the prophets go silent.

While there are many aspects that can be considered from Nehemiah, from religious, to political and social justice, we will be studying Nehemiah from the perspective of an urgent need and response - and what it means for us today.

1. What news did Nehemiah receive from Hanani?
2. Of the news Hanani gave, was the chief complaint?
3. According to verse 4, how did Nehemiah respond to this bad news?

As we continue to ask and answer questions, I think it is important we understand not just the posture of Nehemiah, but the historical circumstance as well.

As mentioned, Nehemiah takes place nearly 100 years after the first exiles

returned. Most of these exiles were not originally from Jerusalem, but were born in the Babylonian captivity - with the understanding there most likely were some who both lived for the exile and the return.

At this point, from the perspective of the Jew, they had been banished from Jerusalem and have made of themselves enemies of God.

4. How does Nehemiah address God (verse 5)

5. How might this surprise you given his historical and worldview narrative?

6. What does Nehemiah tell us about who God is?

7. Whose sins did Nehemiah Pray for?

8. Who was Nehemiah counting on for success?

## Application

Let's look at what happened in Nehemiah 1 and identify how we can respond to God in our own lives. While we will ask some questions that are just generic, we also want to look for application towards our goal in this study.

9. How do you respond to bad news?

10. Is your response from the flesh or the Spirit?  
- How long do you take to respond?

11. Our human tendency is to immediately act with bad news - Nehemiah states he prayed and fasted for several days. Do we respond to news (both good and bad) with prayer first - or action first? Which should we respond with first?

12. Does your time in prayer end as time in prayer, or does it lead to action in response and obedience to God? We will talk more about how Nehemiah responds later on.

Now that we've identified some personal application - Lets look at some corporate application.

13. What is the “Big Problem” or need for us as God’s people today? Think kingdom minded.

14. How should our prayers reflect this need?

15. How should we act and respond to this need beyond prayer? (In response to and obedience to the moving of God).

16. Who do we depend on for success or victory? Whose victory is it really?