

NEHEMIAH'S BURDEN
(Nehemiah 1:1-11)

- I. NEWS from Jerusalem (Neh. 1:1-3)
 - A. Establishing the IDENTITY of Nehemiah (1:1)
 - 1. His name means “The LORD COMFORTS”
 - 2. It was late-FALL to early-WINTER of 445 BC
 - 3. He was in SUSAN, the capital
 - B. Receiving the REPORT (1:2-3)
 - 1. A DELEGATION arrived from Jerusalem
 - 2. He asked about the status of the REMNANT and JERUSALEM
 - 3. They reported the PEOPLE were distressed and the WALLS and GATES were rubble
- II. DISTRESS in Susa (Neh. 1:4-11)
 - A. Nehemiah's CONFESSION of SIN (1:4-7)
 - 1. It came from profound GRIEF
 - 2. He acknowledged God's universal AUTHORITY
 - 3. He praised God's FAITHFULNESS
 - 4. He acknowledged the need for OBEDIENCE

5. He identified HIMSELF among the SINNERS
- B. Nehemiah's PLEA for God's HELP (1:8-11)
1. He acknowledged the JUSTICE of Israel's EXILE
 2. He claimed the PROMISE of RESTORATION if they RETURNED
 3. He affirmed that the Jews remained God's PEOPLE whom He had REDEEMED
 4. He asked God to make him "SUCCESSFUL" and grant him "COMPASSION" before the king
 5. He was CUPBEARER to the KING

III. Lessons

- A. Godly prayer acknowledges the AUTHORITY of SCRIPTURE
- B. When your prayer is CONSISTENT with Scripture, you can expect God to ANSWER
- C. DELIVERANCE comes ONLY from God
- D. Accomplishing the Lord's work frequently requires the service of DEDICATED LAYMEN
 1. Don't ABANDON the work to the "PROFESSIONALS"
 2. Don't HESITATE because you think you aren't QUALIFIED