

# *the* TAKE HOME 04.03.16

**Today's Scripture Passage:** Nehemiah 1:1-11 Pew Bible Page 342

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kisleb in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa,  
<sup>2</sup> Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."<sup>4</sup> When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.<sup>5</sup> Then I said: "LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,<sup>6</sup> let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you.<sup>7</sup> We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.<sup>8</sup> "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,<sup>9</sup> but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'<sup>10</sup> "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand."<sup>11</sup> Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."  
I was cupbearer to the king.

## Questions:

1. Why do you think Nehemiah was so disturbed about conditions in Jerusalem?
2. How is Nehemiah an example to us in this situation?
3. What significance is there that Nehemiah is cupbearer to the King?
4. What are some principles about prayer suggested by Nehemiah's continuous, persevering prayer? (vss.5-9)
5. Are these principles and Nehemiah's response to the news about Jerusalem instructive for us today? How?

**Exercise:** Read IIChron. 36:17-23; Ezra 1:1-5; 4. (for background on Nehemiah)

## Prayer:

1. Our witness to our neighbors in fallen tree matter (our tree fell into their home)
2. Those affected by disaster and terrorism
3. Our leaders (from church – national)
4. Our Pastoral Search Team's work