

**Keepers of the Gospel**  
*Reflections on Nehemiah*  
**Nehemiah 1**

Welcome to our brand-new study of the 16<sup>th</sup> book of the Bible, Nehemiah. As stated during the message, knowing its historical setting is indispensable to appreciating all it has to offer. Be sure to review some of the facts, all while remembering that our ultimate purpose is to glean life lessons from someone who heartily responded to the needs of God's kingdom. In fact, the kingdom needs you too!

Pastor Eric

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 **Understanding & Context**

Summarize the general historical setting to Nehemiah's story. Where is Nehemiah in the opening chapter?

What's the situation back Jerusalem at this point? Why were the broken walls of Jerusalem such a serious problem, even though the temple, such as it was, had been rebuilt?

What does Nehemiah's position as cupbearer indicate about his influence and opportunity? What stands out to you about Nehemiah's initial response to the news?

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 **Personal Reflection**

Nehemiah wept over Jerusalem. What does that reveal about his heart, particularly since he may have never personally been to Jerusalem?

When was the last time something related to the work of the kingdom deeply moved you? What are some "broken walls" you see today in the church?

Do you find it easy or difficult to feel deeply about the work of God? Why?

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 **Community & Purpose**

What does it practically look like to "co-own" the mission of loving God, following Jesus, and serving others? What happens when people expect leaders or staff to do all the ministry?

How does the idea that *we are the temple* shape our responsibility as a church?

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 **Prayer & Seeking God**

How does Nehemiah's pattern of prayer (adoration, confession, Scripture, request) compare to your normal practice? Even though his prayer is not meant to dictate exactly how we pray, how is his approach valuable when seeing God's direction into ministry?

Why is confession important when seeking direction from God? What might it look like to base your prayers more on Scripture?

What might God be prompting you to care about or act on right now relating to the work of the kingdom?