

PRAYER

- Pray that the Lord will raise you up to be a godly influence in your family, school, workplace, and community.

- Ask God to put in the hearts of His followers, including your group, the burden to intercede for the nation.

- Lift in prayer the leaders and those who are in key positions to bring change, revival, and reformation in the nations, that they will have the fear of God and the wisdom to make effective and timely decisions.



NOTES

CONNECT

- Have you experienced breaking something and you were able to repair and restore it?
- Have you seen a fully restored work of art, house, car, etc.? Describe it.
- Who among our government leaders do you admire? Why?



WORD

³They 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.” ⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 1:3,4

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king of Persia, an esteemed and secure position. But when he heard about Jerusalem’s plight, he did not take things sitting down. From the passage, we can see these three qualities of Nehemiah that can serve as a pattern for us so that we can be moved with compassion and be a catalyst for change in our nation.

- **A compassionate leader investigates the real situation.**

Hanani, one of my kinsmen, came with certain men from Judah, and I asked them about the surviving Jews who had escaped exile, and about Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 1:2, AMP

Nehemiah got a report from his brother that the walls of Jerusalem had not been rebuilt and that the living conditions in Judea were deplorable and hopeless. His response was to find out the real score of the situation so that he can act and find a solution to the problem. What is our usual response when we hear about our nation going through problems?

- **A compassionate leader intercedes for the nation.**

Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant, which I now pray before you night and day for your servants, the people of Israel.

Nehemiah 1:6, CEB

When Nehemiah learned about the distressing condition of the Jews, his heart was burdened and this led him to a period of prayer and fasting. Nehemiah knows only God can bring deliverance and protection to his countrymen. There are instances in the Bible that shows that God listens when His people intercede for their nation

(Ezekiel 22:30-31; Psalm 106:23; Jeremiah 12:11). What are we commanded to do (1 Timothy 2:1-3)?

- **A compassionate leader identifies with his people.**

⁶. . . I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! ⁷We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

Nehemiah 1:6,7

(See also Nehemiah 1:8-10.)

Nehemiah saw the need to identify with the sins of his people and the importance of a repentant heart for God to answer their prayers (Psalm 66:18). He did this while putting his hope on God’s promise that He will restore His people to their land if they turn away from their sins. What do you see in our nation right now that you know needs to be repented of by us as a people?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- How aware are you about the things going on in the nation? What is your usual response?
- What concerns in your nation or community have you prayed about? How did these turn out?
- What do you think are the shortcomings our people are responsible for? How do you respond to this? How do you identify with these?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- What gives you hope that our nation will someday be fully delivered from corruption, shame, and poverty?
- What can you practically contribute in promoting and restoring godly values in your area of influence?
- How can we emulate the example of Nehemiah in having compassion and action in building a godly nation?