

Lessons from Clay Hovater on 10/28/2018 (Series Ezra & Nehemiah Class).

NEHEMIAH 1:1-2:8

1. How much time passed between Nehemiah 1:1 and Ezra's trip to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:7)?

2. What was the status of those in Jerusalem? Do you think the report that Jerusalem's walls were broken and the gates burned with fire referred to the Babylonian destruction of the city? If not, what might it refer to? (see Ezra 4:7-23).

3. What was Nehemiah's reaction to the news from Jerusalem? Describe the qualities of a good leader that Nehemiah demonstrates in his reaction and his prayer.

4. Outline Nehemiah's prayer in 1:5-11:
 - a. v.5

 - b. v. 6-7 (note the connection with 'covenant' in verse 5).

 - c. v. 8-10

 - d. v.11

5. Who is the "this man" of 1:11?

6. Look up 'cupbearer' in a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia and describe his responsibilities. What dangers to a person's spiritual health might a position like this have?

7. What did the king attribute Nehemiah's countenance to? Why might Nehemiah be afraid?

8. Describe Nehemiah's prayer in 2:4. Had he thought about this question before? (note how he responds to the king's questions). Describe the manner in which he makes his request.

9. Did the king's granting Nehemiah's request show a shift in Persian policy? (see Ezra 4:21-22). To what did Nehemiah attribute the granting of his request?