

Concepts of Nehemiah – Part 2

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I. Introduction and Review:

- A. Nehemiah's concept of the God of creation.
- B. A vast universe reveals a vast God.

II. Nehemiah's concept of his calling.

- A. His main calling was to sit at the right hand of the king.
 - 1. He was not only the cupbearer but the keeper of the apartments.
 - 2. The person assigned to this job had to become a eunuch in order to be in this position.
- B. This reflects Luke 14 - the conditions for discipleship. Disciples need to love God more than family, things, and a preconceived career.

III. Nehemiah's concept of sin.

- A. Sin brought an intolerable reproach to God.
- B. This reproach was his great concern because of the sin of his people.
- C. Through it we give the enemies of God a reason to blaspheme. (II Samuel 12:13)

IV. Nehemiah's mission to Jerusalem.

- A. Nehemiah's great motivation was to make his city not reproachable. (Proverbs 25:28)
- B. Background.
 - 1. Nehemiah did not have the opportunity to study the Bible like we do.
 - 2. We have the benefit of seeing God's unfulfilled promises. (Deuteronomy 30)
 - a. Jews have looked forward to the re-gathering.
 - b. Daniel thought that the restoration would happen in his day. (Daniel 9)
 - c. The Jews were looking forward to the restoration of the kingdom to Israel. (Acts 1)
 - d. The Lord would recover his people on the second day. The second return may have happened in 1948. (Isaiah 11:11)
 - 1) If it was God's second time, Israel will never be dislodged.

2) This may have been one step in a return to God where the Jews would be evangelizing the world.

e. Substituting the word “Jew” for “Jonah” in the book of Jonah shows a thumbnail history of the Jews. Whenever Jonah was on the merchantmen the sea was in turmoil. Whenever Jonah was off the merchantmen the sea calmed down.

C. Nehemiah’s mission for Jerusalem was to make the Jews a worldwide witness.

V. Nehemiah’s concept of the promises of God.

A. God promised to gather them again.

B. Nehemiah claimed the promise, and so was able to ask the king for the resources.

1. His timing was off.

2. However his motive was right and he made an important impact on that time of history.

C. The example of a missionary in need of food. A wild boar poured through the door and they were able to eat.

D. God promised it, so He was the one that was responsible for fulfilling it.

VI. Nehemiah’s concept of how God works.

A. God puts things in the heart of those He wants to do something.

B. Then God puts His hand on them to equip them to do it.

VII. Nehemiah’s concept of leadership.

A. Immobilize everybody to get on with it.

B. Everyone was assigned a task. (Nehemiah 3)

C. The people had a mind to work - he knew how to motivate and rally. (Nehemiah 4:6)

D. He was not a non-working supervisor.

VIII. Nehemiah’s concept of the opposition.

A. He operated under one of the last of the Persian rules.

B. It was difficult to have any secret intelligence with the relations with other kingdoms.

1. The high priest was married to the daughter of the ruler of the province to the North.

2. The governor of Amon was the highest ruler in the area. His wife was a Jew.

C. The high priest did not ask Nehemiah to come and they were content not to have him. Further, the governor pillaged the country at will. Nehemiah was a threat.

D. Nehemiah set a watch after praying. He had a great balance between faith and works. (Nehemiah 4:9)

E. Nehemiah ignores the pleas and threats of the enemies. He had an attitude of committal to God and neglect towards the enemy.

1. The example of Charles Fuller whose first gospel broadcast was in risk of not going on because of a storm.

2. He refused to submit to Satan's deceptions.

IX. Nehemiah's concept of covetousness.

A. He spent quite a bit of his private fortune to support himself and his guests. (Nehemiah 5:14)

B. Some of the rich Jews took the poor Jews who were unable to pay interest on loans into slavery. This was against the law. Nehemiah told them to restore to the poor the things taken from them.

C. Nehemiah did not have an optimistic view of human nature, so he reinforced what people said through warnings of punishment.

X. Nehemiah's concept of obedience.

A. Nehemiah had a concept of doing what the Word of God said. (Nehemiah 9)

B. He re-instituted the Feast of Tabernacles after reading it in the Law. (Nehemiah 8:14)

C. Nehemiah threw a Gentile out of the house as the Law instructed. (Nehemiah 13)

D. Nehemiah threw people out of Jerusalem who were selling on the Sabbath.

E. He was violent towards those engaging in mixed marriages.

XI. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. Which concepts of Nehemiah did the speaker spend the most time on? Which one's did you find to be most important?

2. How does the history of Israel and God's faithfulness to his promises relate to Nehemiah's mission and his different concepts?

3. What outstanding principles can you take away from the life of Nehemiah? What areas do you find to be most encouraging? What areas do you tend most to fall short?
