



HOPE  
LOWERTOWN  
ST. PAUL

THE CRY OF THE SOUL OF

*Nehemiah*

**Two Weeks Ago**  
*“Prayer of Remembrance”*  
*Nehemiah 1:1-11*

# Historical Context Leading up to Nehemiah

*Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar – 605 b.c.*

*Persian King Cyrus the Great – 559-529 b.c.*

*Persian King Darius the Great – 521-486 b.c.*

*Persian King Xerxes I the Great – 486 – 465 b.c.*

*Persian King Artaxerxes I the Great – 464 –  
425 b.c.*

## **Nehemiah 1:1-11**

<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.**

## Nehemiah 1:1-11

“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.

**Last Weeks Sermon**  
*“Pray Without Ceasing”*  
*Nehemiah 2:1-20*

# **This Weeks Sermon**

*“Prayer in the midst of Conflict”*

*Nehemiah 4:1-23*



Words can never hurt me

## Nehemiah 4:1-23

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews,<sup>2</sup> and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble – burned as they are?”

<sup>3</sup> Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building – even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

Sanballat addressed his nobles and his army, possibly to prepare them for future action. It was the beginning of a propaganda campaign against the Jews. He used five questions, some of them subtly phrased to require a negative answer. The audience could reach only one conclusion: These Jews were good for nothing. *Miserable Jews* (Heb. *hayyəhûdîm hā'ămēlalîm*). The Hebrew root 'mll is occasionally used in the OT to denote the fading or withering of a plant (Isa. 16:8; 24:7; etc.). It is also used of people without any hope (Isa. 19:8; Hos. 4:3). It is employed here in Nehemiah to ridicule the Jews. They are a withering lot of people. How could they do anything worthwhile!

Fensham, F. C. (1982). [\*The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah\*](#) (p. 180). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.



# THE 20/20 INITIATIVE



# YOU

United  
Devotional

Impact

Change

# CHURCH

Membership

Serving

Giving

# CITY

"Heights" Location

Blessed to Bless

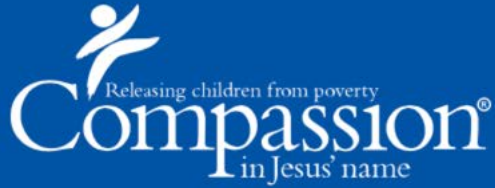
Geography Groups

# WORLD

Compassion/  
Acts29

Thailand  
Team

East Africa  
School



COMPASSION  
SUNDAY

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

\$38 per child / month

~ Our Aim at HCC – 100 kids!

Teach us to Pray

## Nehemiah 4:1-23

<sup>4</sup> Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity.

<sup>5</sup> Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.

<sup>6</sup> So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

<sup>7</sup> But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. <sup>8</sup> They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. <sup>9</sup> But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.



Nehemiah requested the Lord not to forgive the enemies their sins, committed by deriding the abilities of the builders, not to blot them out, wash them off, or sweep them away. The iniquities and sins were committed by sneering at the work God had commanded. The prayer was thus not vindictive because the Jews were insulted, but because God's work was ridiculed. Thus the prayer was religiously and not nationalistically motivated.

Fensham, F. C. (1982). [\*The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah\*](#) (p. 182). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

## Exodus 20:7

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”

## Mark 3:23-30

<sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.”

<sup>30</sup> He said this because they were saying, “He has an impure spirit.”

## Romans 10:9-13

<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

<sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

<sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and

Gentile — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Trust in God but lock your Doors

## Nehemiah 4:1-23

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## Nehemiah 4:1-23

<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

<sup>11</sup> Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

<sup>12</sup> Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

## Nehemiah 4:1-23

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. <sup>14</sup> After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

<sup>15</sup> When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.



## Nehemiah 4:1-23

<sup>16</sup> From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah <sup>17</sup> who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, <sup>18</sup> and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

## Nehemiah 4:1-23

<sup>19</sup> Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. <sup>20</sup> Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!”

<sup>21</sup> So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. <sup>22</sup> At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.” <sup>23</sup> Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

# Gospel Application

*Are we praying for the right things in the right way?*

# Gospel Application

*Are we praying for the right things in the right way?*

*Are you rejecting Jesus?*