



HOPE
LOWERTOWN
ST. PAUL

1 Peter 2:9-12 (ESV)

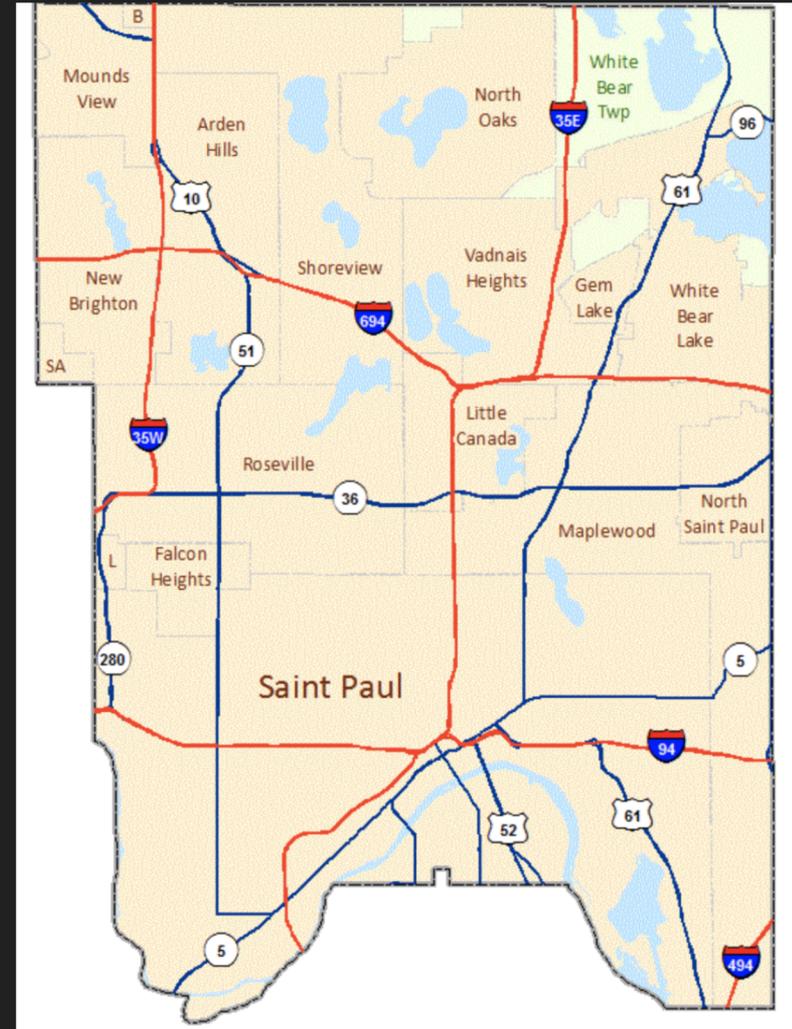
9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Isaiah 58:6-9 (ESV)

6 “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? 8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. 9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

Vital Stats

- Over 500,000 individuals experienced homelessness in 2016
- 8,000 of these individuals lived in the State of Minnesota
 - The majority of these 8,000 live in the Twin Cities Area
- The average cost of a 3 bedroom apartment in the Twin Cities area is \$1,547 per month
- The average yearly cost of living in Ramsey County is over \$60,000 per year



Vital Stats Continued

- Individuals and families experiencing homelessness are at a greater risk for domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health concerns, food insecurity, criminal justice involvement, and negative educational outcomes
 - Research has shown trauma has long-lasting effects on individuals and helps to perpetuate this unfortunate cycle of poor outcomes



A day center for families living without permanent housing

THE CRY OF THE SOUL OF

Nehemiah

Last Weeks Sermon
“Prayer of Remembrance”
Nehemiah 1:1-11

Historical Context Leading up to Nehemiah

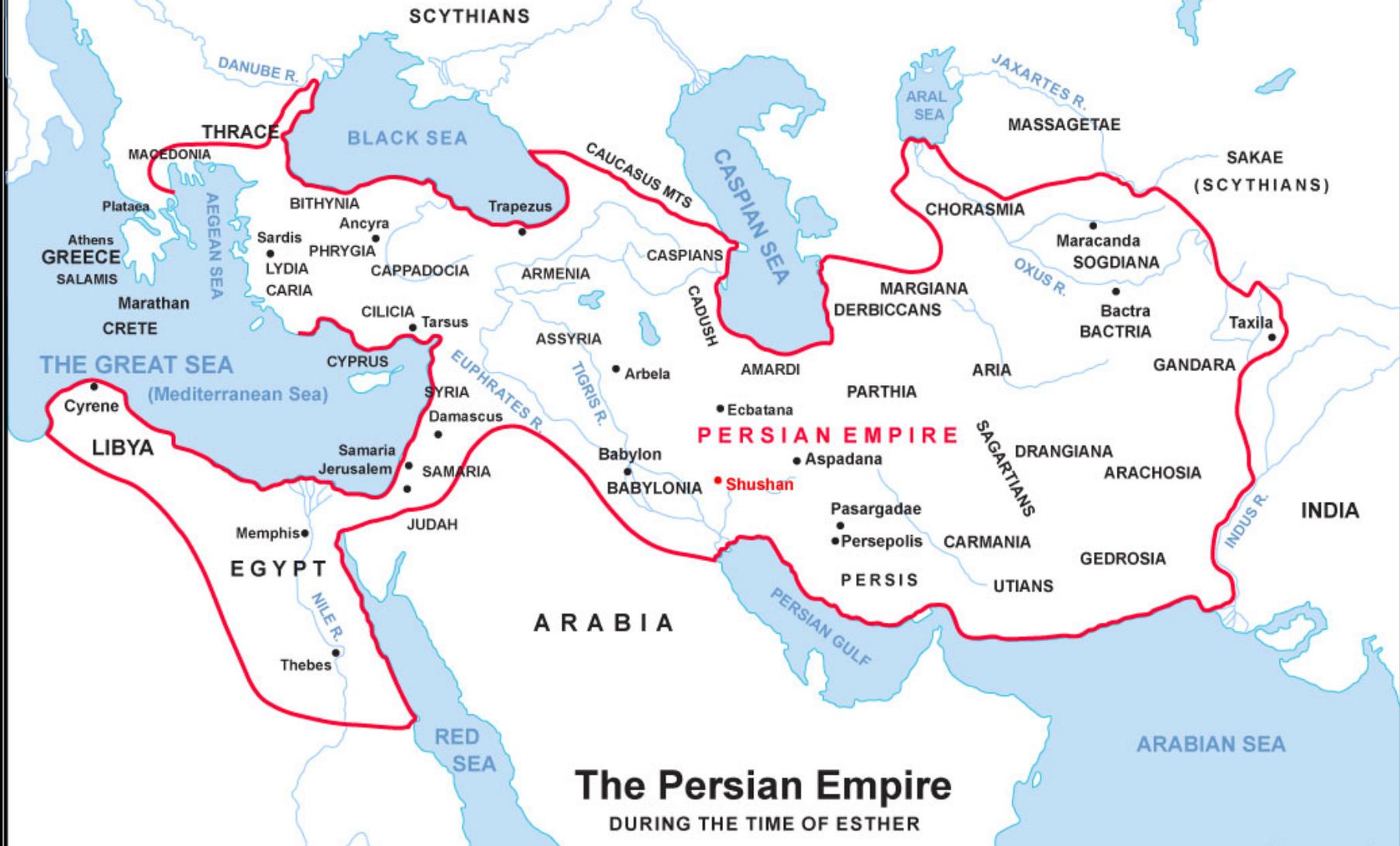
Nehemiah 1:1-11

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

³ They 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.”

⁴ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said:



The Persian Empire
DURING THE TIME OF ESTHER

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

Who was Nehemiah?

Nehemiah 1:1-11

⁸ “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,
⁹ 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.’

¹⁰ “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. ¹¹ 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.

News from Home

Nehemiah 1:1-11

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Ezra 4:11-16

To Artaxerxes the king: Your servants, the men of the province Beyond the River, send greeting. And now ¹² be it known to the king that the Jews who came up from you to us have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city. They are finishing the walls and repairing the foundations. ¹³ Now be it known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and the royal revenue will be impaired. ¹⁴ Now because we eat the salt of the palace and it is not fitting for us to witness the king's dishonor, therefore we send and inform the king,

Ezra 4:11-16

¹⁵ in order that search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers. You will find in the book of the records and learn that this city is a rebellious city, hurtful to kings and provinces, and that sedition was stirred up in it from of old. That was why this city was laid waste. ¹⁶ We make known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls finished, you will then have no possession in the province Beyond the River.”

Nehemiah's First Response

Nehemiah 1:1-11

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Nehemiah's Prayer

Who he's praying to

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, ⁶ 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. ⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

Nehemiah 1:1-11

⁸ “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,
⁹ 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.’

¹⁰ “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. ¹¹ 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.”

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What he prays for

Nehemiah 1:1-11

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Hebrews 12:7-13

⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined – and everyone undergoes discipline – then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:7-13

¹² Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.

¹³ “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Under the New Covenant in Christ my sins are paid in full. My difficult circumstances or sufferings are not a punishment for my sins – they are a result of sin.

How he prays

Nehemiah 1:1-11

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Gospel Application

Do you feel like you are seeing difficult situations as discipline or punishment?

Gospel Application

Do you feel like you are seeing difficult situations as discipline or punishment?

When you pray, do you remember the promises of God and who He says He is?