The Book of Nehemiah

Contents

The Book of Nehemiah

1The words|strong="H1697" of Nehemiah|strong="H5166" the son|strong="H1121" of Hachaliah|strong="H2446". And it came to pass in the month|strong="H2320" Chisleu|strong="H3691", in the twentieth|strong="H6242" year|strong="H8141", as I was in Shushan|strong="H7800" the palace|strong="H1002", ² That Hanani|strong="H2607", one|strong="H0259" of my brethren|strong="H0251", came|strong="H0935", he and certain men|strong="H0582" of Judah|strong="H3063"; and I asked|strong="H7592" them concerning the Jews|strong="H3064" that had escaped|strong="H6413", which were left|strong="H7604" of the captivity|strong="H7628", and concerning Jerusalem|strong="H3389". ³ And they said|strong="H0559" unto me, The remnant|strong="H7604" that are left|strong="H7604" of the captivity|strong="H7628" there in the province|strong="H4082" are in great|strong="H1419" affliction|strong="H7451" and reproach|strong="H2781": the wall|strong="H2346" of Jerusalem|strong="H3389" also is broken down|strong="H6555", and the gates|strong="H8179" thereof are burned|strong="H3341" with fire|strong="H0784".

4¶ And it came to pass, when I heard|strong="H8085" these words|strong="H1697", that I sat down|strong="H3427" and wept|strong="H1058", and mourned|strong="H0056" certain days|strong="H3117", and fasted|strong="H6684", and prayed|strong="H6419" before|strong="H6440" the God|strong="H0430" of heaven|strong="H8064",

5And said|strong="H0559", I beseech|strong="H0577" thee, O w LORD|strong="H3068"w* God|strong="H0430" of heaven|strong="H8064", the great|strong="H1419" and terrible|strong="H3372" God|strong="H0410", that keepeth|strong="H8104" covenant|strong="H1285" and mercy|strong="H2617" for them that love|strong="H0157" him and observe|strong="H8104" his commandments|strong="H4687": ⁶ Let thine ear|strong="H0241" now be attentive|strong="H7183", and thine eyes|strong="H5869" open|strong="H6605", that thou mayest hear|strong="H8085" the prayer|strong="H8605" of thy servant|strong="H5650", which I pray|strong="H6419" before|strong="H6440" thee now|strong="H3117", day|strong="H3119" and night|strong="H3915", for the children|strong="H1121" of Israel|strong="H3478" thy servants|strong="H5650", and confess|strong="H3034" the sins|strong="H2403" of the children|strong="H1121" of Israel|strong="H3478", which we have

sinned|strong="H2398" against thee: both I and my father's|strong="H0001" house|strong="H1004" have sinned|strong="H2398".   7 We have dealt very|strong="H2254" corruptly|strong="H2254" against thee, and have not kept|strong="H8104" the commandments|strong="H4687", nor the statutes|strong="H2706", nor the judgments|strong="H4941", which thou commandedst|strong="H6680" thy servant|strong="H5650" Moses|strong="H4872".   8 Remember|strong="H2142", I beseech thee, the word|strong="H1697" that thou commandedst|strong="H6680" thy servant|strong="H5650" Moses|strong="H4872", saying|strong="H0559", If ye transgress|strong="H4603", I will scatter you abroad|strong="H6327" among the nations|strong="H5971":   9 But if ye turn|strong="H7725" unto me, and keep|strong="H8104" my commandments|strong="H4687", and do|strong="H6213" them; though there were of you cast out|strong="H5080" unto the uttermost part|strong="H7097" of the heaven|strong="H8064", yet will I gather|strong="H6908" them from thence, and will bring|strong="H0935" them unto the place|strong="H4725" that I have chosen|strong="H0977" to set|strong="H7931" my name|strong="H8034" there.   10 Now these are thy servants|strong="H5650" and thy people|strong="H5971", whom thou hast redeemed|strong="H6299" by thy great|strong="H1419" power|strong="H3581", and by thy strong|strong="H2389" hand|strong="H3027".   11 O Lord|strong="H0136", I beseech|strong="H0577" thee, let now thine ear|strong="H0241" be attentive|strong="H7183" to the prayer|strong="H8605" of thy servant|strong="H5650", and to the prayer|strong="H8605" of thy servants|strong="H5650", who desire|strong="H2655" to fear|strong="H3372" thy name|strong="H8034": and prosper|strong="H6743", I pray thee, thy servant|strong="H5650" this day|strong="H3117", and grant|strong="H5414" him mercy|strong="H7356" in the sight|strong="H6440" of this man|strong="H0376". For I was the king's|strong="H4428" cupbearer|strong="H8248".

2And it came to pass in the month|strong="H2320" Nisan|strong="H5212", in the twentieth|strong="H6242" year|strong="H8141" of Artaxerxes|strong="H0783" the king|strong="H4428", that wine|strong="H3196" was before|strong="H6440" him: and I took up|strong="H5375" the wine|strong="H3196", and gave|strong="H5414" it unto the king|strong="H4428". Now I had not been beforetime sad|strong="H7451" in his presence|strong="H6440".   2 Wherefore the king|strong="H4428" said|strong="H0559" unto me, Why is thy countenance|strong="H6440" sad|strong="H7451", seeing thou art not sick|strong="H2470"? this is nothing else but sorrow|strong="H7455" of heart|strong="H3820". Then I

was very|strong="H3966" sore|strong="H7235" afraid|strong="H3372", ³ And said|strong="H0559" unto the king|strong="H4428", Let the king|strong="H4428" live|strong="H2421" for ever|strong="H5769": why should not my countenance|strong="H6440" be sad|strong="H3415", when the city|strong="H5892", the place|strong="H1004" of my fathers'|strong="H0001" sepulchres|strong="H6913", lieth waste|strong="H2720", and the gates|strong="H8179" thereof are consumed|strong="H0398" with fire|strong="H0784"? ⁴ Then the king|strong="H4428" said|strong="H0559" unto me, For what dost thou make request|strong="H1245"? So I prayed|strong="H6419" to the God|strong="H0430" of heaven|strong="H8064". ⁵ And I said|strong="H0559" unto the king|strong="H4428", If it please|strong="H2895" the king|strong="H4428", and if thy servant|strong="H5650" have found favour|strong="H3190" in thy sight|strong="H6440", that thou wouldest send|strong="H7971" me unto Judah|strong="H3063", unto the city|strong="H5892" of my fathers'|strong="H0001" sepulchres|strong="H6913", that I may build|strong="H1129" it. ⁶ And the king|strong="H4428" said|strong="H0559" unto me, (the queen|strong="H7694" also sitting|strong="H3427" by him|strong="H0681",) For how long shall thy journey|strong="H4109" be? and when wilt thou return|strong="H7725"? So it pleased|strong="H3190" the king|strong="H4428" to send|strong="H7971" me; and I set|strong="H5414" him a time|strong="H2165". ¹ ⁷ Moreover I said|strong="H0559" unto the king|strong="H4428", If it please|strong="H2895" the king|strong="H4428", let letters|strong="H0107" be given|strong="H5414" me to the governors|strong="H6346" beyond|strong="H5676" the river|strong="H5104", that they may convey me over|strong="H5674" till I come|strong="H0935" into Judah|strong="H3063"; ⁸ And a letter|strong="H0107" unto Asaph|strong="H0623" the keeper|strong="H8104" of the king's|strong="H4428" forest|strong="H6508", that he may give|strong="H5414" me timber|strong="H6086" to make beams|strong="H7136" for the gates|strong="H8179" of the palace|strong="H1002" which appertained to the house|strong="H1004", and for the wall|strong="H2346" of the city|strong="H5892", and for the house|strong="H1004" that I shall enter into|strong="H0935". And the king|strong="H4428" granted|strong="H5414" me, according to the good|strong="H2896" hand|strong="H3027" of my God|strong="H0430" upon me.

9¶ Then I came|strong="H0935" to the governors|strong="H6346" beyond|strong="H5676" the river|strong="H5104", and gave|strong="H5414" them the king's|strong="H4428"

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¹ + **2.6** queen: Heb. wife

letters|strong="H0107". Now the king|strong="H4428" had sent|strong="H7971" captains|strong="H8269" of the army|strong="H2428" and horsemen|strong="H6571" with me. ¹⁰ When Sanballat|strong="H5571" the Horonite|strong="H2772", and Tobiah|strong="H2900" the servant|strong="H5650", the Ammonite|strong="H5984", heard|strong="H8085" of it, it grieved|strong="H3415" them exceedingly|strong="H7451" that there was come|strong="H0935" a man|strong="H0120" to seek|strong="H1245" the welfare|strong="H2896" of the children|strong="H1121" of Israel|strong="H3478". ¹¹ So I came|strong="H0935" to Jerusalem|strong="H3389", and was there three|strong="H7969" days|strong="H3117".

12¶ And I arose|strong="H6965" in the night|strong="H3915", I and some|strong="H4592" few|strong="H4592" men|strong="H0582" with me; neither told|strong="H5046" I any man|strong="H0120" what my God|strong="H0430" had put|strong="H5414" in my heart|strong="H3820" to do|strong="H6213" at Jerusalem|strong="H3389": neither was there any beast|strong="H0929" with me, save the beast|strong="H0929" that I rode upon|strong="H7392". ¹³ And I went out|strong="H3318" by night|strong="H3915" by the gate|strong="H8179" of the valley|strong="H1516", even before|strong="H6440" the dragon|strong="H8577" well|strong="H5869", and to the dung|strong="H0830" port|strong="H8179", and viewed|strong="H7663" the walls|strong="H2346" of Jerusalem|strong="H3389", which were broken down|strong="H6555", and the gates|strong="H8179" thereof were consumed|strong="H0398" with fire|strong="H0784". ¹⁴ Then I went on|strong="H5674" to the gate|strong="H8179" of the fountain|strong="H5869", and to the king's|strong="H4428" pool|strong="H1295": but there was no place|strong="H4725" for the beast|strong="H0929" that was under me to pass|strong="H5674". ¹⁵ Then went I up|strong="H5927" in the night|strong="H3915" by the brook|strong="H5158", and viewed|strong="H7663" the wall|strong="H2346", and turned back|strong="H7725", and entered|strong="H0935" by the gate|strong="H8179" of the valley|strong="H1516", and so returned|strong="H7725". ¹⁶ And the rulers|strong="H5461" knew|strong="H3045" not whither I went|strong="H1980", or what I did|strong="H6213"; neither had I as yet|strong="H3651" told|strong="H5046" it to the Jews|strong="H3064", nor to the priests|strong="H3548", nor to the nobles|strong="H2715", nor to the rulers|strong="H5461", nor to the rest|strong="H3499" that did|strong="H6213" the work|strong="H4399".