

NEHEMIAH, SON OF HACALIAH

CHARACTER STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT: NEHEMIAH, SON OF HACALIAH

One of the rewarding bi-products of reading the Word of God is learning about the people who were used by God. These men and women were individuals of great character who simply trusted in God and followed Him. Today we are going to take a look at a man named Nehemiah, who we read about in the book of Nehemiah.

If there is a key verse that sums up Nehemiah's life it would probably be found in Nehemiah, Chapter 4, verse 14, in which he gave a timely reminder to God's people with the following statement:

"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 brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

In Nehemiah 1:1-4 we read *"The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: 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 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."*

Periodically in the Bible we read of God raising up various individuals to become leaders of His people the Israelites. Nehemiah is a shining example. Despite the fact that the returned exiles had been in Jerusalem for many years the walls of the city remained un-repaired, leaving its people defenseless and vulnerable. God chose Nehemiah to lead the people in repairing them. Why did God choose Nehemiah? Can we learn from Nehemiah's life? In this character study we should learn:

- A. Who Nehemiah was.
- B. What Nehemiah did.
- C. How his life affected others.

Before we start, let's **PRAY** and ask God's Holy Spirit to open our hearts to receive His Word and to show us how to apply it in our life. Do not copy scriptures, but answer the question briefly and in your own words.

While we first hear Nehemiah mentioned in Ezra 2:2 we don't actually meet Nehemiah till the sixteenth book of the Bible, the book of Nehemiah.

1. What do the following verses tell us about Nehemiah?

Nehemiah 1:11b _____

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Nehemiah 1:4-11 _____

2. Who was Nehemiah dependent upon?

Nehemiah 2:4b _____

Nehemiah 4:4 _____

Nehemiah 4:9 _____

Nehemiah 6:9 _____

From the above verses it becomes quite evident that Nehemiah was one who was dependent on God. It seems as if he took everything in prayer to God. Nehemiah knew the source of power for his ministry. It was God alone and that source was indispensable. It was because of this character trait and others that God chose to make him a leader among the people.

3. How do the following verses show us that Nehemiah was a focused individual?

Nehemiah 6:1-4 _____

4. What do the following verse reveal about Nehemiah?

Nehemiah 5:1-12 _____

Nehemiah 10:28-31 _____

Nehemiah 13:1-8 _____

Nehemiah 13:15-22 _____

From the above scriptures we see that Nehemiah was a man of utmost integrity. He realized that he was ultimately accountable to God. He did not want to compromise the word of God for any reason. We see also that he was a focused individual. He was able to see the big picture clearly and discern situations and people from a divine perspective.

5. How authority was Nehemiah submissive to?

Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:8 _____

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Nehemiah 8:1-11 _____

6. What do the following verse tell us about Nehemiah?

Nehemiah 2:11-15 _____

Nehemiah 2:16-18, 3:1-32 _____

From the above scriptures we see how Nehemiah humbled himself to the God-ordained authority that God had put above him and to the Word of God. He was not a “loose cannon” in a sense. He also was a careful planner and was able to prioritize the tasks so as to not waste precious time and resources.

7. What key leadership traits do we see in the following verses?

Nehemiah 2:17-18 _____

Nehemiah 4:6-23 _____

Nehemiah 5:16 _____

In summarizing Nehemiah’s life we see him as a Godly servant-leader who whose life, ministry, and testimony pointed to his Lord. He was a faithful servant who sought to glorify God in all that he did. He was very humble and became a servant to his people. We can learn from Nehemiah’s life many things, which include most importantly a dependence upon God. May we strive to become that man or woman who lives there lives following the template that Nehemiah set.