

Nehemiah 1-4

When do you hear people say something like... *“have faith, everything will be alright”*?
What is your view on this sort of statement?

What are some of the promises that God has made His people?

What is the problem that Nehemiah sees in 1:1-4?

What is his plan 1:5-11? Where does Nehemiah gain his confidence from?

How do we see God at work in Nehemiah's bold request in 2:1-8?

The people get stuck into a huge working bee from 2:9-3:32. There seems to be a work of cooperation on the whole and working together to rebuild the temple and the city of God. But they seem to hit some road blocks as we come to chapter 4. Who is opposing the rebuilding in 4:1-15? What was their problem with the wall going ahead?

What was the response of God's people to the immanent threat?

Again, what promises were they standing on?

What are some things that God has not necessarily promised us for this life that we would like?

What are some of the promises that God has made which we can call on in this life?

How do these promises encourage us?

Nehemiah 5:1-19

1. How do you know when you have purchased a 'fake'? How does it make you feel?

2. Let's review for a minute

i. Why were Israel outside of the promised land?

ii. Where was the trouble in the rebuilding coming from?

iii. How did the people defend themselves from this opposition?

Read chapter 5

3. How, in chapter 5 do some of the Israelites who look like Israelites and who are actually born Israelites but not act like them?

4. How Does Nehemiah deal with this problem? (5:6-12)

5. What is the response of those he confronts?

Read Romans 3:21-24

6. Who is the only 'true Israelite'? How is it that we all can be a part of the 'New Israel'?

7. How is it that people might 'fake' being a part of the new Israel?

8. What are the marks of someone who belongs to the 'New Israel'?

Nehemiah 8-9

1. What is the difference between remorse and repentance?
2. What does **true** repentance consist of?
3. In regard to Israel's behaviour what is the good news in...
 - i. Chapter 8?
 - ii. Chapter 9?
4. What are the worrying signs about their confession here?
5. Why isn't this enough to convince us that they have changed?
6. Why isn't confession of our sins and wrong doings simply enough?
7. What is the problem with repeated sin?
8. What evidence comes with true repentance?

Nehemiah 10-13

1. How might we be lead astray by movie previews?
2. What was the good news from chapters 8-9?
3. What are the promises Israel made to God?
4. What do these promises say about Israel's intent with their relationship to God?
5. Nehemiah heads off for a little while. What does he find when he returns in chapter 13?
6. What do Israel's actions, in chapter 13, show us about the good news of chapters 8-9?
7. What does this show us about our own righteousness despite our best efforts?
8. How does this show us the need for something different... apart from the law?
9. How does the New Covenant in Jesus change things?
10. What are some of the things we can relate to directly from Nehemiah?
11. What is the hope that comes out of the hopelessness of this book?