

## LESSON 13: RETURNING HOME

From Nehemiah 1:1 to 13:31

While the people of God were far away from the land that God have given them, there was no one to take care of it. The walls were broken down and the temple had been destroyed. Most of the people who were left there, and the ones who were far away, forgot about God.

Nehemiah worked for the king in the land far away. When Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem was in ruins, he cried, fasted, and prayed. The king noticed that Nehemiah was sad. The king asked, "Why are you sad?"

Nehemiah explained that the place where his ancestors had lived and were buried was now rubble. The king asked, "What do you want me to do about it?"

Nehemiah said to the king, "Give me permission to go back and rebuild the city. Give me wood and the supplies to make the city great again."

And the king did just that!

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he gathered together other men and their families to rebuild the wall and the homes. Almost everyone was excited and willing to help, but some men made fun of Nehemiah and tried to stop him from his work.

When the wall was finished, more families came back from far away to live in Jerusalem.

A priest, named Ezra, knew that the people did not remember how to worship God. They had forgotten God's laws. So, he gathered together the people and read God's laws to them. He taught them how to worship God.

The people confessed their sins. Ezra helped them follow God's rules of tithing, honoring the Sabbath, offering sacrifices, taking care of the temple, and celebrating the festivals. The people signed a covenant that they would follow God and obey all of God's commandments.

Circle all correct answers.

1. Why was Nehemiah sad?
  - A. The king had a dream that no one could interpret.
  - B. The city of Jerusalem was in ruins.
  - C. The king did not let him go back to Jerusalem.
  - D. He did not like working for the king.
  
2. What did the king give to Nehemiah?
  - A. Permission to go to Jerusalem.
  - B. Wood and supplies to rebuild the city.
  - C. The Ten Commandments.
  - D. Five loaves and two fish.
  
3. What did Ezra do?
  - A. He made fun of Nehemiah and the workers.
  - B. He read God's laws to the people.
  - C. He stayed far away from Jerusalem.
  - D. He only ate vegetables and drank water.
  
4. The people signed a covenant that they would:
  - A. Leave Jerusalem.
  - B. Make Nehemiah their new king.
  - C. Build an ark.
  - D. Obey God's commandments.

Fill in the blanks.

5. What were two of God's rules that the people said that they would obey?

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