

## Nehemiah 1:1-11, Nehemiah's Prayer

### **Introduction:**

- Nehemiah: 3<sup>rd</sup> division of the Old Testament: the Writings. Continues the story of Ezra.
- Author: Nehemiah, governor of Judah (Persian province). Cupbearer: trusted, dangerous.
- The Book: Ch. 1-7, Rebuilding the Wall, Ch. 8-13, Rebuilding the People.
- Background of the captivity of Israel (northern kingdom) & Judah (southern kingdom):
  - 722 BC, Israel (north), destroyed by the Assyrians (= Samaritans).
  - 605, 597, 586, Judah (south) destroyed by the Babylonians, exiled 70 YRS.

**3 parts:** returns/rebuilds. Why does God bring back southern kingdom, not northern? Jerusalem!

- 538-515 BC, 1<sup>st</sup> return (50k): Zerubbabel rebuilds temple, (482-473 BC *Events of Esther*)
- 458 BC, 2<sup>nd</sup> return (5k): Ezra rebuilds the people (law). 80 YRS *after* the 1<sup>st</sup> return.
- 445-420 BC, 3<sup>rd</sup> return: 13 yrs after Ezra, Nehemiah rebuilds the wall, (*Mal.* prophesy).

### **Outline:**

1. The Sovereignty of God (“*God’s place at God’s pace*”).
2. Performance of God’s work requires knowing God’s Word.
3. Opposition always follows when one does God’s work.
4. God’s work thrives under obedience & godly leadership (influence).

### **5 Sanctification Practices of a Believer:**

1. A Believer’s focus is upon what the Lord focuses (vss. 4-5).
2. A Believer brings his burdens to the Lord—doing so through prayer...even fasting (vss. 4-5).
3. A Believer can see sin as the problem & not afraid to confess when the need arises (vss. 6-7).
4. A Believer pleads the promises of God (vss. 8-10)
5. A Believer gets off the bench & gets into the game b/c he fears God over fearing man (v. 11).