

## THE POWER OF ONE

*The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, 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. 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." When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said: "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.*

Nehemiah 1:1-11 (NIV)

### ❖ The Power of One GOD-GIVEN PASSION:

*I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. 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." When I heard these things, I sat down and wept.*

Nehemiah 1:2b-4a (NIV)

586 B.C. – Total fall of Israel and exiled to Babylon

539 B.C. – Fall of Babylon to Persian and Cyrus the Great

538 B.C. – Cyrus allows Ezra to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple

445 B.C. – Nehemiah hears about Jerusalem's condition and asks to go there

1. He knew that Israel was there PHYSICALLY but not back SPIRITUALLY.
2. He knew that Israel had returned but not REPENTED or seen RENEWAL.
3. He knew that Israel was missing the BLESSING of being God's PEOPLE.

### ❖ The Power of One EARNEST PRAYER:

*Then I said: "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and*

*your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you."*

Nehemiah 1:5-6 (NIV)

1. Nehemiah prayed first... RECOGNIZING the POWER of God.
2. Nehemiah prayed then... REPENTING of the UNBELIEF of the Jews.
3. Nehemiah prayed last... RELEASING his LIFE to God's MISSION.

❖ The Power of One COMMITTED PERSON:

*"They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.*

Nehemiah 1:10-11 (NIV)

1. Nehemiah was committed to the POSITION of God.  
*"O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands..." (vs. 5)*
  - The NATURAL person (Lives for self without God in their life)
  - The CARNAL person (Has received Christ but tries to live in his own strength)
  - The SPIRITUAL person (One who is directed and empowered by God's Spirit)
2. Nehemiah was committed to the PURPOSES of God.  
*'If you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'* (vs. 9)
3. Nehemiah was committed to the PEOPLE of God.  
*"They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand." (vs. 10)*