

## Reading Guide: Nehemiah 1:1-11

Black Pew Bible pg. 398

**Keys to Reading:** Several groups of Israelites have returned to Jerusalem after being held in captivity for 70 years. Ezra and Nehemiah tell the story of the people's re-establishment in Jerusalem--the building of the temple and the restoration of the city walls. Though the people are back in Jerusalem not all is well.

**Main Idea:** Heartbroken at the people's distress in Jerusalem, Nehemiah turns to the Lord in prayer.

**Theme:** Finding the courage to face challenges begins with God.

### **Reflection Questions:**

- Is there anything that causes you to weep and mourn as Nehemiah did over Jerusalem? (1:4)
- We live in a world that demands immediate answers/ fixes to problems. How can you apply Nehemiah's example of prayer and confession to a situation you face?
- As you examine Nehemiah's prayer, what does it teach you about your own prayer life and about the character of God?

**Act!** Set aside some time dedicated to prayer and fasting. You may start small: instead of eating lunch one day, take that time to pray *or* set aside an entire day for prayer and fasting. Hunger for the things of God.

**Reading Next Week:** Nehemiah 2:1-20

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