



## What You Don't Know *Can* Hurt You!

(Nehemiah 1:1-4)

*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." Nehemiah 1:2-3 (NIV)*

Who was Nehemiah? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Historical Timeline:

**922 BC** Death of Solomon. The unified Jewish nation divides into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

**785 BC** Prophetic ministry of Isaiah begins.

**722 BC** Assyria destroys northern kingdom of Israel.

**626 BC** Prophetic ministry of Jeremiah begins.

**605 BC** Babylon invades the southern kingdom of Judah. Daniel and friends taken captive.

**597 BC** Second Babylonian invasion. Ezekiel, Mordecai and Esther taken captive?

**586 BC** Final Babylonian invasion. Jerusalem ransacked. Temple destroyed. City walls broken down.

**539 BC** Babylonian Empire overthrown by the Persian Empire. Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah all serve in Persian royal courts, though at different times.

**538 BC** King Cyrus of Persia issues edict allowing Jews to return to Jerusalem. 50,000 return under the leadership of Zerubbabel. Prophetic ministries of Zechariah and Haggai. Temple rebuilt.

**458 BC** Second group of exiles return to Jerusalem under the leadership of Ezra.

**445 BC** Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem. City walls rebuilt. Spiritual and social reforms enacted under the leadership of Nehemiah and Ezra.

## I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of broken walls

*The wall of Jerusalem is still rubble, and the gates are still cinders.*

Nehemiah 1:3 (MES)

Jerusalem was not only an historic city; it was also a \_\_\_\_\_ city.

Jerusalem in ruins is a picture of a people and a culture that has \_\_\_\_\_ with God!

## A. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ the right \_\_\_\_\_?

*I asked them about the Jews who had survived the captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.*

Nehemiah 1:2 (NLT)

## B. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ to the honest \_\_\_\_\_?

*They told me, "The exile survivors who are left there in the province are in bad shape. Conditions are appalling.*

Nehemiah 1:3 (MES)

## II. The \_\_\_\_\_ for broken walls

*I am Nehemiah son of Hacaliah, and in this book I tell what I have done.*

Nehemiah 1:1 (CEV)

God's remedy for broken walls is never first a \_\_\_\_\_. It is always a \_\_\_\_\_.

*I looked for someone to build up the walls and to stand before me where the walls are broken to defend these people so I would not have to destroy them. But I could not find anyone. Ezekiel 22:30 (NCV)*

## A. Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_ over the broken walls in your world?

*When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.*

Nehemiah 1:4 (NIV)

## B. Are you willing to \_\_\_\_\_ your position of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in order to do something about it?

*I was cupbearer to the king.*

Nehemiah 1:11 (NIV)