



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Becoming His Instrument of Restoration... by Billy

READ NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

- This is the first study in a series about the message of Nehemiah for today.
- He was a cupbearer (butler) for the king of Persia (Iran) and was living in Susa its capital city. At that time Persia was a major world power.
- The city of Jerusalem was almost 700 miles away and was a ruined place following its destruction by the Babylonian empire 150 years previously.
- Although King Cyrus of Persia had issued a decree that allowed the Jews to return to their land in 538bc, only a relatively small number made the journey.
- Nehemiah wanted to know what the current situation was and he waited anxiously for news from his brother Hananiah.
- The news from home wasn't good. The remnant was in great trouble and shame and the wall was broken down.
- This caused great distress to Nehemiah for several reasons, some obvious and some not so obvious.
- In making an application of this account to our day, the first question to ask ourselves is this: where is our treasure, our vested interest?
- We will find out by analysing time and resources spent, concentration and passion expended in one activity or another. What about what God wants to build?
- Secondly, we must ask if we are able to get beyond the point of mourning to a place of pro-active intercession. Nehemiah was repairing the breaches in the wall spiritually in advance of the literal repairs.
- Lastly, if we are confident in God's ability to restore that which is broken, are we willing to make ourselves His instruments of restoration?



WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Issue 10

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Worship service** starts at 10.30am this *Sunday* in the Snowball church 64 Great Strand Street.
- ▶ **Family service** begins at 12.00pm following a short break.
- ▶ **Prayer meetings** in Gareth and Jean's home and in the bookshop on *Wednesday*.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (*Hebrews 13:2*).