

History isn't just things we do that get written down on paper. History is things we do that get written down on hearts.



¹The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the capital,



²that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem.



³And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."



⁴As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.



⁵And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,



⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned.



⁷We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.



⁸Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples,



⁹but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.'



**¹⁰They are your servants and your people,
whom you have redeemed by your great
power and by your strong hand.**



¹¹O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king.



Nehemiah 1:1-11

Nehemiah: Act I

•The Fingerprint of Passion



Nehemiah: Act II

•The Fingerprint of Courage



Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem."

Nehemiah 2:20



¹⁵So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.

¹⁶And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.



Nehemiah 6:15-16

“Feel the deepest longings in your soul that will never be fully satisfied ‘till heaven. Don’t be afraid of sadness...don’t be afraid of brokenness. Hurt. Groan. Ache. Yearn. But know this: Look in no other direction than God...God is looking at you with delight, appreciating you the way a master composer appreciates the orchestra that plays his music.” —*Larry Crabb, Inside Out*



Nehemiah: Act III

•The Fingerprint of Candor



⁷I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them



⁸and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say.



⁹So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?"

Nehemiah 5:7-9



Nehemiah: Act IV

•The Fingerprint of Holiness



“Remember me, O my God, for good.”

Nehemiah 13:31b

