

SERMON SERIES

NEHEMIAH:
Recommitting
God's People
to God's Glory



HOW BREAK- THROUGHS HAPPEN

NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

Message Guide | March 14, 2021

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RECOMMITTING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S GLORY

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TODAY'S MESSAGE | MARCH 14, 2021

How Breakthroughs Happen Nehemiah 1:1-11

Nehemiah is often made to appear like some “super-leader” who sets the standard of excellence for both secular and spiritual leaders even in current times. There’s some truth in that, but to do so exclusively is disregard for the real theme of the book. Nehemiah is all about God’s plan to establish His glory and announce to a watching world that He is sovereign over all of time and history. He’ll do this by rebuilding the city of God as a preview of His kingdom on earth, and reviving His people (though numerically a remnant) as a picture of His sovereign grace. Observe how God begins this, as much of what Nehemiah is credited with was actually prepared by God behind the scenes:

1. IN GOD’S TIME, HE PRODUCES THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES. (vv. 1-4)

- Observe the coalition of “coincidences” that show the hand of Providence behind it all:
 - ✓ It “just so happened” it was the 20TH year of King Artaxerxes, who had previously shut down the Jerusalem building project (Ezra 4:11-22) though he later let the Temple be built (Ezra 7). The king’s stance softened with the years to allow rebuilding Jerusalem itself.
 - ✓ It “just so happened” that Nehemiah was in Susa, the king’s winter vacation spot, when Nehemiah’s brother dropped by.
 - ✓ It “just so happened” that Nehemiah’s brother would drop by after an 800 mile trip and have the perfect data to grip the heart of Nehemiah and get the restoration project of Jerusalem going.
- The sovereign hand of God was behind it all, as even Nehemiah realized (Nehemiah 2:8, 18). God’s rebuilding of Jerusalem, the “city of God”, was the sign that His promise was never forgotten, because the promise of the Messiah coming from the line of Abraham and David would never be derailed.

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2. IN GOD'S PLAN, HE RAISES THE RIGHT PERSON (vv. 5-11a)

- a) The right person's heart is broken by what breaks God's heart.
- b) The right person prays with faith in God's character.
 - ✓ He prayed properly. Nehemiah based His prayers and hope on the unchanging character of God.
 - ✓ He prayed persistently. Nehemiah wept, fasted and prayer for four months! (Luke 18:1-8)
 - ✓ He prayed penitently. Nehemiah asked forgiveness for the sins of his forefathers and counted himself a fellow-sinner with them (Daniel 9:1-19).

3. IN GOD'S WAY, HE CREATES THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITIES (v. 11b)

- V. 11 "*Now I was cupbearer to the king*". The implications of this short but pregnant sentence are staggering:
 - ✓ It was unthinkable for someone from a conquered nation to rise to such a trusted position. But perhaps having a Jew like Queen Esther as the highly regarded step-mother of King Artaxerxes had something to do with it.
 - ✓ The influence of a cupbearer on the king was nearly limitless. There was usually only one. And as the king's confidante, security aide, adviser, and often closest friend, the king trusted him with his very life. God would use this trust, and Nehemiah never wasted it.

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FINAL THOUGHTS

Over and over in scripture, we learn that God has a right time for everything (Eccles. 3:1, 11). That is when His perfect plan, with the right person, meets the right opportunity. That is when the breakthrough comes.

Waiting on God is never easy. Never has been, and never will be. But when you are the right person, know that God will precede you and create the right circumstances and right opportunities to let His good purposes come true in your life. He means your good now, but especially eternally (Rom. 8:28).

God makes breakthroughs happen according to His perfect plan, with the right person, in His perfect time. Pray for patience and faith as God molds you to be that kind of a person.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is praying based on God's character more assuring than the more common kind of prayer which is based on anything else (your situation, desperation, logic, common sense, etc.)?
2. Share about a time in your life when you realized that God "set you up" but it was for good, not evil.
3. Pray together, asking God to make each of you learn patience and faith as God molds each of you to be the right person whom God can use for His glory.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

If you are led to give, you may do so through the following means:

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

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Savings Account: **000661590216**

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PAYMAYA



Send a copy of your transaction document to **finance@gcf.org.ph** so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also give to support the church family's COVID relief efforts. Just indicate "**For COVID-19 Fund**" when you email your transaction document.

GCF RELIEF OPERATIONS FOR #UlyssesPH VICTIMS

We are accepting CASH donations for the typhoon victims. Email a copy of your transaction slip to **finance@gcf.org.ph** with the subject "Typhoon Ulysses"

CHURCH UPDATES



PRE-REGISTER FOR THE IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE

To know more about the safety guidelines and restrictions, and to reserve a seat, visit tinyurl.com/GCFreservation.

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS DEVOTIONALS

Mondays and Fridays | 8:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF Facebook and YouTube

LIVestream (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays | 5:00 p.m | on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 1:00 p.m | on Facebook at @GCFKidsLIFE

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays | 8:00 p.m. | 9 p.m. | via Zoom

YA TALKS GOT QUESTIONS: HOW DO I DEAL WITH RECURRING SIN?

Wednesday | 8:00 p.m. | LIVE on GCF Facebook and YouTube page with Pastor JP Kabuhat

DISCOVERING WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS (6-WEEK ONLINE BIBLE STUDY)

Sundays | 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | via Zoom

Pre-registration required: (Precept) Ms Goldie/Jen: 0917-7732378
(GCF) Marj: 0917-7791549

JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY

FB: Greenhills Christian Fellowship | IG: [gcf.ortigas](https://www.instagram.com/gcf.ortigas) | YT: GCF Main

HOPE IS RISEN (RESURRECTION SUNDAY)

April 4, 2021 | 10 a.m. (English) 3 p.m. (Filipino) | LIVE on GCF Facebook & YouTube page

CHRIST'S JOURNEY TO THE CROSS | STEPS TO CALVARY (HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONALS)

March 29 – April 2 | 8 p.m. | Live on GCF FB and YT page | April 3 | Family Devotions

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GROW IN A GROWTH GROUP

AQUILA & PRISCILLA GROWTH GROUP COUPLES (AGE 35 TO 55)

Thursdays | 7:00 p.m. | via Webex | with Dr. Mike and May Loo

ONLINE VISITOR'S CENTER

Are you joining us for the first time? We would love to get to know you more! Visit bit.ly/GCFwelcome



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

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Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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