

CONNECT WITH THE MESSAGE

Nehemiah 1 – Make it Your Problem

- 1) Which historical character would you most like to meet (apart from Jesus)?

- 2) Was there anything Rich said on Sunday that you found particularly helpful or challenging? What was it and why?

- 3) Read **2 Chronicles 36 v11-23** - Zedekiah becomes king in Jerusalem in 597BC
 - a) i) How are king Zedekiah and the priests and leaders described in v12-16?

 - ii) Do you think the rest of the people of Judah were similar or different from the leaders? Why?

 - iii) In what ways can you act/think like these people?

 - iv) How do they react to the messengers God sends to warn them?

- b) i) What does God finally do as a result of his people's sin and rebellion?

- ii) What do you think it would be like for the people taken into exile? Can you think of any similar modern situations?

- iii) Who do you think is responsible for the suffering experienced during the attack and the exile? Why?

- iv) How would you describe Jerusalem after the Babylonians have left? Can you think of a modern equivalent?

Around **550BC** the Persian Empire swallows up the Babylonians under the rule of Cyrus the first Persian Emperor.

c) i) What does Cyrus do that is significant for the Jews?

ii) Why does the passage say he does this?

iii) What can we learn about God from this passage? (Try making a list. There are more than you think)

d) Read **Habbakuk 3 v2**

How could you use this prayer when praying for the church and the UK?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read **Deuteronomy 28 v1-68** and **Deuteronomy 30 v1-20** written by Moses shortly before the Israelites went into the Promised Land.

a) List all the consequences threatened if Israel do not fully obey God.

b) How could you summarise them in one sentence?

c) List all the consequences promised if Israel fully obey God.

d) How do you think we can understand these verses in light of the New Covenant? Why?

e) What was the final consequence if Israel continued to disobey?

f) What do you think was the aim of this consequence? Why?

g) What does God promise to do after this and for what reasons?

h) Do you think the promises made in Chapter 30 were fulfilled in the return from exile? Why?

i) How does Jesus completely fulfill these promises in the New Covenant?

j) What do you think you personally need to do as a result of studying these passages?

CONNECT IN PRAYER

Plans are being finalised for our team visit to **Lesotho** at the **end of January**. Please pray for Al, Adam, Rosie, Jack, Suzanne, Steve, Hannah, Tim, Cat, Mark and Rob to work well as a team. Pray for genuine friendships to form with the Christians in the Lesotho village churches. Pray that each team member would sense that God is using their gifts and experience to encourage and serve the people they meet.

CONNECT WITH CHURCH LIFE

The **Eldership Sunday** is on **Sunday 16th March** at **3pm**. This is an exciting time in the churches history where we will be praying for and formerly recognising Al and Jeff as Elders. (Please Note: this replaces the morning service).