

Welcome and Introduction

Thank you for joining us this morning. We are glad you are here! Last week was our second time we came to visit and we had a meeting with the church leadership with the participation of Rev. Dr. Nick Ashton from the East Midlands Baptist Association. He had introduced us to the church and I believe we are now in the process of becoming partners in the Gospel as we are looking for an opportunity to serve and become your part time minister. I have asked my wife Andrea to start our worship service this morning by reading for us a passage in scripture and lead us in a word of pray. In sequence we are going to sing a song as we prepare our hearts and our minds to hear the Word of God. I have also asked my daughter Rebecca to lead us in a time of intercession on behalf of all of us in this pandemic. This virus had already killed more than a million people around the world. Then we will read Nehemiah, chapter 1 for our reflection this morning. After the preaching of the word I asked my son, Saulo to lead us in a song as we reflect, respond and look forward to apply God's word into our lives.

Scripture Reading and Open Prayer (Andrea Moises)

Psalm 96:7-9

⁷ *Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.*

⁸ *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.*

⁹ *Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.*

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come together to exalt your name!

In your presence we sing Psalms, because you alone are greatly to be praised. It is your name that we love and fear because you are clothed in splendour and majesty; it is only in your presence, Lord, that we find strength and real joy. I pray the psalm we just read be transformed into actions so that we may bless your name by telling of your salvation day by day. Help us by the constant presence of your Holy Spirit to declare your glory among the nations, among different ethnic people groups represented in our community. May we all spread the word of your marvellous works among our neighbours, in season and out of season.

In Jesus precious name, we pray. Amen

Song 1 - Here for you (Matt Redman)

<https://youtu.be/dtj-G1gKnD8> Copy and paste this link to hear on YouTube

Let our praise be Your welcome
Let our songs be a sign
We are here for You, we are here for You
Let Your breath come from heaven
Fill our hearts with Your life
We are here for You, we are here for You

To You our hearts are open
Nothing here is hidden
You are our one desire
You alone are holy
Only You are worthy
God, let Your fire fall down

Let our shout be Your anthem
Your renown fill the skies
We are here for You, we are here for You

Let Your Word move in power
Let what's dead come to life
We are here for You, we are here for You

We welcome You with praise
We welcome You with praise
Almighty God of love
Be welcomed in this place
(Repeat)

Let every heart adore
Let every soul awake
Almighty God of love
Be welcomed in this place

Intercession – Covid-19 (Rebecca Moises)

Lord God,

We humbly come before you to ask for your hands of mercy upon the whole world in this difficult season where this virus has already killed over a million people around the world. We pray for your protection on us here in our nation and for our loved ones spread out in different parts of the world.

Dear Father, would you bring relief and healing for those who are infected and battling against Covid 19. Would you please comfort those who are mourning the loss of family and friends. We pray for those who are vulnerable as well as for those who are in the front line helping others.

Your word says that if we humble ourselves and begin to pray, you would heal our barren land and cleanse us with your rain. We trust in your promise and we rest assured on your almighty hands.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

Nehemiah 1:4-11 NIV Nehemiah's Prayer

⁴ *When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.* ⁵ *Then I said: "Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,* ⁶ *let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you.* ⁷ *We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.* ⁸ *"Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,* ⁹ *but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'* ¹⁰ *"They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.* ¹¹ *Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man."*
I was cupbearer to the king.

Preaching and Teaching

Introduction

Just want to give you a little bit of background before we reflect into four points on Nehemiah's prayer. The context of the book is the return of God's people to the promise land. They went to exile for 70 years and they were there due to their disobedience. As they kept sinning and worshipping other gods. God ultimately punishment for them was to send them into exile. The 10 tribes of the north (Israel) went to Assyria, later the 2 tribes of the south (Judah and Benjamin) went to Babylon. There were three returns recorded. First with Zerubbabel with the royal line with David, than with Ezra bringing with him the Levites and building the temple and later with Nehemiah who committed in rebuilding the walls. We see here Nehemiah praying and confessing his sin and the sin of the nation. I believe that should be now around a call to pray, repent and fast. Corona Virus has killed more than a million people worldwide

Many have lost their loved ones and this virus is causing so much suffering. Today as we look on Nehemiah prayer I would like to reflect on 4 'R's: **Remember, Repent, Realign and Release**

I – Remember

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. Psalm 137:1
I truly believe God is calling us to Remember that he has a covenant of love with his people. He loved us and we belong to Him. *v5 Then I said: "Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments*

I would like us to picture the church old golden days. Would that time ever come back? The presence of God was constantly in our temples. The word of God was preached with authority. There was no such thing as 'Politically Correct'. The church had a voice in this nation. People had fear of God and were filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit. What happened? Why are we in this situation? Far from home meant for the people in exile far from Jerusalem, which represents the word of God, Worship, Prayer, Fellowship. How powerful was the preaching of the word? Many missionaries and

preachers were raised from here. William Carey , David Livingston, George Miller, Hudson Taylor. Preachers like John Wesley, John Knox, Charles Spurgeon. There was a revival which transformed every sphere of our society. However, we turned our backs to God. Humanism just like Assyria took us into exile far away from God and his word. The relativism, which says there is no truth and that there is so many ways a person can find God and yet Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

II – Repent

So, I also believe this is the season is for us to return to God and Repent. When Nehemiah heard the situation of Jerusalem he wept, he fasted and he prayed...
v4 "When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. I confess my sin and the sin of my people."

We need to repent from worshiping other gods and turning our backs from the one and true God. We have been worshiping mammon, pleasure, power, sex and they are all false gods. *The bible says in Romans 3:23-24 :²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. In I John 1:9 ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. In II Chronicles 7:14 ¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. All started with a prayer of confession and repentance from Nehemiah and we see also in Daniel.*

III - Realign

I believe we are to realign ourselves with God's word and return to a Biblical Christian World View. We are to seek His kingdom first and we need to go back and obey God's commandments. Shama Israel Adonai Eloheino Adonai Ehad. *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*
⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.^[a] ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

We are to love the Lord your God with all our hearts and obey his commandments. The Bible teaches that we need to impress on our children, but haven't obey it. We need to realign ourselves with the word of God individually and as the body of Christ. *V.8 ⁸ "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'* If we realign ourselves and return to Him he will bring us back and we will experience revival once again in our nation. God would you bring us back? Would you do it again?

IV - Release

I believe God wants to release us and bring revival again. There will be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit again in our churches. We will see people coming to Christ and be Baptized. Nehemiah was released by the king and they build the wall around Jerusalem

in 52 days. Something that was impossible in human eyes. We see that everyone got involved in rebuilding the wall. God released Nehemiah and the people return to God and he wanted to release us. *In Ephesian 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* The word for good works in Greek is Kalos Ergon, which it is not a simple word that means 'work' but is something beautiful and excellent. We are a poem of God and he has something beautiful and excellent prepared for each one of us to do. We have only one life to live and we want to live it in full. I believe we are going to see a spiritual awakening in our days

It is my dream to see this church alive and filled with people again from every background worshiping and living holy lives. When God wants to do something He does. In 1986 David Wilkerson an American evangelist predicted that a plague was coming and would close all our churches and bars. But after that will be a great spiritual awakening.

Conclusion

Let us **R**emember God's love for us and **r**eturn to him with all our hearts, Let us **R**epent and confess our sins. Not only our sins, but the sins of our fathers, our families and our nation. Let us **R**ealign ourselves to His word and believe He is able to **R**elease to all he want to do in us and through us.

Song 2 - Respond and Reflect / O Come to the Altar (Elevation Worship)

https://youtu.be/OpfuKKH_SCE - Copy and paste this link to hear on YouTube

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin, Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well, Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait, Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born, Jesus is calling

Oh what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Final Prayer and Apostolic Blessings

Heavenly Father, may this time of uncertainty and suffering around the world bring us back to our knees. Help us to remember of your love and the great salvation we have in your son Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit bring conviction of our sins and help us to repent, return and realign our lives with your word. We repent for going away from you, but Lord we want now to return to you and to your word. Please Lord release us to walk on those good works you have already prepared for us and I pray for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit in your church. Would you do it again? In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Let end our service by speaking to each other / The Priestly Blessing

*22 The Lord said to Moses, 23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: 24 **““The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.””** 27 "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them." Numbers 6: 22-27*