### Nehemiah

## Chapter 1

1These are the words of NehemiAh, son of HachaliJah.  
  
It was in the 20th year, during the month of Chislev, while I was in the city of Susa in AbiRa, 2that HanaNi (one of my brothers) arrived with some men from Judah.  
  
So I asked him about those who’d survived and escaped the captivity, and about JeruSalem. 3And he said to me:  
  
 ‘Those who survived the captivity and are still in [Judah] are a joke and they’re extremely wicked.  
  
 ‘As for the walls of JeruSalem; they’ve been knocked down and its gates have been burned.’  
  
4Well when I heard this, I sat down and cried... Then I mourned for days, and I fasted and prayed to the God of heaven.  
  
5I said:  
  
 ‘No, O Lord God of the heavens, the mighty, great, and fearful One who’s guarded our Sacred Agreement and who shows mercy to those who love Him and keep His Commandments...  
  
 6‘May Your ears hear [what my brother is saying], and may Your eyes be open so that You pay attention to Your servant today – throughout this day and night – who is praying on behalf of Your servants, the sons of IsraEl!  
  
 ‘I openly admit to the sins that the sons of IsraEl have committed against You... For even the house of my father and I have sinned, 7because we left You and we haven’t obeyed the Commandments, decisions, and instructions that You gave to Your servant Moses.  
  
 8‘However, please remember what You told Your servant Moses when You said:  
  
 ‘If you break our contract with Me I’ll spread you among the peoples.  
  
 9‘But if you return to Me and start observing and obeying My Commandments… Even if you’re scattered to the wings of the skies, I’ll gather you back and return you to the place where I’ve chosen to camp and where I’ve put My Name.’  
  
 10‘Now, they are Your children and Your people whom You ransomed by Your great power and with the ‘fortress’ of Your hand.  
  
 11‘No, O Jehovah... Allow Your ears to pay attention to the prayer of Your servant and to the prayers of Your children who fear Your Name!  
  
 ‘Bless the way of Your servant today, and make the [king] compassionate before this man; for I’m [just] a wine server to the king.’