



# 40.DAY 2023

40.DAYS 40.VOICES 40.PRAYERS

## DAY 7 | JULY 7

### Rebuilding the Walls of Singapore

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#### BIBLE READING

NEHEMIAH 1 | The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, <sup>2</sup> Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” <sup>4</sup> When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

<sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, <sup>9</sup> 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.’

<sup>10</sup> “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. <sup>11</sup> 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 favor in the presence of this man.”

I was cupbearer to the king.

**T**he walls of Jerusalem were destroyed. There were attempts to rebuild but without success. After 150 years, the walls remained in ruins and the people were still vulnerable.

The Word of God draws our attention to Nehemiah, the Jew who held the trusted position of a cupbearer to the king of Persia, a man entrusted to ensure the safety of the King’s food and drink.

Although he lived a life of comfort in the palace of Susa, his heart was in Jerusalem, the city of his God and his forefathers, some 1,300km away. That’s the distance from Singapore to Phuket.

In Nehemiah 1:2, the prophet writes: “Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other man, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.”

When you hear about trouble befalling the people, churches or countries that are of concern to you, I’m sure you will search for information on them; we all do that. And Nehemiah did that, too.

He heard that those who survived the exile and were back in the province were in great trouble and disgrace, that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and its gates burnt with fire.

In the ancient world, a city without walls was a city vulnerable to its enemies. They had no defence, no protection. No wonder the people lived in constant distress, constant disgrace.

What did Nehemiah do when he heard about the broken walls of the city?

In Nehemiah 1:4, we are told that he sat down and wept. For some days, he mourned and fasted and prayed before God. All because the walls were in ruins.

Dear friends, many of you see 377a as the wall that protects the church and the nation from unrighteousness. I saw how distressed some of you were when it was repealed. Do you just stay resigned to that reality and leave the breaches as they are, allow righteousness to be attacked and harassed at will? Or do you do what Nehemiah did?

Are you willing to pray? Or even fast for the Church and the nation? Are you willing to do whatever you can to rebuild the walls even at the expense of your personal comfort?

It is my prayer that God will raise from among you more Nehemiahs for the Kingdom of God. Men and women who will fast and pray for Singapore and the Church; men and women concerned about the welfare and well-being of our nation; men and women who will do whatever it takes to ensure the safety of our future generations.

Are you willing to be that Nehemiah for the Church and for Singapore?

Let us pray: *Mighty God, we are thankful to You for Your love and grace that is in Christ Jesus. We are thankful to You, O God, that by grace we can become Your children and You have said in Your word that whatever we ask in the name of Jesus, You hear us.*

*Mighty God, I pray that from among those who join us today, they will hear Your calling to be Nehemiahs who will stand up and stand in the gap for Singapore and for the Church.*

*Thank you, in Jesus' name, Amen.*



## REFLECT

- 1 What is the spiritual significance of fasting, and praying over a nation?
- 2 What is the Lord saying to you about His heart for Singapore's well-being?
- 3 Will you fast and pray for Singapore in these weeks?



## PRAY

- 1 Pray for God to fortify the walls that strengthen Singapore's moral fabric and that help us as a nation pursue righteousness. This includes godly and wise leaders who live upright lives and safeguard policies that promote godly values, as well as unity and forbearance amongst different communities.
- 2 Pray for the desire, courage, wisdom and favour to rebuild walls that have been broken down that threaten the Church and families. Open up your heart and ask to be a Nehemiah for God.