

Nehemiah 1:1-11 (AMPC)

What Do YOU
Care?

1. THE WORDS or story of
Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: Now in
the month of Chislev in the
twentieth year [of the Persian king],
as I was in the castle of Shushan,

2. Hanani, one of my kinsmen, came with certain men from Judah, and I asked them about the surviving Jews who had escaped exile, and about Jerusalem.

3. And they said to me, The remnant there in the province who escaped exile are in great trouble and reproach; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its WDYC [fortified] gates are destroyed by fire.

4. When I heard this, I sat down and wept and mourned for days and fasted and prayed [constantly] before the God of heaven,

5. And I said, O Lord God of heaven,
the great and terrible God, Who
keeps covenant, loving-kindness, and
mercy for those who love Him and
keep His commandments,

6. Let Your ear now be attentive and
Your eyes open to listen to the prayer
of Your servant which I pray before
You day and night for the Israelites,
Your servants, confessing the sins of
the Israelites which we have sinned
against You.

6. Yes, I and my father's house have sinned.
7. We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, statutes, and ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. [Deut. 6:1-9.]

8. Remember [earnestly] what You commanded Your servant Moses: If you transgress and are unfaithful, I will scatter you abroad among the nations; [Lev. 26:33.]

9. But if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though your outcasts were in the farthest part of the heavens [the expanse of outer space],

9. yet will I gather them from there and will bring them to the place in which I have chosen to set My Name.

[Deut. 30:1-5.]

10. Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.

11. O Lord, let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere and fear Your name (Your nature and attributes); and prosper, I pray You, Your servant this day and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was cupbearer to the king.

Nehemiah 1:1-11

A 2025 report from AARP and the National Alliance for Caregiving reveals that the number of unpaid family caregivers has surged, with many providing complex medical and personal support at significant personal cost to their own financial and physical health.

According to The 2025 Compassion
Report (38 pages,
PDF), respondents claimed that
empathy toward marginalized
groups has decreased, as only one in
three Americans feel compassion for
all groups of people,

...with respondents showing the lowest compassion levels for people who have been convicted of crimes, migrants who are in the United States illegally, and people in higher socio-economic classes.

The inaugural report identified five layers of compassion: for self, individuals, groups, local area, and nation, and noted that that self-compassion is the foundation of all compassion.

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Economic inequality is a significant contributor, creating social distance and a sense that the wealthy and the working class inhabit different worlds with unrelatable struggles. This can foster resentment Political polarization also plays a critical role.

The increasingly vitriolic nature of public discourse can lead to the dehumanization of those with differing viewpoints, making it more difficult to extend empathy and care beyond one's own ideological tribe.

This “us versus them” mentality can stifle the generalized compassion necessary for a thriving civil society. The role of social media in this dynamic is complex and contested. While it can be a powerful tool for organizing mutual aid and fostering a sense of community around shared interests or identities,

...it can also amplify division and create echo chambers that reinforce biases and limit exposure to different perspectives. The curated and often idealized presentations of life online can also lead to social comparison and a diminished sense of authentic connection.

“What you care about is what
you are.”

- Martha Graham

What He Heard

3. Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying,
4. Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house [of the Lord] lies in ruins?

5. Now therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways and set your mind on what has come to you.

6. You have sown much, but you have reaped little; you eat, but you do not have enough; you drink, but you do not have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages has earned them to put them in a bag with holes in it.

7. Thus says the Lord of hosts:
Consider your ways (your previous
and present conduct) and how you
have fared.

8. Go up to the hill country and bring lumber and rebuild [My] house, and I will take pleasure in it and I will be glorified, says the Lord [by accepting it as done for My glory and by displaying My glory in it].

9. You looked for much [harvest], and behold, it came to little; and even when you brought that home, I blew it away. Why? says the Lord of hosts. Because of My house, which lies waste while you yourselves run each man to his own house [eager to build and adorn it].

How He Responded

1. Sat down
2. Wept & Mourned
3. Fasted & Prayed

19. Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked privately, Why could we not drive it out?

20. He said to them, Because of the littleness of your faith [that is, your lack of firmly relying trust]. For truly I say to you, if you have faith [that is living] like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain,

20. Move from here to yonder place,
and it will move; and nothing will
be impossible to you.
21. But this kind does not go out
except by prayer and fasting.

How He Responded

How Did He Pray

1. Great and terrible or awesome
2. Keeps Covenant, loving-kindness mercy to those who love him
3. Day and night praying
4. Confess WE HAVE SINNED and receive the judgment of that

What He Expected

1. But-If we return

a. scatter to the farthest parts of heaven

b. Bring them to the place I've set by name!!

2. We are the people Your great and strong
hand have delivered

What He Expected

3. Prosper your servant and grant mercy in the sight of this man..I was cupbearer to the king.
4. 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.”

What He Expected

5. I was cupbearer to the king.