

## Repent!

*'O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast 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 of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned. <sup>7</sup>We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup>Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples; <sup>9</sup>but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place at which I have chosen to establish my name." <sup>10</sup>They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great power and your strong hand. <sup>11</sup>O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man!'- Nehemiah 1:5-11*

*'The survivors there in the province who escaped captivity are in great trouble and shame; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire.'- Nehemiah 1:3*

Like all of us, the people of Israel had rebelled against the Word of God and now they suffered the consequences of their sins: their cities and lives were in ruins. Only a remnant of them escaped with their lives to tell of their horrible ordeal at the hands of the enemy. The rest were either killed or taken into captivity by the adversary.

The enemy today – the devil- does not wield spears, arrows nor swords. Yet the enemy of our souls, have operate with the same motives: to steal, kill and destroy. Like the people of Israel who failed to keep God's commandments, many today have either been killed prematurely or continue to be held in captivity by their sins and rebellious attitudes. Lives have been ruined by many addictions, vices, evil intentions and the insatiable appetite for fame, fortune, power and pleasure.

*"I now pray before you day and night for your servants the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned."*

Who is standing in the gap like Nehemiah and interceding day and night for the sins of the people? Who is broken before God, and confessing their sins with true repentance?

This is a call for true repentance, both personally and on behalf of a 'stiff-necked' people who are besieged on all sides by the devil and demonic forces. Like David in Psalm 51:1-3, let us cry out in a corporate voice unto God with broken spirits and contrite hearts:

*"Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions.<sup>2</sup> Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. For we acknowledge our transgressions,"*

Like the people of Israel whose lands were destroyed by the enemy, our families, communities and nations are in need of healing. We need to humble ourselves and turn from our wicked ways if God is going to hear our prayers and heal our lands from pestilences, famine, earthquakes, wars, crime, pollution, corruption, lawlessness, and all other forms of evil. But there must be wave of repentance across this land, starting with God's people:

*"<sup>14</sup> If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." - 2 Chronicles 7:14*

Repent! Repent! Repent!... before it is too late. For Jesus reminds us in Mark 1:15:

*"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."*

Nehemiah knew that before he can begin the rebuilding process, that every aspect of sin in his life, his family's and the people's had to be confessed before God. He lay the groundwork for the re-building process which he envisaged, by engaging in a period of mourning, prayer and fasting for and on behalf of the people of Israel, his family and himself.

*"The survivors there in the province who escaped captivity are in great trouble and shame; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire.' When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.' - Nehemiah 1:3-4.*

*We too, should follow suit. Let us pray.*

*"Heavenly Father,*

*Have mercy upon us, O Lord! For the people of this land, my family and I have sinned against You. Let Your Holy Spirit convict the hearts of the people to humble themselves, seek Your face and turn from their wicked ways. By Your great power and Your strong Hands, redeem by power of the blood of Your Son Jesus (call names).*

*O God, I pray in a special way for our leaders in government. Let them be godly men and women who desire to put the affairs of the country before their own selfish ambitions, greed and other hidden agendas. We place a hedge of protection around our government leaders. Almighty God, root every ungodly spirit which operate in the seat of power. Break down every evil altar which has been set up in that place to further the works of darkness over this land.*

*I dismantle every stronghold over our Legislators, our Judiciary, and our Executive. We declare that laws and decisions are made in accordance with Your Word. Place Your people in strategic positions as watchmen and prayer warriors. Give them wisdom, boldness and courage to champion the rights of the people and to defend Your Word. Let divine favour, influence and understanding be their portion, in Jesus' name.*

*Heal our land, O God, from the scourge of crime and lawlessness, sexual immorality, idolatry, witchcraft, revelry and the likes. I speak Your divine order over every institution: education, health, government, law, national security, social services, family and church. Rebuke the devourer and the spirit of wastage in these institutions. Let the taxpayers' finances be used wisely for the benefit of the people.*

*Us me O Lord, like Nehemiah, as Your instrument of divine purpose. Give me a willing and obedient heart as You make the necessary adjustments in my life, as You see fit. As I move out of my comfort zone, let there be divine appointments and relationships to achieve Your purpose, and to facilitate the rebuilding process in my life, my family's and the nation's. 'O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name.' It is done! In Jesus' name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen."*

### **Memory Verses:**

*"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."- Mark 1:15.*