



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1583 ~ Nehemiah at Jerusalem.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Civilizations have existed in Middle Eastern countries around the Mediterranean Sea for many thousands of years. Some of these ancient cities have been rebuilt over the top of ruins of a previous one but others have become further hidden in the earth as time has gone by. In the Scriptures, Jeremiah heard from the Lord that Jerusalem would be rebuilt again one day but the city of Babylon wouldn't be. Even in recent times when there have been attempts to rebuild Babylon, it's always remained unliveable.

In the past century or two, archaeologists have shown a great deal of interest in digging up sites of old forgotten cities. Recently the floor of a church estimated to be 1,500 years old was unearthed. Its beautiful mosaic floor was only allowed to be exposed to the air for a week before it had to be covered over again to prevent damage to it.

Finding coins are of particular interest to authorities as their date give a good timeline for dating the remains of a city. Recently, a large haul of stolen coins was found by the Israeli police when looking for other things. These particular coins belonged to the same era of today's Bible Adventure, being a second Temple time period between Nehemiah and Jesus Christ.

Although Nehemiah's ancestors were buried in Jerusalem, he'd been born in Babylon and gained a position of importance in the king's palace. But he knew of his fellow Jews living back to their homeland and this was where his heart was too.

Today's adventure starts almost 13 years after Ezra had come home to Jerusalem to teach God's ways to the people returned from Babylon. But although the Temple worship was going well, there were still piles of city ruins and rubble everywhere and the people living there were very discouraged.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

In the 20th year of the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia, Nehemiah learnt from a visiting brother and friends that Jerusalem still lay in ruins. He was very upset about this. Nehemiah spent four months praying to God about the situation. Then God opened the way for Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem and organise the work of rebuilding the walls and securing the city.

Nehemiah personally identified himself with the city of Jerusalem and he probably came from the tribe of Judah. The Persian king's decree to let Nehemiah, his trusted cupbearer, to go to Jerusalem was very important. The Israelite nation needed to be firmly established. In the book of Daniel Chapter 10 Daniel was given a vision of the future for Israel. It started with the return of the Babylonian exiles and finished 69 weeks of years or 483 years until the ministry of the Messiah began. This time span should have given the people living in Israel hope of a future for themselves and their nation.

Note that Nehemiah didn't rush into things. He waited and prayed for the right time to speak to the king. God's timing is perfect. We can race in and ruin things or we can be too late and miss out. Always pray for God's perfect timing.

One of the best examples of God's perfect timing to the minute is in the New Testament book of The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 10. Jewish people in those days wouldn't have a Gentile, that is, a non-Jew, to eat in their homes. Neither would they go to a Gentile's house to eat there. But God instructed the Apostle Peter to go with a group of Gentile soldiers to the home of a Roman centurion called Cornelius.

Cornelius had found favour in God's eyes so God had given him instructions to send for the Apostle Peter to come to him. This Cornelius did. Just before his men arrived at Peter's house, God gave Peter a vision and repeated it twice so Peter would get the message. As soon as the visions had ceased, the group of soldiers sent by Cornelius was knocking on Peter's door. If Peter had much time to think about what he was being asked to do, he probably would have declined to go with the soldiers. But he didn't have time to ponder anything at all, so he simply obeyed what God had told him to do.

The Persian king considered Nehemiah trustworthy and appointed him governor of Jerusalem. One writer said: "To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved." And another has also said: "The chief lesson I have learned in a long life is that the only way to make a man trustworthy is to trust him; and the surest way to make him untrustworthy is to distrust him and show your distrust."

Nehemiah gives us a good example of how to pray to God. He did so by humbling himself before God and showing Him great respect and submission. Where there's no reverence for God and His glory, there are few answers from God. Self-sufficient people do not pray as they merely talk to themselves. The self-satisfied will not pray as they have no knowledge of their need. The self-righteous cannot pray as they have no basis on which to come to God.

When Nehemiah gave a detailed answer to the king's questions, he showed that he had carefully thought through his plan of action and persistently prayed over it. Don't ever substitute anything for fervent believing prayer. Some rewards in prayer come only in proportion to the effort and time put into the praying. When God answered Nehemiah's prayers through the king's willing cooperation, Nehemiah did not take the credit but saw it as evidence of the Lord's gracious hand upon him.

Nehemiah is one of the many Bible characters who proved trustworthy in the task given to them. How then can we be trustworthy with the things God gives us? Our faithfulness to God makes us trustworthy to God. Some people believe in the visible life only, which is, what they can merely see through their own eyes. Faith that comes from the Scriptures, however, teaches us that the invisible things of God are far more important. We are to live for the unseen yet revealed and known things of God.

All law-abiding people want to be trusted – not only by their co-workers, family and friends but by strangers too. Does it surprise you then that God wants to be trusted as well? God doesn't make mistakes. Sometimes when we see an active young person lose their life before they reach their prime, we wonder if God has made a mistake in this situation.

Yet God is sovereign and doesn't reveal all His plans to us. We need to hold fast to the eternal truth that God is good all the time and be thankful that His way is perfect and fully trustworthy. One day in heaven, we will see things from His perspective and come to understand what we don't know now.

The Scriptures have a number of trustworthy statements:

In the first letter of the Apostle Paul to Timothy, it says: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

And in Paul's letter to Titus, it says: "For God has revealed His grace for the salvation of all people. That grace instructs us to give up ungodly living and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this world; as we wait for the blessed Day we hope for, when the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ will appear. He gave Himself for us, to rescue us from all wickedness and to make us a pure people who belong to Him alone and are eager to do good."

There are those who insist that there is no invisible God but do agree to the invisible forces of the wind. One day they too will see the Lord Jesus with their own eyes. But then it will be bad news for these people! It will be too late to ask the Lord Jesus to be their Saviour from sin then. They will be lost for eternity! Don't let this happen to you. Pray to Jesus today and ask Him to make you a trustworthy person in His sight.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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