

ASSIGNMENTS

CARLO TEDESCO

1 OF 3

Assignment 5-1

In this passage from Nehemiah 1:1-11, make as many observations as you can.

Nehemiah 1:1-11 ESV The words of **Nehemiah** the son of **Hachaliah**. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the

PAST TENSE (WHEN IT HAPPENED (MONTH))

= NEHEMIAH; ANTECEDENT AND PRONOUNS, IN WORD OR PHRASE REFERRING TO NEHEMIAH WHO IS THE SPEAKER / WRITER INCLUDING FIRST- PERSON PLURAL PRONOUNS REFERRING TO A GROUP THAT INCLUDES THE SPEAKER / WRITER.

twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, (2) that

THE YEAR IT HAPPENED (20th YEAR OF THE KING'S RULE) NEHEMIAH IDENTIFIES THE PARTICULAR LOCATION HE WAS WHEN IT HAPPENED.

Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from **Juda**. **NO NAMES BUT THESE 'CERTAIN MEN' ARE FROM JUDA. HOW MANY MEN?**

KINSHIP - HANANI IS IDENTIFIED AS NEHEMIAH'S BROTHER BY NEHEMIAH BUT OTHER MEN WERE NOT IDENTIFIED; WERE THEY KNOWN / NOT KNOWN BY NEHEMIAH? CAME TO NEHEMIAH

Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who

NEHEMIAH ASKED THEM i.e. ALL OF THEM

escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning

A LIST OF QUESTIONS: 1) CONCERNING THE JEWS WHO ESCAPED 2) WHO HAD SURVIVED THE EXILE 3) CONCERNING JERUSALEM - THE CITY ARE THESE ONE AND THE SAME PEOPLE?

Jerusalem. (3) And they said to me, "The remnant there in

THEY ALL RESPONDED TO NEHEMIAH'S QUESTIONS 'REMNANT' THAT WHICH REMAINS, LEFT OVER, HAVE SURVIVED.

the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble

PROVINCE OF JUDA WHICH WAS UNDER PERSIAN RULE

PERIOD OF PERSECUTION EXILE AND HARDSHIP

THIS 'REMNANT' OF A PEOPLE ARE IN 'GREAT TROUBLE AND SHAME' WHY?

and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its

EMOTIONAL TERMS; 'GREAT TROUBLE' i.e. PHYSICAL AND 'SHAME' i.e. PSYCHOLOGICAL THEIR GREAT CITY, SYMBOL OF STRENGTH, FAITH, PROTECTION & NATIONAL UNITY UNDER GOD WAS SUFFERED DESTRUCTION IN PARTICULAR TO ITS WALLS AND GATES WHICH THEY WERE SO PROUD OF. gates are destroyed by fire." (4) As soon as I heard these

AT THAT INSTANT OF HEARING THIS NEWS

EMOTIONAL TERMS DENOTING EXTREME SORROW, PAIN, LOSS

words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I

NEHEMIAH BECAME SO DISTRESSED HE HAD TO SIT DOWN AND WE 'WEPT AND MOURNED FOR DAYS'

continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

EXPRESSION OF REPENTANCE, SEEKING FORGIVENESS, MERCY, GUIDANCE HUMBLING HIMSELF BEFORE GOD



DIALOGUE BETWEEN NEHEMIAH AND GOD

(5) And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and

NEHEMIAH COMING BEFORE GOD AND ADDRESSING GOD REVERENTLY WITH DEEP AND SOLEMN RESPECT

awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with

GOD IS DESCRIBED AS GREAT AND AWESOME AND FAITHFUL TO HIS COVENANT AND HIS LOVE FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN COVENANT WITH HIM. * THE KEY HERE IS THOSE WHO LOVE GOD AND KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS - THE ROLE OF THE PEOPLE those who love him and keep his commandments, (6) let

NOTE: GOD KEEPS COVENANT AND STEADFAST LOVE WHEREAS IN CONTRAST

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAVE BROKEN THEIR COVENANT WITH GOD, HAVE SINNED AGAINST your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer GOD AND HAVE SUFFERED AS A CONSEQUENCE. NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER PLEADING WITH GOD TO BE HEARD.

of your servant that I now pray before you THIS IS NOW ON HIS MIND 'DAY AND NIGHT' day and night for

NEHEMIAH SETS HIMSELF APART AS BEING GOD'S 'SERVANT' AND THEN MAKES INCLUSION OF 'THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL' AS ALSO GOD'S SERVANTS.

the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the

A MAJOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER ON BEHALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, THE CONFESSION OF THEIR SINS, PLEADING GODS FORGIVENESS AND THE RESTORATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD

people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I

GOD MAKES IT SOUND SURPRISING YES SO

and my father's house have sinned. (7) We have acted

NEHEMIAH SETS HIMSELF APART AGAIN.

KINSHIP, NEHEMIAH'S CONFESSION IMPLICATES HIS WHOLE FAMILY.

* TONES OF REMORSE

very corruptly against you and have not kept the

* A STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN GOD'S UPRIGHT AND ABSOLUTE FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL AND ISRAEL'S RECKLESS DISREGARD FOR GOD'S COMMANDMENTS, STATUTES, RULES AND LOVE. commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you

LIST: COMMANDMENTS, STATUTES, RULES - WHICH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE TO KEEP

commanded your servant Moses. (8) Remember the word

NEHEMIAH RECALLING GOD'S WORD

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT SERVANT OF GOD, MOSES, IDENTIFIED AS THE CONDUIT THROUGH WHICH THIS INFORMATION WAS PASSED ONTO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are

GOD GOD'S SERVANT

ACTIONS OF PEOPLE

unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, (9) but if

CONDITIONAL STATEMENT

CONDITIONAL STATEMENT



REPENT OF THEIR SIN AND BE RESTORED TO GOD BY HIS FORGIVENESS, GRACE & MERCY

you return to me and keep my commandments and do them,
 GOD'S
 GOD
 PEOPLE OF ISRAEL
 ACTIONS/ROLES OF PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven,
 FELLOW ISRAELITES SCATTERED IN FAR AWAY PLACES

from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that
 GOD
 ACTIONS/ROLES OF GOD

'THERE', 'THAT PLACE', AND 'THERE' IS THE SAME PLACE, ISRAEL THE LAND WHERE GOD CHOSE FOR HIS PEOPLE TO DWELL.

I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' (10) They
 GOD INVOKING GOD'S NAME GOD'S PEOPLE

* NEHEMIAH IS ~~THE SAME~~ THE SAME COVENANT GOD MADE WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL THROUGH MOSES

are your servants and your people, whom you have
 GOD'S PEOPLE OF ISRAEL GOD

redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand.
 GOD HAS DONE IT GOD'S GOD'S FIGURATIVE SPEECH

BEFORE AND CAN DO IT AGAIN

(11) O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your
 NEHEMIAH HAS FIGURATIVE SPEECH GOD'S

CHANGED HIS ADDRESSING GOD FROM GOD TO 'O LORD' = MASTER

servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to
 NEHEMIAH GOD'S PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and
 GOD'S NAME URGENT REQUEST GOD'S NEHEMIAH

CONSIDERING THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION

grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was
 NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH IS PLEADING WITH GOD FOR GOD'S MERCY AND TO GRANT NEHEMIAH SUCCESS AND COMPASSION BEFORE THIS PERSIAN KING, SEEKING FAVOR CUPBEARER TO THE KING. PERHAPS TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM AND REBUILD ITS WALLS AND GATES AND TO RESTORE THEIR IDENTITY AND UNITY AS A PEOPLE OF AN AWESOME GOD.

CONTRAST
 MAKES REFERENCE TO THE KING ARTAXERXES OF PERSIA AS 'THIS MAN' IN COMPARISON TO HOW NEHEMIAH ADDRESSES AND DESCRIBES GOD AS HIS LORD THE GREAT & AWESOME GOD OF HEAVEN... ETC.



(she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Just to get you started:

Jairus	Bleeding woman
1. aman	1. a woman
2. goes to Jesus for help publicly	2. goes to Jesus for help privately
3. A SYNAGOGUE LEADER	3. A WOMAN OF LITTLE/NO STANDING
4. BOTH AFFLICTED ARE FEMALES - A LITTLE GIRL	4. " " " " - A MATURE WOMAN
5. DAUGHTER IS DYING/DEAD	5. WOMAN HAS CONSTIANT BLEEDING -UNCLEAN
6. JARIUS BELIEVED JESUS COULD HEAL HIS DAUGHTER BY LAYING HIS HANDS ON HER.	6. HEARD ABOUT JESUS AND THOUGHT IF SHE JUST TOUCHED HIS CLOTHES SHE WOULD BE HEALED
7. FELL AT HIS (JESUS') FEET	7. FELL AT HIS (JESUS') FEET
8. GIRL WAS IMMEDIATELY REVIVED WHEN JESUS TOOK HER HAND & SAID 'TALITHA KOUUM!'	8. BLEEDING STOPPED IMMEDIATELY ON TOUCHING JESUS' CLOTHES
9. JARIUS' DAUGHTER.	9. JESUS CALLS BLEEDING WOMAN DAUGHTER
10. JESUS TELLS HIM 'DON'T BE AFRAID, JUST BELIEVE'	10. JESUS TELLS WOMAN; "YOUR FAITH HAS HEALED YOU."
11. JESUS WAS IN FULL CONTROL OF THE SITUATION	11. JESUS WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE
12. THE DISCIPLES CHOSEN BY JESUS GOT TO SEE THE WHOLE MIRACLE OF THE GIRLS REVIVAL	12. THE DISCIPLES DID NOT SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED THE WHEN HEALING MIRACLE HAPPENED
13. JESUS ADVISED JARIUS TO JUST BELIEVE & THEN TOOK HER HAND.	13. THE WOMAN REACHED OUT IN FAITH AND TOUCHED JESUS

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 5-3
Read the story below from Mark 11. Make as many observations as you can on the text. Notice that the text has two encounters with a fig tree (vv. 12-14, 19-21) sandwiched around an event in the temple (vv. 15-18). In addition to making observations, explain how the fig tree relates to the episode in the temple

Mark 11:12-21 ESV On the following day, when they came
FOLLOWING ON FROM THE PREVIOUS JESUS
↓
DISCIPLES THEY HAVE ARRIVED AT A DESTINATION

from Bethany, he was hungry. (13) And seeing in the
ACTUAL LOCATION EMOTIVE LANGUAGE

= JESUS; ANTICIDENT AND PRONOUNS INCLUDING FIRST PERSON PLURAL PRONOUNS REFERRING TO A GROUP THAT INCLUDES JESUS.

distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find

JUST BECAUSE A FIG TREE IS "IN LEAF" DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT HAS ANY FRUIT ON IT. ESPECIALLY IF THE TREE HAS JUST PRODUCED LEAVES AT THE ONSET OF THE SEASON OR IF THE FRUITING PERIOD OF THE SEASON HAS PASSED THE TREE WILL anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but STILL HAVE LEAVES UNTILL LATE AUTUMN
i.e. FIGS

leaves, for it was not the season for figs. (14) And he said
STANDS TO REASON

to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his
JESUS IS SPEAKING TO A TREE ???

disciples heard it. (15) And they came to Jerusalem. And
INTERESTING HOW THEY MADE NO COMMENT THERE AND THEN. ACTUAL LOCATION

he entered the temple and began to drive out those who
JESUS BEGINS TO DRIVE OUT PARTICULAR PEOPLE FROM THE TEMPLE *

* sold and those who bought in the temple, and he



overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats
IT SEEMS THAT THE EPISODE IN THE TEMPLE WAS QUITE PHYSICAL

of those who sold pigeons. (16) And he would not allow
THESE PEOPLE/GROUPS WERE ENGAGING IN SINFUL PRACTICES
(TOTALLY INNA PROPRIATE) WHILE CLAIMING TO WORSHIP GOD
IN THE TEMPLE.

anyone to carry anything through the temple. (17) And he
IT SEEMS THAT JESUS TOOK COMMAND OF THE TEMPLE
CONDUCTING SOMEWHAT A 'CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE'

was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My

house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?

JESUS ~~INVOKES~~ INVOKES ISAIAH 56:7

"EVEN THOSE I WILL BRING TO MY HOLY MOUNTAIN, AND MAKE THEM JOYFUL IN
MY HOUSE OF PRAYER. THEIR BURNT OFFERINGS AND THEIR SACRIFICES WILL
BE ACCEPTABLE ON MY ALTER, FOR MY HOUSE WILL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER
But you have made it a den of robbers." (18) And the chief FOR ALL THE PEOPLES."

JESUS REPEATS WHAT IS WRITTEN IN JEREMIAH 7:11
"HAS THIS HOUSE WHICH IS CALLED BY MY NAME, BECOME A DEN OF ROBBERS
IN YOUR EYES? BEHOLD, I MYSELF HAVE SEEN IT, DECLARES THE LORD."

priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to
PEOPLE OF AUTHORITY IN THE TEMPLE

destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was

A CONSPIRACY LOOMING
CHIEF PRIEST AND SCRIBES FELT ~~THREATENED~~ BY JESUS
THREATENED

astonished at his teaching. (19) And when evening came

THE 'CROWD' WAS INFLUENCED BY JESUS
COULD IT HAVE BEEN THE END OF THE SABBATH

they went out of the city. (20) As they passed by in the



morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.

UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR FOR A TREE TO DIE AND COMPLETELY WITHER AWAY SO SOON

(21) And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look!

JESUS' DISCIPLE SEEMS SURPRISED

The fig tree that you cursed has withered."

JUDGEMENT!

IN MARK 11:12-21 (ESV) THE FIG TREE RELATES TO THE EPISODE IN THE TEMPLE SERVING AS A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL BARRENNESS. JESUS' CURSING OF THE FIG TREE, WHICH HAD LEAVES BUT NO FRUIT, FORESHADOWS THE JUDGEMENT HE WILL PRONOUNCE ON THE TEMPLE FOR ITS LACK OF GENUINE SPIRITUAL FRUITFULNESS.

THE FIG TREES WITHERING THE NEXT DAY REINFORCES THIS MESSAGE, SHOWING THAT THE TEMPLE, LIKE THE FIG TREE, WILL BE JUDGED FOR ITS LACK OF TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ITS FOCUS ON OUTWARD RITUALS RATHER THAN INWARD FAITH AND OBEDIANCE.

* AN INTERESTING NOTE, IN MARK 11:13 WE READ THAT THE FIG TREE HAD NO FRUIT BECAUSE "... FOR IT WAS NOT THE SEASON FOR FIGS." YET IT SEEMS THAT EVEN OUT OF SEASON, JESUS EXPECTED TO FIND "FRUIT" ON THAT TREE. WHAT WAS JESUS ACTUALLY HUNGRY FOR? IT BRINGS TO MIND 2 TIMOTHY 4:2 " PREACH THE WORD; BE READY IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON; REPROVE, REBUKE AND EXORT, WITH COMPLETE PATIENCE AND TEACHING.

