

Mary Rice

Assignment 5.1

28/06/2025

Observations

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Connection between paragraphs and episodes

The only thing I can connect between Neh 1 and other parts of the Bible with similar characters is the last part of Ezra. In Ezra 10:20, the last page of the book of Ezra 10 is Ezra 10:20, which mentions the sons of Imner being Hanani and Zebadiah. Hanani is mentioned in Neh 1:2 as one of Nehemiah's brothers.

Another connection is between Neh 1:11 when he mentions he is the king's cupbearer and Neh 2:1 when we learn of Nehemiah giving King Artaxerxes wine, doing his job.

Another connection is that Nehemiah 1 opens with the month of Kislev in the 20th year which is around September and then Nehemiah 2 opens with the month of Nisan, also in the 20th year, which is 6 or 7 months later.

Inclusion

In Nehemiah 1, I find that verse 1 is very similar to Neh 1:11 because Neh 1:1 is explaining the setting of the story and Neh 1:11 goes on to explain why the setting of the story takes place.

Nehemiah is the king's cupbearer.

Story shifts and pivots

In Neh 1:1 and Neh 1:11 there is a connection there because Nehemiah goes back to explain why he is in a position to do something about the trouble that Hanani explains, because he is the king's cupbearer.

There is an Interchange between Neh 1:1 and Neh 1:11 because Nehemiah is building up to us his position.

Repetition of words

Survive x2

Judah

Jewish

Jerusalem x2

Exile x2

The God of heaven x2

Servant/servants x9

Moses x2

Exiled

Love x2

Lord x2

Lord let your ear be attentive

Let your ear be attentive

Contrast

Day and night

Now one observation I have observed is the writer of this passage, when he's quoting God quoting himself he uses a capital N for name "I have chosen a dwelling for my name" capital N but when Nehemiah just prays and quotes himself "of your servants who delight in revering your name" it is not in capitals

Another contrast

If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you amongst the nations ... but if you return to me and obey my commands then even if you exiled people are at the farthest horizon I will gather them from there and bring them to a place.

Contrast

Unfaithful

Return

Scatter

Gather

Among the nations

Farthest horizon

Name

name

contrast because one is referring to Jehovah God as a name in the prayer. He is quoting Himself and the other name is not in a quote, but still in the same prayer.

Compare

Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses saying “if you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the nations but if you return to me and obey my commands...

It is compared with ‘then even if you’re 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’.

... with as well ... he’s saying ‘this people in Nehemiah’s day are your servants too’.

He's saying ‘Lord let your ear be attentive to their prayer’ as Moses and Daniel were saying it in their day, particularly in Daniel’s prayer with Daniel 9:4

And Daniel said “Oh Lord, great and awesome God who keeps His covenant with those who love Him etc...

Lists

Commands

Decrees

Laws

Your great strength and your mighty hand

Who keeps his covenant of love with those who love Him
and keeps His commandments

Cause and Effect

The cause

Hanani one of my brothers came to Judah with some other men and Nehemiah questioned them about the Jewish remnant

The Effect

Nehemiah had fasted before the God of Heaven then he said Lord the God of Heaven, the great and awesome God ...give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of these men. Nehemiah had to go before the king

Figure of speech

Farthest horizon you can't get to the horizon
Scatter among the nation ashes can be scattered but people can't
Ear be attentive ears listen but God is all ears and eyes
Gather them grains of rice can be gathered but **people can't be picked up by their hair on their head**

Conjunction

While I was in the Citadel
And I questioned them about the Jewish remnant
When I heard these things and
then I said Lord
also about Jerusalem

Verb

Came passive
While I was passive
And I questioned passive
Survived the exile passive
The wall of Jerusalem is broken down active
and its gates have been burned with fire passive
when I heard these things, I sat down and wept passive
I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of Heaven passive
Who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments active
Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying active

I confess the sins active
...have committed against you passive
If you return to me and obey my commandments active

Pronoun

I **pronoun**
Nehemiah **antecedent**
Hanani **antecedent**
One of My brothers **pronoun**
Some other men **antecedent**

Them **pronoun**
They said to me **pronoun**
Jewish remnant **antecedent**
Jerusalem **antecedent**
Those **pronoun**
God **antecedent**
His **pronoun**
Your servants **pronoun**
The people of Israel **antecedent**
we Israelites **pronoun**
myself and my father's family **antecedent**

General statements

.They said to me.
..When I heard these things.
...For some days

Specific Statements

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.
I sat down and wept
I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven

Questions and answers

...and I questioned about the Jewish remnant...question
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 burned with fire. answer

Dialogue

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 burned with fire.

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. 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. We have acted very wickedly toward You. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses, saying if you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the nation 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. They are your servants and your people whom you redeemed by Your great strength and Your mighty hand.

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 favour in the presence of this man.

Purpose, result statements

Nehemiah heard what Hanani said about the walls being burnt down purpose
When he heard these things he sat down and wept and he prayed and fasted for some days
result

Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations purpose
But if you return to me and obey my commands, ...and bring them to the place result

Means

Who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments.

But if you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations but if you return Me and obey my commands I will gather them from there.

Conditional clause

But if you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations
but if you return me and obey my commands I will gather them from there.
Then even if you exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place.

Identify actions and roles of people

The action of Nehemiah is that he's questioning his brothers and men who came from Judah. Their actions are telling him of the destruction of Jerusalem. Nehemiah mourns and fasts and weeps before the God of Heaven.

Nehemiah, his father's family and the people of Israel have committed sins against Jehovah God and have not obeyed the laws and decrees and commands he gave his servant Moses. Nehemiah is praying for the people of Israel day and night.

Actions, roles of God

The great and awesome God, he keeps his covenant of those who love him. The role of God is that He loves us.

If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nation. But if you aren't he says I will gather you to a place I have chosen.

Emotional terms

.I sat down and wept

.I mourned and fasted and prayed

.Great and awesome God

.Let your ear be attentive and eyes open

.In the province are in great trouble and disgrace

.Burned with fire

.Who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him

.I confess the sins we Israelites including myself and my father's family

.Wickedly and not obeyed

.But if you return to me and obey my commands

.And the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name

Tone

It's fast acting because Nehemiah is pleading with God.

Connections between paragraphs

1 Nehemiah is told about the destruction

2 He mourns and fasts

3 Then he gets on his knees

In one instance Nehemiah remembers Moses and he remembers what God had said at that time and he wants God to act favourably this time to these people

Story shifts and Pivots

Nehemiah is told about the destruction
then he prays for his fellow citizens

then he remembers the sins
then he remembers God's goodness
then he asks for God's favour because he has to go before the king.

Interchange

The passage shift is from the
.words of Nehemiah, the son of Hakaliah
.then goes to myself and my father's family
.then goes to I was cupbearer to the king and
.then it goes to ... let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant

Chiasm

Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to the prayer of your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants the people of Israel. It's repeated here that's why it's Chiasm
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

Inclusio

In Nehemiah 1, I find that verse 1 is very similar to Neh 1:11 because Neh 1:1 is explaining the setting of the story and Neh 1:11 goes on to explain why the setting of the story takes place.

Nehemiah is the king's cupbearer.
These two paragraphs explain the facts.

(notice I have done similar with inclusio)

Mary Rice

Assignment 5.2

Mark 5:21-43

5/July/2025

Comparison & Contrast

**Jesus told Jairus
not to be afraid**

**the woman was
trembling with fear**

**The little girl was 12
bleeding for 12**

**the woman had
been
years**

**When Jairus saw Jesus
he fell at his feet**

**the woman fell at
Jesus' feet**

**Jairus says, Please
come and put your
hands on her so that she
will be healed and live**

**the woman thought
if I just touch His
clothes I will be healed**

**They both felt the touch
of Jesus would heal.**

**They both felt the touch of
Jesus would heal.**

**The people with Jairus
ask why bother the
teacher anymore**

**The disciples ask
Jesus " you see the
people crowding**

and yet

around you

"who

you ask

Me"?

touched

**The people with Jairus
ask why bother the
teacher anymore**

**Jesus says to the
woman go in peace
and be freed from**

suffering.

**The people can see
that the child is dead
(and yet they ask the
obvious question to
them) why bother the
teacher anymore?
(it's as if they're saying
n their heads can't you
see what's happened?)
They lack faith that
Jesus can heal**

knows

touched Him

disciples

that

the

coming in

Him!

**The people can see
that the child is dead**

her

**The people around
Jesus thought there
was no need to bother
the teacher anymore**

**The disciples ask
Jesus "you see the
people crowding
around you and
yet you ask "who
touched me"?**

**The disciples
ask an obvious
question too. They
lack faith too
because Jesus**

your

actually

who

but the

don't know

He can feel

power

and out of

**The woman feels
in her body that she**

is freed from

suffering.

**The disciples point
out that Jesus can
see and feel the
people crowding**

**and
wonder
this
They
there's no**

**around Him
yet they
why He asks
question.
feel that
need to ask it.**

**Jesus said to Jairus
"Do not be afraid just
believe."**

**Jesus says "Daughter
your faith has healed
you"**

**The girl died when
the woman touched
Jesus**

**At once Jesus
revealed that power**

**had gone out of Him
when the woman
touched Him**

**The girl needed
something to eat**

The woman didn't

**Power from Jesus
had gone into the
girl when raised
to life**

**Power from Jesus
had gone into the
woman to stop the
bleeding**

**The breath of life
had stopped in the
girl when
and the girl's
spiritual body
was still living
and her physical
body dead
(Jesus gives the**

**Power had gone out
of Jesus' physical
body to heal the
woman**

**breath of life and
He can take it)**

**Jairus came up to
Jesus and a large
crowd followed
Him and pressed
around Him**

**The People with
Jairus laughed at
Jesus (showing
unbelief)**

**Jesus gave Jairus'
Parents strict
orders not to tell
anyone**

**Jesus didn't want
Jairus' parents or
the disciples to tell
anyone of the
healing**

know

**When Jesus healed
Jairus' Daughter
they were amazed
(as opposed to
doubting in the
previous statement)**

Jairus 'Daughter did

**The woman came up
behind Jesus in the
crowd**

**The disciples
wondered why
Jesus asked the
question (showing
unbelief)**

**But with the woman's
healing everyone
knew about it**

**The woman was
afraid to tell Jesus
that she touched Him
She would have just**

rathered to sneak

away and no one

**about it. She had to
confess in front of
everybody.**

**The woman was
amazed at Jesus
knowing what had
happened to her**

The woman was

not know Jesus. She just awoke to find Him there. Her parents were amazed at His healing power.

amazed at Jesus' healing power

Jesus did not want anyone to follow Him to Jairus' place except Peter, James and John

Crowds were with Jesus when He healed the woman

The girl was told to be given something to eat

Jesus told the woman "Go in peace

your faith has healed you"

The girl was healed and walked around

The woman was healed and only

after prompting confessed to

Jesus

that she touched Him.

Jesus is still speaking with Jairus when people are telling Him that the child is dead

Jesus kept looking around to see who had touched Him.

Jesus touched the girl to raise her to life

The woman touched Jesus' cloak for her

to be healed.

Jesus needed to speak for the healing of Jairus' daughter

with the woman He did not

Jairus fell at Jesus' feet and pleaded

The woman fell at Jesus' feet and was

**earnestly with Him
to come**

**trembling with
fear**

**Jairus fell at Jesus'
feet before the
healing**

**The woman fell at
Jesus' feet after
the healing**

**Jesus did not let anyone follow Him except Peter, James and John.
With the woman crowds were all around Him all the time.**

**Jesus gave them strict order not to tell anyone about this.
With the woman Jesus knew that power had gone out of Him.**

**Jesus is still speaking and people are telling Him that the child is dead.
Jesus kept on looking around to see who touched Him.**

**The child dies before she is raised to life by Jesus.
The woman was alive and her blood dried up representing her healing.**

**Jairus asked Jesus in front of everybody to touch his daughter
The woman wanted to touch Jesus without anyone knowing, not even Him.**

There is a comparison between this story and the story of the Centurian Ruler who came to Jesus and said "Just say the word and my servant shall be healed. (Matt 8:5-13) and also in Mark 6:56 it is said that people knew that they would be healed just by the touch of His garment.

**Jesus said a word and the girl was healed.
Jesus didn't need to say anything for the woman's healing.**

**A large crowd pressed around Jesus when he met Jairus. But when he was in the girl's home he only took
3 disciples and the girl's parents.**

**Jesus took her by the hand.
The woman touched Jesus' cloak.**

**He did not say to Jairus' you of little faith
He said to the woman 'your faith has made u well'
Jairus pleaded with Jesus earnestly.**

The woman didn't. She pleaded with herself.

The miracle here is the woman just touched Jesus' cloak and Jesus touched Jairus' daughter's hand and said 'wake up'

Jesus said to the woman your faith has made you well but Jairus' daughter didn't have to have any faith. It was Jairus who had to have the faith.

It was a witnessed miracle, Jairus' daughter, where as on the other side Jesus announced it who touched Me?

It was a witnessed miracle again which happened in a private setting of Jairus' daughter. But with the woman it wasn't a witnessed miracle but a private miracle that happened in a public setting which eventually everyone was aware of.

There was a commotion on both sides. People were wanting to get to Jesus. They knew He could heal.

Mark 11:12-21

Repetition of words

Heard this – the teachers of the law

Heard this – the disciples

Fig tree X3

Leaf

Leaves

Fig

Tree

Fruit X2

Roots

Withered X2

Temple X2

Courts X2

Have X2

Contrast

Distance

Reached

Feared Him – Pharisees

Amazed at His teaching - crowd

Buying and selling **are opposites**

The next day, as they were leaving Bethany **is opposite to** when Jesus and His disciples went out to the city

In the morning as they went along they saw the fig tree **opposite**

It was not the season for figs **contrast** the fig tree is reminiscent of the temple

Although they could sell for sacrifices near the temple they could not in the temple where they were doing it

Like the fig tree it was not the season for figs and in the temple it was not the time or the place to do it. It was not near Passover and they were using exorbitant prices to sell the animals to the people. Taking advantage of them. Treating them unfairly by charging too much.

Seeing in a distance the fig tree in leaf **is similar to** in the morning as they went along they saw the fig tree withered from its roots.

Then he said to the fig tree may no one ever eat from you again **is similar to** Peter remembered and said to Jesus “Rabbi look! The fig tree You cursed has withered”

He went to find out if it had any fruit but it didn’t have any fruit

When he reached it He found nothing but leaves. So he said may no one ever eat from you again [is similar to](#) Peter said to Jesus the fig tree you cursed has withered. They are both having a conversation about the fig tree.

Withered and nothing [is like a contrast](#)

Contrast

Day

Morning

Evening

It wasn't the season for fruit

Figs is fruit

Israel didn't bear fruit like the fig tree didn't bear fruit

But even if the fig tree didn't bear fruit because it wasn't the season, Israel should have borne fruit because they had the temple, they had the teaching of God and the Pharisees and the Scribes to teach them (albeit a wrong teaching)

They should have still borne fruit according to Jesus.

They were not producing fruits either when they were in the temple courts selling. They charge exorbitant prices for things and they weren't supposed to

From afar you see these leaves and think that you will find fruit (as Jesus thought)

The Pharisees were like that. You think from them you will get something, like spiritual teaching, only to get nothing.

The temple is a place of worship that had become corrupted and become fruitless.

Like the fig tree from afar looks good but its fruitless

The fig tree in this context symbolises the Jewish religious leaders and the temple itself

It had the appearance of righteousness (leaves) but lack of fruit of faith and righteous actions and did not have the Holy Spirit

The temple was meant to be a place of worship and prayer but had become a market place, a place of commerce and corruption.

Jesus' action of driving out the money changers and over turning tables was symbolic of judgement on this hypocrisy.

The withering of the fig tree serves as a warning that out of appearance of faith without genuine inner transformation and righteous actions will lead to judgement.

The temple, is a representation of the religious leaders of the time like the Pharisees etc, like the fig tree it is judged for its lack of fruit.

The story also emphasises the power of [faith](#) in the [dangers of doubt](#). Jesus links the fig tree incident to the disciples' need for faith in prayer.

Some scholars view the fig tree incident as a symbolic act of judgement on Israel, while others see it as a broader lesson about the importance of bearing fruit in one's life and the consequences of hypocrisy

The parable of the barren fig tree offers both good news and bad news. The good news is God is merciful and willing to forgive (leaves) and the bad news is that one day God's patient and merciful nature has its limit. (withered fig tree)

Neither you nor I want to be on the receiving end when God's patience runs out. Its better to repent while we have the opportunity.

Emotional terms

A den of robbers (Jesus was pretty angry)

Actions and roles of God (Jesus)

He over turned the things in the temple, the benches and tables, He disrupted the money changers and the benches of those selling doves
He said it is written My house should be a house of prayer. You have made a den of robbers.
Jesus was teaching the people when He said this.
Jesus cursed the fig tree.
Jesus looked around in a distance because He was hungry.
He talks to the fig tree
And he looked at all the money changers

Actions and roles of people

Peter said 'Rabbi look! The fig tree you cursed has withered.
The Pharisees and teachers of the law want to kill Jesus
They were selling in the temple
The Scribes and the Pharisees heard what Jesus said and set out to kill Him
The disciples heard what Jesus said and went with Him everywhere

Conditional clause

Clause

My house should be called a house of prayer but you have made it a den of robbers

Condition

He would not allow anyone to carry merchandise
He was insinuating that Pharisees didn't teach the people well

Connections between paragraphs and episodes

The fig tree and the temple are similar because the fig tree dies and Jesus over turns the tables of the money changers etc. They can't do what they want to do in the temple neither can the fig tree grow anymore.

Connections

Whilst this episode starts at verse 15 a few verses beforehand in verse 11 Jesus looks around at all things as the hour is already late, He goes out to Bethany with the 12

It was explained to me once that Jesus was contemplating His actions because the hour was already late and, although it doesn't say it there, people were still selling things at that hour in the temple.

Tone

The tone of the temple bit is angry. The fig tree story is angry too.

Jesus knew about the people selling in the temple the night before but he thought about what he is going to do.

Peter was amazed at the fig tree but he was not angry

People were amazed at Jesus' teaching. But the pharisees wanted to kill him because they were angry.

Inclusio

.The next day they were leaving Bethany

.and seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf He went to find out if it had any fruit

Why it is inclusio is because the ending paragraphs say :

In the morning they went along they saw the fig tree withered from its roots Peter remembered and said "Rabbi Rabbi look! The fig tree you cursed has withered."

Chiasm arrangements

The next day as they were leaving Bethany Jesus was hungry

A

Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf he went to find out if it had any fruit

B

When he reached it he found nothing but leaves

C

Because it was not the season for figs

D

Then He said to the tree

E

May no one ever eat from you again

F

And the people and the disciples heard it

When evening came Jesus and His disciples went out of the city

A

In the morning when they went along

B

They saw the fig tree withered from its roots

C

Peter remembered and said to Jesus

D

Rabbi look!

E

The fig tree you cursed has withered

F

Interchange

Yes the story shifts back and forth to the fig tree.

Story shifts and pivots

A dramatic shift to this story is when Jesus enters the temple.

And the fig tree is being used before it and after it to demonstrate what Jesus thinks of the Jews

The fig tree didn't produce fruit when Jesus was hungry so doesn't fulfill His needs. Neither does the temple teach the Jews anything to fulfill their needs

Jesus was teaching at the temple while throwing out the people like the money changers in the temple courts.

Cause and effect

The cause is the fig tree,

the effect is that He curses it and the disciples saw that it had died

The cause is the chief priests etc are present when Jesus says "you have made my house a den of robbers"

And the effect is that they sought to kill Him

The cause

Jesus over turns the tables

Disrupted the money changers

Over turned the benches of those selling doves

The effect is Jesus says my temple is a den of robbers instead of as house of prayer

The chief priests are looking for a way to kill Him

Another effect of the fig tree is that Jesus cursed it to kill it like the Pharisees and teachers of the law would kill Him (He symbolized His death to the disciples but they didn't know it then)

Figure of speech

the fig tree (because it represents the temple too)
my house is a house of prayer but you have made it a den of robbers
the fig tree is defiled because Jesus cursed it
the temple is defiled because the people are buying and selling in it and Jesus is saying that
the Pharisees and teachers of the law should know better, than to create a place for people to
cheat and steal
Wherever there is a place where money is exchange or kept – one can steal putting ideas in to
people's minds to do it, not that we do it but some might.
Jesus is talking to the fig tree as if it were a person. He also is saying to His disciples if you say
to this mountain be cast into the ocean it will be done so, just believe. (Mark 11:23)
He's giving them an example.

Conjunctives

And
But
For

Observations of actions

Look
Looking
Seeing in the distance
Went to find out
He reached it
He found nothing
Then He said to the tree
And as He taught them He said

Means

Jesus sees disruption in the temple
Overturned the tables

Means to an end

Stops the dove sellers to cleanse the temple

Dialogues

Jesus says my temple should be a house of prayer but you have made it a den of robbers

Jesus speaks to the tree

Peter says “Rabbi look! The fig tree you cursed has died”

Question and answer

Matt 21:13 (Isaiah 56:7)

Is it not written my house should be called a house of prayer [question](#) but you made it a den of robbers [answer](#)