

# The Lakeview Lamp

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* – **Psalm 119:105**

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## *How Nehemiah Prayed*

Dennis Allan

Nehemiah was serving as cupbearer of King Artaxerxes in Persia when he received sad news. His fellow Jews who had gone back to Judah were suffering terribly in the ruins of Jerusalem. When he learned of the sad state of his brethren, Nehemiah mourned, fasted and prayed. Read his prayer, recorded for us in **Nehemiah 1:5-11**, and observe these important features:

(1) He recognized the exalted position of God (**1:5**). Nehemiah was approaching the Lord who is the *"Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God."*

(2) He recognized the humbled position of Man (**1:6-7**). Unlike arrogant men today who act as if they have the right to give orders to God, Nehemiah entered the presence of God with great humility. He confessed his own sins and the sins of his people. He did not, and could not, make demands. He was a helpless and humble supplicant, who recognized the enormous distance between the perfect God and sinful men.

(3) He based his petition in the absolute faithfulness of God (**1:8-10**). Nehemiah did not try to convince God to change, because God is already perfect and just. He fulfills his promises. The suffering of the people was not a failing of God, but the result of their own sin. This same faithfulness was the basis for Nehemiah's hope. As surely as God had fulfilled promises to punish, he would fulfill his promises to rescue his chosen people.

(4) He asked in faith (**1:11**). Finally, Nehemiah made his request. He asked that God open a door for him to help his brethren. He was preparing to ask the king to let him return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. Nehemiah placed his confidence in the Lord who is powerful to bless the plans of those who truly dedicate themselves to him.

We need to pray with the same humility and faith that Nehemiah displayed. We have no right to make demands of God, but those who serve him obediently enjoy the privilege of humbly talking to the God of heaven in prayer.

# Jesus Was Right

Clarence R. Johnson

In **Matt. 24:2**, Jesus had foretold the destruction of Jerusalem. When His disciples had asked for further information, Jesus told them a number of things to watch for so that they could know when the destruction was near. He told them that before the destruction, there would arise false Christ's, wars, rumors of wars, various nationalities rising up against each other, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, persecutions, false prophets, indifference among some disciples, and most important – that the gospel would be preached in all the world. Then the destruction would occur.

By a study of history, we know that the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. by Roman armies under the leadership of Titus, the son of Emperor Vespasian. But what about the preceding events that Jesus foretold? Did they occur as predicted?

Most certainly! Even if we did not have historical accounts to verify the correctness of Jesus' prophecy, those of us who believe the Bible would be willing to take His word for it. But, even for the unbeliever, the evidence is overwhelming. Jesus was right!

False prophets and men who pretended to be Christ would arise among the people. Jewish historian Josephus, a contemporary of the apostles of Jesus, and an eye-witness of the wars leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem, mentions some of these pretenders by name. One such false prophet is mentioned in **Acts 21:38**. Between the time Jesus made this speech in **Matt. 24**, and the actual destruction itself, there were wars and rumors of wars throughout much of the Roman Empire. Emperor Nero committed suicide and was replaced by Galba. Galba was overthrown by Otho, Otho by Vitellius, and Vitellius by Vespasian -- all in less than two years time. Civil war was rampant. The Jews rose up against the Romans and tried to gain their independence. Jewish and Roman writers tell us of at least one pestilence and five earthquakes during that time. The Bible records two famines that took place (**Acts 11:27-30; 1 Cor. 16:1-2**). Persecution of Christians by both the Jews and by Emperor Nero are too well known to need mention. False prophets entered in among the worshipers of Christ and had to be exposed and expelled (**2 Cor. 11:13; Gal. 1:6-9**).

Finally, we come to the prophecy that the gospel would be preached in all the world before Jerusalem was to be destroyed. And indeed it was! At least six years before the fall of Jerusalem, Paul shows in **Col. 1:5-6, 23** that the gospel had been preached "*to every creature under heaven.*" Truly, Jesus was right in every detail.

# News and Notes

## Members:

- \* Virginia Bryant has a stress fracture in her leg. As a result, the rehab on her knee has been suspended for a few weeks.
- \* Claudia Guest is still having problems with her fractured ankle.
- \* Cotton Read continues to have breathing problems.
- \* Ame White tripped and fell last Sunday morning and pulled muscles in both of her sides. She is going for x-rays tomorrow.

## Friends and Family:

- \* No news known.

Absent: David and Linda Bansemer, Estelle Hayes (with daughter-in-law).

New Reports: None known.



*“You have ordained Your precepts, that we should keep them diligently. Oh that my ways may be established to keep Your statutes! Then I shall not be ashamed when I look upon all Your commandments.” – Psalm 119:4-6*