

*Pastor, I'm Listening. God, I'm Learning!*  
First Baptist Church and The Lakefront Church - Venice, Florida  
One Church - Two Locations      December 7, 2025

Historically, the nation of Israel ceased to exist until 12:01 AM on May 14, 1948 AD.

Isaiah 66:8b (NLT) ...*Has a nation ever been born in a single day? ...*

- God gave us the Bible, providing clear instructions for life and blessings, no trial or error.

Nehemiah 1:2-4 (CSB) *Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men from Judah, and I questioned them about Jerusalem and the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile.*

*<sup>3</sup>They said to me, "The remnant in the province, who survived the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem's wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned."<sup>4</sup>When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of the heavens.*

- Nehemiah loved God, his people, and Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 2 (CSB) *During the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was set before him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had never been sad in his presence,<sup>2</sup>so the king said to me, "Why do you look so sad, when you aren't sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." I was overwhelmed with fear<sup>3</sup>and replied to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should I not be sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"*

- Sometimes people like to talk about a problem but never realize that God may have placed them in a position to help solve it.

*<sup>4</sup>Then the king asked me, "What is your request?" So I prayed to the God of the heavens<sup>5</sup>and answered the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, send me to Judah and to the city where my ancestors are buried, so that I may rebuild it."*

- Nehemiah was ready! God had placed a burden and an answer in Nehemiah's heart.

*<sup>6</sup>The king, with the queen seated beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you return?" So I gave him a definite time, and it pleased the king to send me. <sup>7</sup>I also said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let me have letters written to the governors of the region west of the Euphrates River, so that they will grant me safe passage until I reach Judah. <sup>8</sup>And let me have a letter written to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so that he will give me timber to rebuild the gates of the temple's fortress, the city wall, and the home where I will live." The king granted my requests, for the gracious hand of my God was on me.*

- No debt!

*<sup>19</sup>When Sanballat the Horonite (Jewish), Tobiah the Ammonite (non-Jew) official, and Geshem the Arab (non-Jew) heard about this, they mocked and despised us, and said, "What is this you're doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"<sup>20</sup>I gave them this reply, "The God of the*

*heavens is the one who will grant us success. We, His servants, will start building, but you have no share, right, or historic claim in Jerusalem."*

- When God calls you to accomplish His will, there will always be a rival, an adversary!

Nehemiah 6:5-7 (CSB) *Sanballat sent me this same message a fifth time by his aide, who had an open letter in his hand. <sup>6</sup>In it was written: It is reported among the nations—and Geshem agrees—that you and the Jews plan to rebel. This is the reason you are building the wall. According to these reports, you are to become their king <sup>7</sup>and have even set up the prophets in Jerusalem to proclaim on your behalf, "There is a king in Judah." These rumors will be heard by the king. So come, let's confer together.*

- Your opponents will lie about you in an attempt to stop God's plans!

Nehemiah 13:7b (CSB) *Then I discovered the evil that Eliashib had done on behalf of Tobiah (non-Jew, an opponent of Nehemiah and Eliashib's son-in-law) by providing him a room in the courts of God's house. <sup>8</sup>I was greatly displeased and threw all of Tobiah's household possessions out of the room.*

- The enemy can sneak things into your life that compromise your worship of God.

Nehemiah 13:11 (CSB) *Therefore, I rebuked the officials, asking, "Why has the house of God been neglected?"...<sup>12</sup> Then all Judah brought a tenth of the grain, new wine, and fresh oil into the storehouses.*

- Tithe: Invest in God's Kingdom.

Nehemiah 13:17 (CSB) *I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this evil you are doing—profaning the Sabbath day? <sup>18</sup>Didn't your ancestors do the same, so that our God brought all this disaster on us and on this city? And now you are rekindling His anger against Israel by profaning the Sabbath!*

- Nehemiah is angry that the Jewish people are falling back into the bad habits that brought God's judgment.

Nehemiah 13:23 (CSB) *In those days I also saw Jews who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. <sup>24</sup>Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or the language of one of the other peoples but could not speak Hebrew. <sup>25</sup>I rebuked them, cursed them, beat some of their men, and pulled out their hair. ... <sup>26</sup>Didn't King Solomon of Israel sin in matters like this? ... He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, yet foreign women drew him into sin.*

- Whoever is close to you will influence you either for good or for evil!
- Start the New Year: Confess your sin, Commit your life to Christ, Read your Bible, Seek God's purpose for you, Keep God's Laws, Tithe, Honor Sunday, Have Godly friends.
- God wants to bless us. If not, He would not have given us His Word!