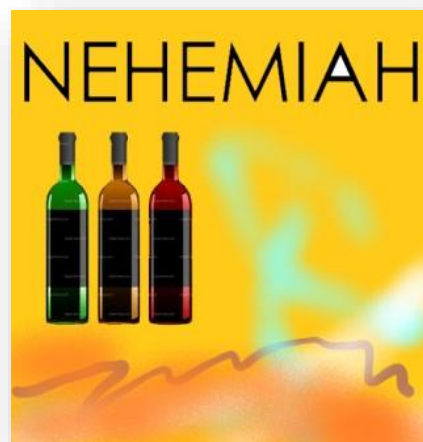


# NEHEMIAH 5 vs 1

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The Book of Nehemiah originally was one book shared with Ezra; certain Greek manuscripts separated the two prior to the time of Origen and Jerome. Hebrew manuscripts kept them together until 1448. Nehemiah was a very gifted and capable man. His patriotism was infectious, moving men to leave their harvest in the field, in order to make the grueling journey back to Jerusalem. His integrity and humility made him stand out as a leader living at the highest level of trust. He attained fame as the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia.



Nehemiah addresses extortion in a time of great need,

**<sup>1</sup> And there was a great uproar of the people and of their wives against their fellow-Jews.**

**<sup>2</sup> For some said, There are many of us, with our sons, and our daughters: so give us grain, that we may eat and stay alive.**

**<sup>3</sup> Others also said, We are mortgaging our fields, and vineyards, and houses, to purchase grain, due to the famine.**

**<sup>4</sup> Still others said, We borrowed money on our fields and vineyards to pay the king's tax.**

**<sup>5</sup> Yet now our flesh and blood is as the flesh and blood of our fellows, our children are like their children: and yet, our sons and our daughters must become their slaves, and some of our daughters have been enslaved already: and it is not in our power to redeem them; for others have our fields and vineyards.**

Remember, Nehemiah wrote this book,

**<sup>6</sup> And I was very angry when I heard their uproar and these words.**

**<sup>7</sup> Then I consulted within myself / Nehemiah thought about it,**

**and I confronted the nobles, and the officials, and said to them, You exact usury, every one of his brother /** you are all taking interest from your own people; just like the privately owned, criminal Federal Reserve has done for the last 100 years in the USA – with the central banks around the world.

**And I set a great assembly against them /** all those deplorables; sort of like Mr. Trump has been doing.

**<sup>8</sup> And I said to them,**

**We have done all in our ability to redeem our Jewish people, who were sold to the heathen foreigners; and will you even sell your people? Or will you sell them back to us?**

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They were silent, and had no answer.

<sup>9</sup> So I continued, What you sleazy people are doing is not good: will you not live in the fear of God, with an eye to the sneers of our foreign enemies?

<sup>10</sup> I and my fellows, and my retinue, have been supporting these people with money and food: please, stop taking interest from them.

<sup>11</sup> Indeed, restore to them, even this day, their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, with the interest on the money and of the food, and the wine and the oil that you have been taking from them.

<sup>12</sup> Finally, they answered, We will restore it all, and will take no interest from them; so we will do as you say. Then summoning the priests, I made the creditors take an oath from them, that they do as they promised.

<sup>13</sup> Then I shook out my wrap, and said, May God shake out from house and possessions each man, who does not do as he promised. May he be shaken out and emptied. And all the assembly said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the men actually did as they promised.

<sup>14</sup> And since the time that I was appointed their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth to the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, that is twelve years, **I and my fellows never ate the governor's provisions** / Nehemiah was like Paul, they daily worked and expected nothing from others; because where God guides, God provides.

<sup>15</sup> But the former governors who were before me extorted the people, taking from their bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yes, even their servants lorded it over the people: but not me, because I feared God.

<sup>16</sup> Yes, I also continued working on the wall, and we bought no land: and all my retinue gathered there to work.

<sup>17</sup> Also there were at my table 150 Jews and rulers, beside those who came to us from the nations that are around us.

<sup>18</sup> Now my daily provision was one ox and six choice sheep, with fowls; and every 10 days there was wine for all who gathered: yet for all this, I did not claim the governor's portion, because servitude was heavy on the people.

<sup>19</sup> Think on me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

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**Every Praise**