

*Biblical Drama based on Nehemiah 1-4**Character Parts: Narrators 1-7, King, Nehemiah, Enemy, Crowd*

**Narrator 1:** Many years after God's people had been conquered and their capital in Jerusalem had been destroyed, they lived in exile in distant lands. Nehemiah was one of God's people. He had the job of a servant in the court of the Persian king.

**King:** Why is your face sad, Nehemiah? You are not sick, are you? You look depressed.

**Nehemiah:** I am sorry, my king. But I can't help being sad. The city of Jerusalem, the place where my ancestors are buried, lies in waste, and its gates have been destroyed!

**King:** I see. What do you request?

**Narrator 2:** Nehemiah paused and prayed to the God of heaven. This gave him the courage to ask a favor of the king.

**Nehemiah:** If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor with you as your servant, I ask that you send me to the land of Judah, so that I may rebuild Jerusalem.

**King:** I will let you go.

**Nehemiah:** Please send letters with me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may grant me safe passage until I arrive in Judah. Send with me a letter to the keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the temple fortress, and for the wall of the city.

**King:** I will grant you all that you have asked, and may the gracious hand of your God be upon you.

**Narrator 3:** Nehemiah came to the governors of the province Beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. When the neighboring leaders heard this, they were very unhappy that someone had come to help the people of Israel.

**Enemy:** Oh, great! Now our enemies in Israel will become strong again!

**Narrator 4:** Nehemiah rode around the ruined city of Jerusalem and inspected the wall. He then went in to talk to the priests, the nobles, and the rest of the people.

**Nehemiah:** My people, you see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace. The hand of God has been gracious upon me, and the King of Persia has agreed.

**Crowd:** Let's start building!

**Narrator 5:** So they committed themselves to working together for the common good. But when leaders of the neighboring people heard it, they mocked and ridiculed the people of Jerusalem.

**Enemy:** What is this that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?

**Nehemiah:** The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we, his servants, are going to start building. So leave us alone; you have no share or claim to Jerusalem!

**Narrator 6:** The enemies of God's people threatened to attack them and prevent them from rebuilding the wall of the city. The people prepared for battle, but they did not stop building. The workers carried not only their tools, but also swords.

**Nehemiah:** People! As we work, if you hear the sound of the trumpet, come together to fight. Our God will fight for us. Let us guard by night and labor by day!

**Narrator 7:** So half the people of Jerusalem labored at the work, while half of them kept guard throughout the day. Each kept his weapon in his hand. Because God protected them, they were able to rebuild the walls and the city.