

## Chapter 1

*Nehemias hearing the miserable state of his countrymen in Iurie, 4. lamenteth, fasteth, and prayeth God for their relief.*

The first part.  
Nehemias his  
comiseration of  
his country.

**T**he wordes of <sup>a)</sup>Nehemias the sonne of Helchias. And it came to passe in the moneth of Casleu, the twentieth yeare, and I was in Susis the castel. <sup>2</sup> And Hanani one of my brethren came, him selfe and men of Iuda, and I asked them of the Iewes, that remayned, and were left aliue of the captiuitie, and of Ierusalem. <sup>3</sup> And they sayd to me: They that remayned, and are left of the captiuitie there in the prouince, are in great affliction, and in reproche: and the wal of Ierusalem is broken downe, and the gates therof are burnt with fire. <sup>4</sup> And when I had heard these maner of wordes, I faste, and wept, and mourned many dayes: and fasted, and prayed before the face of the God of heauen. <sup>5</sup> And I sayd: I beseech thee Lord God of heauen, strong, great, and terrible, which keepest couenant & mercie with them that loue thee, and keepe thy comandmentes: <sup>6</sup> let thine eares be harkning, and thine eyes open, to heare the prayer of thy seruant, which I pray before thee this day, night & day for the children of Ifrael thy seruantes: and I confesse for the finnes of the children of Ifrael, in which they haue finned to thee: I & my fathers house haue finned, <sup>7</sup> we haue bene seduced with vanitie, and haue not kept thy commandments, and cerimonies and iudgement, which thou hast commanded to Moyse thy seruant. <sup>8</sup> Remember the word, that thou didst command vnto Moyse thy seruant, saying: When you shal transgreffe, I will depreffe you into

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<sup>a</sup> Nehemias by *his legacie*, being sent from a king; by *his name*, which signifieth comforter from our Lord; and by *his building* againe the walles of Ierusalem; prefigured our Sauour, who was sent from God the Father, himselfe being the comforter of mankind, and the sender of an other comforter the Holie Ghost, to remaine with his Church. *S. Beda. prolog. in Nehemiam.*

peoples: <sup>9</sup> and if you returne to me, and keepe my precepts, and doe them, although you shal be led away to the vttermoſt partes of heauen, thence wil I gather you, and bring you backe into the place, which I haue chofen that my name ſhould dwel there. <sup>10</sup> And they are thy feruantes, and thy people: whom thou haſt redemed in thy great ſtrength, and in thy mighty hand. <sup>11</sup> I befech thee Lord, let thine eare be attent to the prayer of thy feruant, and to the prayer of thy feruants, which will feare thy name: and direct thy feruant this day, and giue him mercy before this man, for I was the kings cupbearer.