## PRAYING FOR OUR NATION

"O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands.... (Nehemiah 1:5)

Sovereign Lord, hear our cry for our nation that has drifted far from You...

• As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. (Nehemiah 1:4)

Our nation's walls are broken. Give us hearts like Nehemiah and the Apostle Paul, who had great sorrow over God's people. May we be driven to our knees as they were. Give us the determination to fast and pray as Jesus expected us to. (Romans 9:2; Matthew 6:16; 18:19; Acts 1:14) *Continue with personal prayer...* 

• Listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. (Nehemiah 1:6)

Lord, we don't deserve Your help, but we ask with Daniel's heart: "To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you." Hear us as we plead for mercy and forgiveness for the sins of our nation.... (Daniel 9:8) Continue with personal prayer...

- Even I and my father's house have sinned. (Nehemiah 1:6)
  - We each have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. We're told to be holy as Christ is holy, and though that is our desire, we fail. Help us to see our sins for what they are, to confess them and be forgiven. Lead us along the path of everlasting life. (Romans 3:23; 1 Peter 1:15; Psalm 139:24) Continue with personal prayer...
- "But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them..." (Nehemiah 1:9)

  This is a simple plea from God, because He knows His commands are for our good, and when we live by them, life will go well. The reverse is also true. But perhaps the most important thing about obedience is that this is a way we show God our love. (Leviticus 26: 3-12; 14-45; John 14:21) Continue with personal prayer...
- "I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there." (Nehemiah 1:9)

May God gather us to Himself, lead us to the place where He wants us to be. Not a physical place, but figuratively, a new mindset to follow in obedience, so that we might draw near to Him, that He might again be obviously living with us. (Psalm 91:4, 9; James 4:8) Continue with personal prayer...

• O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name. (Nehemiah 1:11)

May God raise up many who will pray His heart and will, who will pray without ceasing, who will stand in the gap for our nation through their prayers. May our pledge to be one nation under God be more than words. May it become reality. (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ezekiel 22:30) Continue with personal prayer...

• Give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. (Nehemiah 1:11)

Restore us again, O God of our salvation. Help Your servants to do our best as hard workers who are not ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. Grant us favor that we may reach our nation with the Word of truth, the gospel message. (Psalm 85:4; 2 Timothy 2:15; Matthew 28:19) Continue with personal prayer...

In Jesus' name, Amen.

