



"NEHEMIAH"

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR SABBATH SCHOOL

LESSON 2: OCTOBER 5-11, 2019

"So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. And I said: 'I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments' "(Nehemiah 1:4, 5, NKJV).

H Y M N S F O R W O R S H I P . O R G

RECURRING THEMES IN THIS WEEK'S LESSON

A. Nehemiah's prayerful life and total dependence on God. His prayers centered on:

- Asking for mercy, confessing of sins, and asking for forgiveness
- Trusting that God is faithful to His promises
- Trusting God's guidance in all his ways, connecting his will and plans to Him

NEW HYMNS TO LEARN

**GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME, SDAH 297
REFUGE 7.7.7.7. D**

Although the text is based from David's prayer, it has a lot of similarities with Nehemiah's plea for mercy. The plaintive melody of this hymn truly lends itself to its evocative, soulful mood. The anonymous author of the hymn begins by recognizing God's 'plentiful compassion' and power to cleanse from sin. The rest of the stanzas takes us through that process of confessing, asking for forgiveness, and the life in which we can live in Christ, through His grace.

**I AM TRUSTING THEE, LORD JESUS, SDAH 535
BULLINGER 8.5.8.3**

Nehemiah was truly a man of prayer. Not wanting to go ahead of God's plans, he was willing to fast and pray for several months. When finally he got the word from God, he acted fully upon God's will, and He was successful. The text of this hymn might very well be the theme of Nehemiah's prayers all those months of waiting for God's plans.

MORE FAMILIAR HYMNS

These hymns may also be sung. Although the context does not fully match, the general theme of prayer, mercy, guidance is still present.

- My Hope is Built On Nothing Less, SDAH 522
- Standing on the Promises, SDAH 518
- 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus, SDAH 524
- He Leadeth Me, SDAH 537

**JESUS GUIDE OUR WAY, SDAH 553
SEELENBRAUTIGAM 5.5.8.8.5.5.**

After four months of surrendering to God through prayer and fasting, Nehemiah got the answer to his prayers and was able to strategize the logistics in order to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The third stanza is truly appropriate in his situation in that Zinzendorf wrote,

*Order all our way through the mortal day;
In our toil, with aid be near us:
In our need, with succour cheer us:
Til we safely stand in our Father's land*



RECURRING THEMES IN THIS WEEK'S LESSON

B. Nehemiah's attitude towards opposition and oppression

- He kept doing the work: "With tireless vigilance he superintended the building, directing the workmen, noting the hindrances, and providing for emergencies. Along the whole extent of that three miles of wall his influence was constantly felt. With timely words he encouraged the fearful, aroused the laggard, and approved the diligent." PK 639

C. Nehemiah's influence to the Jews to rebuild the walls

- "Come and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach." (Neh. 2:17)
- "And they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' So they strengthened their hands for this good work." (Neh. 2:18)

MORE FAMILIAR HYMNS

These hymns may also be sung. Although the context does not fully match, the general theme of *humility, encouragement, and working for Christ* is still present.

- Not I, But Christ, SDAH 570
- O Master Let Me Walk With Thee, SDAH 574
- Awake, Awake to Love and Work, SDAH 576
- Working, O Christ, With Thee, SDAH 582

Piano accompaniments for all the hymns in the SDA Hymnal (1985) are available at <https://hymnsforworship.org/sda-hymnal/sda-hymnal-index/>

NEW HYMNS TO LEARN

LORD OF ALL NATIONS, SDAH 588

MELROSE L.M.

RECOMMENDED TUNE: WOODWORTH, SDAH 314

Categorized under the theme Love for One Another, this hymn is specifically talks about the Christian's supposed reaction when oppressed by others. The third stanza points this out --

*Give me Thy courage, Lord, to speak,
Whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be,
Help me forgive, remembering Thee.*

YOU KNOW THAT THE LORD, SDAH 583

ABBOTT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.

RECOMMENDED TUNE: AUSTRIA, SDAH 423; ODE TO JOY, SDAH 12

What a rousing appeal Nehemiah made to the Jewish elders! He entreats them to hold on to God in faith, because He has been leading this expedition and will carry it to completion.

*You know that the Lord is gracious,
You for whom a cornerstone stands,
Of God, elect and precious,
Laid that you may build thereon,
See that on that sure foundation
You a living temple raise.
Towers that may tell forth salvation,
Walls that may re-echo praise.*

GO FORTH, GO FORTH, WITH CHRIST, SDAH 377

DARWALL'S 148TH 6.6.6.6.8.8.

One of the beautiful lessons we can learn this week is having the spirit of cooperation and community. Isn't it a joy and blessing to serve God alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ, doing the Lord's work in hastening His soon return? What broken walls exist in your church today? May we like the elders exclaim, "Let us rise up and build," for God will truly help us in this work!