# “Blessing Begins with Confession” - Nehemiah 1:1-11 (January 13, 2019)

After the people of God were exiled in 586 B.C. by the Babylonians, the Persians take over as the world power. In a surprise political move, King Cyrus of Persia permits the Jews to return to Jerusalem in order to repopulate the city and rebuild the temple. Years later, a close Jewish advisor to the king, Nehemiah, feels a heavy burden for the people of God and the city of Jerusalem which was left defenceless without walls. Through Nehemiah’s memoir and prayer, we learn that:

1. **God treats people differently depending on how they respond to Him and to His words**

1. **God’s blessing comes when we together begin with confession of sin**

1. **God accepts confession that comes from repentance and Scripture-centeredness**