[1]The words of Nehemiah the son of
Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the
month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I
was in Shushan the palace,[2]That Hanani,
one of my brethren, came, he and certain
men of Judah; and I asked them
concerning the Jews that had escaped,
which were left of the captivity, and
concerning Jerusalem.[3]And they said unto
me, The remnant that are left of the
captivity there in the province are in great
affliction and reproach: the wall of
Jerusalem also is broken down, and the
gates thereof are burned with fire.[4]And it
came to pass, when I heard these words,
that I sat down and wept, and mourned
certain days, and fasted, and prayed
before the God of heaven,[5]And said, I
beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the
great and terrible God, that keepeth
covenant and mercy for them that love him
and observe his commandments:[6]Let thine
ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open,
that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy
servant, which I pray before thee now, day
and night, for the children of Israel thy
servants, and confess the sins of the
children of Israel, which we have sinned
against thee: both I and my father's house
have sinned.[7]We have dealt very corruptly
against thee, and have not kept the
commandments, nor the statutes, nor the
judgments, which thou commandedst thy
servant Moses.[8]Remember, I beseech thee,
the word that thou commandedst thy
servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I
will scatter you abroad among the
nations:[9]But if ye turn unto me, and keep
my commandments, and do them; though

[1]كَلاَمُ نَحَمْيَا بْنِ حَكَلْيَا، حَدَثَ فِي شَهْرِ كِسْلُو فِي السَّنَةِ
الْعِشْرِينَ بَيْنَمَا كُنْتُ فِي شُوشَنَ الْقَصْرِ[2]أَنَّهُ جَاءَ حَنَانِي،
وَاحِدٌ مِنْ إِخْوَتِي، هُوَ وَرِجَالٌ مِنْ يَهُودَا، فَسَأَلْتُهُمْ عَنِ
الْيَهُودِ الَّذِينَ نَجَوْا، الَّذِينَ بَقُوا مِنَ السَّبْيِ، وَعَنْ
أُورُشَلِيمَ.[3]فَقَالُوا لِي، إِنَّ الْبَاقِينَ الَّذِينَ بَقُوا مِنَ السَّبْيِ
هُنَاكَ فِي الْبِلاَدِ هُمْ فِي شَرٍّ عَظِيمٍ وَعَارٍ. وَسُورُ
أُورُشَلِيمَ مُنْهَدِمٌ وَأَبْوَابُهَا مَحْرُوقَةٌ بِالنَّارِ.[4]فَلَمَّا سَمِعْتُ
هَذَا الْكَلاَمَ جَلَسْتُ وَبَكَيْتُ وَنُحْتُ أَيَّاماً، وَصُمْتُ وَصَلَّيْتُ
أَمَامَ إِلَهِ السَّمَاءِ[5]وَقُلْتُ، أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ إِلَهُ السَّمَاءِ، الإِلَهُ
الْعَظِيمُ الْمَخُوفُ، الْحَافِظُ الْعَهْدَ وَالرَّحْمَةَ لِمُحِبِّيهِ
وَحَافِظِي وَصَايَاهُ[6]لِتَكُنْ أُذُنُكَ مُصْغِيَةً وَعَيْنَاكَ مَفْتُوحَتَيْنِ
لِتَسْمَعَ صَلاَةَ عَبْدِكَ الَّذِي يُصَلِّي إِلَيْكَ الآنَ نَهَاراً وَلَيْلاً
لأَجْلِ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عَبِيدِكَ، وَيَعْتَرِفُ بِخَطَايَا بَنِي
إِسْرَائِيلَ الَّتِي أَخْطَأْنَا بِهَا إِلَيْكَ. فَإِنِّي أَنَا وَبَيْتُ أَبِي قَدْ
أَخْطَأْنَا.[7]لَقَدْ أَفْسَدْنَا أَمَامَكَ، وَلَمْ نَحْفَظِ الْوَصَايَا
وَالْفَرَائِضَ وَالأَحْكَامَ الَّتِي أَمَرْتَ بِهَا مُوسَى عَبْدَكَ.[8]اذْكُرِ
الْكَلاَمَ الَّذِي أَمَرْتَ بِهِ مُوسَى عَبْدَكَ قَائِلاً، إِنْ خُنْتُمْ فَإِنِّي
أُفَرِّقُكُمْ فِي الشُّعُوبِ،[9]وَإِنْ رَجَعْتُمْ إِلَيَّ وَحَفِظْتُمْ
وَصَايَايَ وَعَمِلْتُمُوهَا إِنْ كَانَ الْمَنْفِيُّونَ مِنْكُمْ فِي أَقْصَاءِ
السَّمَاوَاتِ، فَمِنْ هُنَاكَ أَجْمَعُهُمْ وَآتِي بِهِمْ إِلَى الْمَكَانِ
الَّذِي اخْتَرْتُ لإِسْكَانِ اسْمِي فِيهِ.[10]فَهُمْ عَبِيدُكَ وَشَعْبُكَ
الَّذِي افْتَدَيْتَ بِقُوَّتِكَ الْعَظِيمَةِ وَيَدِكَ الشَّدِيدَةِ.[11]يَا سَيِّدُ،
لِتَكُنْ أُذُنُكَ مُصْغِيَةً إِلَى صَلاَةِ عَبْدِكَ وَصَلاَةِ عَبِيدِكَ الَّذِينَ
يُرِيدُونَ مَخَافَةَ اسْمِكَ. وَأَعْطِ النَّجَاحَ الْيَوْمَ لِعَبْدِكَ
وَامْنَحْهُ رَحْمَةً أَمَامَ هَذَا الرَّجُلِ. لأَنِّي كُنْتُ سَاقِياً لِلْمَلِكِ.

there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.[10]Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.[11]O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.