

¹The 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, ²That 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. ³And 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. ⁴And 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, ⁵And 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: ⁶Let 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. ⁷We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses. ⁸Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: ⁹But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though

¹كَلَامَ نَحْمِيَا بْنِ حَكَلِيَا، حَدَّثَ فِي شَهْرِ كِسْلُو فِي السَّنَةِ الْعِشْرِينَ بَيْتًا كُنْتُ فِي شُوشَن الْقَصْرِ² أَنَّهُ جَاءَ خَنَانِي، وَاجِدٌ مِنْ إِخْوَتِي، هُوَ وَرَجُلَانِ مِنْ يَهُودَا، قَسَالَتْهُمُ عَنْ الْيَهُودِ الَّذِينَ تَجَوَّأُوا، الَّذِينَ بَقُوا مِنَ السَّبْيِ، وَعَنْ أُورُسَلِيمَ.³ فَقَالُوا لِي، إِنَّ الْبَاقِينَ الَّذِينَ بَقُوا مِنَ السَّبْيِ هُنَاكَ فِي الْبِلَادِ هُمْ فِي سَرٍّ عَظِيمٍ وَعَارٍ. وَسُورُ أُورُسَلِيمَ مُنْهَدِمٌ وَأَبْوَابُهَا مَحْرُوقَةٌ بِالنَّارِ.⁴ فَلَمَّا سَمِعْتُ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ جَلَسْتُ وَبَكَيتُ وَنَحْتُتُ أَتَامًا، وَضُمْتُ وَضْلِيَّتُ أَمَامَ إِلَهِ السَّمَاءِ⁵ وَقُلْتُ، أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ إِلَهَ السَّمَاءِ، الْإِلَهُ الْعَظِيمُ الْمُخَوِّفُ، الْخَافِطُ الْعَهْدَ وَالرَّحْمَةَ لِمُحِبِّيهِ وَخَافِطِي وَصَايَاهُ⁶ لِيَكُنْ أذُنُكَ مُضْغِيَّةً وَعَيْنُكَ مَفْتُوحَتَيْنِ لِيَسْمَعَ صَلَاةَ عَبْدِكَ الَّذِي يُصَلِّي إِلَيْكَ الْآنَ تَهَارًا وَلَيْلًا لِأَجْلِ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عِبِيدِكَ، وَتَعْتَرِفُ بِخَطَايَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الَّتِي أَخْطَأْنَا بِهَا إِلَيْكَ. فَإِنِّي أَنَا وَبَيْتُ أَبِي قَدْ أَخْطَأْنَا.⁷ لَقَدْ أَفْسَدْنَا أَمَامَكَ، وَلَمْ نَحْفَظِ الْوَصَايَا وَالْفَرَائِضَ وَالْأَحْكَامَ الَّتِي أَمَرْتَ بِهَا مُوسَى عَبْدَكَ.⁸ أَذْكَرُ الْكَلَامَ الَّذِي أَمَرْتَ بِهِ مُوسَى عَبْدَكَ قَائِلًا، إِنَّ خُتْمَ فَإِنِّي أَقَرُّكُمْ فِي الشُّعُوبِ،⁹ وَإِنْ رَجَعْتُمْ إِلَيَّ وَحَفَظْتُمْ وَصَايَايَ وَعَمِلْتُمُوهَا إِنْ كَانَ الْمَنْفَعِيُّونَ مِنْكُمْ فِي أَفْصَاءِ السَّمَاوَاتِ، فَمِنْ هُنَاكَ أَجْمَعُهُمْ وَأَتِي بِهِمْ إِلَى الْمَكَانِ الَّذِي اخْتَرْتُ لِإِسْكَانِ اسْمِي فِيهِ.¹⁰ فَهُمْ عِبِيدُكَ وَسَعْبُكَ الَّذِي اقْتَدَيْتَ بِقُوَّتِكَ الْعَظِيمَةِ وَبِدَكَ الشَّدِيدَةِ.¹¹ يَا سَيِّدُ، لِيَكُنْ أذُنُكَ مُضْغِيَّةً إِلَى صَلَاةِ عَبْدِكَ وَصَلَاةِ عِبِيدِكَ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ مَخَافَةَ اسْمِكَ. وَأَعْطِ التَّجَاعَ الْيَوْمَ لِعَبْدِكَ وَامْنَحْهُ رَحْمَةً أَمَامَ هَذَا الرَّجُلِ. لِأَنِّي كُنْتُ سَاقِيًا 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.