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
6 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
7 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 8 remember, i beseech thee, the
word that thou commandedst thy
servant moses, saying, if ye
transgress, i will scatter you
9 abroad among the nations: 9 but
if ye turn unto me, and keep my
commandments, and do them; though
there were of you cast out unto

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