

THE STORY OF NEHEMIAH (PART ONE)

By Rod

A retelling of Nehemiah chapter 1. Narrators tell the story while the actors mime the actions.

CAST

Narrator A Main storyteller

Narrator B Asks questions. A bit of a joker.

Nehemiah

Hacaliah Father of Nehemiah

Hanani Brother of Nehemiah

[Nehemiah, Hacaliah and Hanani are on stage in a line with Nehemiah in the middle]

A This is the story of Nehemiah.

[Nehemiah steps forward]

B You shouldn't make personal comments. It's not PC.

A I'm sorry?

B He can't help his bodily appearance do it's unfair to comment on it.

A What are you talking about?

B His being sort. You're not exactly Goliath yourself.

A Look, what are you talking about?

B You said "It's the story of Knee High Meyer".

A No, it's his full name Ne – he – miah

B Oh sorry. So who was he then?

A Well, he was a jew and he was the son of Hacaliah.

[Hacaliah steps forward]

B Hacaliah! Sounds like a member of the New Zealand rugby team.

[Nehemiah and Hacaliah do a Haka]

A And he lived in the Persian capital of Susa.....

B *[Singing]* "If you knew Susa like I knew Susa...."

A where he served in the courts of king Artaxerxes.

[Nehemiah mimes tennis service to Hacaliah]

[Type text]

B I didn't know they played tennis in those days. Rugby, tennis – what a sporty lot.

A One day he received some bad news.

B *[John McEnroe impression]* You cannot be serious!
[Nehemiah mimes McEnroe]

A Yes, his brother Hanani returned from Jerusalem.
[Hanani steps forward]

B I see what you mean; I don't get on with my brother either...

A No, the bad news was what Hanani told him about Jerusalem.
[Hanani gives Nehemiah Jerusalem Post]

B Oh, yeah, what was that?

A The walls were all fallen down
[Hacaliah hold up "Wall Street Crash" placard.]

B That's bad.

A And the gates were ruined.
[Hanani holds up "Gates Ruined" placard]

B That is really bad news. If Bill Gates is in trouble we're all done for.

A All this made Nehemiah very sad.
[Nehemiah looks sad]

B What did he do?

A Well, he decided to fast and pray.
[Nehemiah puts hands together in prayer]

B I pray like that – very fast. "God bless mummy and daddy. God bless me. Amen."

A No, he prayed day and night for several days.
[Nehemiah sinks to his knees in prayer]

B What! What on earth did he pray about?

A Well, he praised God, and he said sorry to God for all the things he and his people had done wrong.

B That must have been a very long list if it kept him going for several days.

A And all the time he didn't eat.

[Type text]

[Hacaliah and Hanani rub tummies in hunger]

B What – nothing? No food at all?

A No, that's what fasting means.

B He must have lost a lot of weight. No wonder he was called 'Knee High Meyer'.

[Hanani and Hacaliah stand either side of kneeling Nehemiah and look down on him]

THE END