

NEHEMIAH

From Trouble to Triumph

**God's pattern
for rebuilding
fallen walls**

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

This Old Testament book gives us
God's pattern for serving in,
and building a strong New Testament Church.

THIS BOOK IS KNOWN AS THE BOOK OF
“Victorious Christian Service”

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson 1

The Setting for the Book of Nehemiah

Jerusalem had been over-run by the Babylonian empire in about 589 BC.

The “walls of Jerusalem” had been destroyed and the gates burned.

The Israelites had been in captivity for 70 years.

Babylon had been over-run by Persia.

446 BC, Nehemiah finds himself in captivity in Persia.

THE PURPOSE OF THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM

To make the Bible come alive – we must keep three things in mind:

What did walls mean in that day?

What do walls mean today?

What do walls mean to me “personally.”

The walls of Jerusalem had been destroyed 70-100 years earlier (II Chronicles 36:15-19). Ezra had returned about 70-75 years prior to Nehemiah and laid the foundation of the Temple. The people got discouraged and the building stopped.

THE POSITION OF NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah is in captivity in Persia. Artaxerxes was the King of Persia at that time. Nehemiah is in captivity, but he was the King’s cupbearer (Nehemiah 2:1). Therefore, Nehemiah was enjoying a life of worldly prosperity, **as most of us are!** He was a servant but he dwelt in a royal place, and seems to have been a favorite with the king. **But like Moses**, his heart was with his brethren and his spirit was zealous for the Lord and His people.

He knew Jerusalem had been overrun. There was no news media in that day, so Nehemiah had been wondering what the city of Jerusalem was like. When Hanani and some of his brethren came to visit, he asked them, “What is the city of God like?” He said, “Tell me about the walls in a way that I can ‘visualize’ them – so I can see them.” No doubt the men were weeping as they gave him a full report and picture of the walls of the “city of God” in Nehemiah 1:1-3. (Hanani - brother in the flesh.) (See Nehemiah 7:1). **(From Shushan to Jerusalem 850 miles.)**

VISUALIZE THE BROKEN WALLS Nehemiah 1:1-3

I. What Did the Fallen Walls Mean in That Day?

A. The walls were both “real” and “symbolic” (Psalms 51:18 & 122:6-7).

1. They speak of Protection (Deuteronomy 22:8).

a. The walls of Jerusalem were built to “keep the enemy out!”

b. They speak of Exclusion or separation.

2. They speak of Privacy (I Samuel 9:25).

3. They speak of Prayer (Acts 10:9).
4. They speak of Testimony (Matthew 10:27).

B. They pictured “the Glory of God”.

All were fallen. That was a reproach.

C. The Walls of Today.....

1. **They speak of the Glory of God** (Revelation 21:10-12 & 26).
 - a. The Church is to do EVERYTHING for the glory of God (I Cor. 10:31).
2. They speak of the Salvation of God (Isaiah 60:18).
3. They speak of the Protection of God over His people
(Revelation. 21:12 & 27). Verse 27 - **SHOULD be so today!**

II. What Do the Fallen Walls Mean Today?

A. They Picture the Fallen Walls of God’s Blessings on America (Psalms 33:12).

1. The “Walls of the Blessing of God” on America have fallen.
 - a. America is fast headed toward the days of Sodom and Gomorrah!
 - b. Communism said; “We will take America without firing a shot.”
 1. Communism is not a political party.
 2. Communism is a “**perverted religion**” without God!
 3. Communism has a messiah - Karl Marx.
 4. Communism has a bible – “*Das Kapital*” is their bible.
 - a. It was written in 1876 by Karl Marx.
 - b. Marx stated that “Capitalism” will self-destruct.

B. They Picture the Fallen Walls of Domestic Life in America.

1. The first institution God established was “Marriage” (Genesis 2:12-14).
2. Today, husbands show no respect to their wives in spite of I Peter 3:7.
 - a. Do not open car doors, restaurant doors, department store doors, etc.
 1. “Ladies first” is forgotten.
 - b. Walk in and go in stores ahead of their wives and let them “catch the door”!
3. Today – the divorce rate in the United States is over 50%.
 - a. This does not cover those living together and then split!
4. There is a militant war going on against the “home.”
 - a. The “**feminist movement**” is an “anti-home/family” movement.
 - b. Their goal is to destroy the traditional marriage.
5. Children are not taught respect for parents, school teachers, and law enforcement.
 - a. They are not taught to say, Yes Ma’am, No Ma’am, Yes sir, No sir!

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson 2

Visualizing the Wall Continued - Part 2

Intro: Last week we began a foundational study of “The Walls that had fallen in Jerusalem.”

A. That was followed by “Walls that have fallen in America.” We looked at how:

1. The Walls of God’s Divine Blessing have fallen in America.

TODAY:

A. They Picture the Fallen Walls of Domestic Life in America

1. There is militant war going on against the “Home.”
 - a. The home was the first institution God established (Genesis 2:21-24).
2. Satan knows this:
 - a. **If he can destroy the home, he can destroy the church.**
 - b. **If he can destroy the church, he can destroy the nation!**
3. How is he going about accomplishing this??? Destroy the home???
4. By the “**Declaration of Feminism**” 1971 written by Karen Clark
 - a. The goal is to destroy the home!
 - b. Their motto was “Pants for Power.”
5. Divorce rate in America in 1960 was 12.6 %.
The divorce rate in America is now over 50% - (Not counting live-together.)
(No figures for Memphis, but Tennessee is the 7th highest in the nation.)
6. Murders in Memphis in 1960 was 7.
Murders in Memphis in 2016 was 214. (31 times more.)
7. Cars stolen in Memphis in 1960 was 149.
Cars stolen in Memphis in 2018 is 3,324 (to date) - (23 times more.)
8. Practical illustrations: Do you remember when it was: “Ladies First?”
 - a. How many times have you seen a husband open the car door for his wife?
 - b. How many times have you seen a husband pull out her chair for her?
 - c. Husbands go to a restaurant – open the door – go in – leave wife behind.

B. They Picture the Fallen Walls of Decency in America (Jeremiah 6:15 & 8:12).

1. Walls of “Indecency - Things People See” in Public have fallen.
 - a. Pornography is on “free channels” with no censorship.
 - b. Pornography is on public newsstands.
 - c. Sexual scenes are shown on many TV programs.
 - d. TV celebrities living together is acceptable.
1. **Be Careful What You See** (Psalm 101:3, Proverbs 6:27-28).

2. Walls of “Indecency - Things People Hear” in Public have fallen.
 - a. “Four-letter” words are acceptable in almost every place.
 1. FAR MORE than “four-letter” words are used in public.
 - b. Censorship Board would not allow:
 1. 1939 - “Gone with the Wind” Clark Gable to use a “four-letter word.”
 2. 1952 – “I Love Lucy” to use the word “Pregnant” “Expecting a child.”
 3. 1956 – “Ed Sullivan Show” Not allowed to show Elvis below the waist.
 4. **Be Careful What You Hear** (Mark 4:24).

3. Walls of “Indecency - Things People Wear” in Public have fallen.
 - a. In 1938 men or women were arrested for wearing shorts in public.
 1. Today they wear:
 - a. Shorts – Short-shorts - EVERYWHERE!
 - b. Leggings
 - c. Skinny Jeans

 - b. God commanded for men and women to dress modestly. (**Greek: Kosmio.**)
 1. Women (I Timothy 2:9) – Modest apparel.
 2. Men (I Timothy 3:2) – Good behavior.
 3. **Be Careful What You Wear** (Deuteronomy 22:5).
 - a. Garment – Hebrew word “*Simlah*.”
 - b. *Simlah*: Strong’s Hebrew Concordance
 - c. 28 Times: Translated: clothing, raiment, garment, or apparel.

Simlah (08071): “The idea of a covering that assumes the shape of the object beneath; a dress, especially a mantle: apparel, clothes, clothing, garment, or raiment.”

C. They Picture the Fallen Walls of Bible Doctrine in America:

1. The Doctrine of “inerrant, infallible Word of God” has fallen (Psalm 12:6-7).
2. The Doctrine of “whosoever will” has fallen (Revelation 22:17).
3. The Doctrine of “holiness” has fallen (I Peter 1:15-16).
4. The Doctrine of “prayer and fasting” (Acts 13:2-4 & 14:23).
5. The Doctrine of “separation” has fallen (II Corinthians 6:17).

D. They Picture the Fallen Walls of Decision to Serve the Lord (Joshua 24:14-15).

1. The verse applies to Christians in 2018.

E. They Picture the Fallen Walls of Dedication to Serve the Lord (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

1. Christians should serve the Lord “with all their might.”

F. They Picture the Fallen Walls of Determination to Serve the Lord (Joshua 14:7-12).

1. Joshua “Never gave up – He was DETERMINED.”

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Lesson 3

Intro: We studied about how “The Walls had fallen in Jerusalem.”

We studied about how “The Walls have fallen in America.” We looked at how:

- A. The Walls of God’s Divine Blessing have fallen in America.
(We studied how America lost the blessing of God on our country.)
- B. The Walls of Domestic Life have fallen in America.
- C. The Walls of Decency have fallen in America.
- D. The Walls of Doctrine have fallen in America.
- E. The Walls of Decision have fallen in America.
- F. The Walls of Dedication have fallen in America.
- G. The Walls of Determination have fallen in America.

AGONIZED OVER FALLEN WALLS

I. Nehemiah Prayed a Prayer of Contrition (Remorse & Regret) (Nehemiah 1:4).

A. What is the problem with Christians and the church today?

(We all know the walls that have fallen.)

- 1. The church has forgotten how to weep!
 - a. Jesus wept over Jerusalem (John 11:35).
 - b. Paul wept day and night for three years (Acts 20:19 & 31).
 - c. Peter failed – went out and wept bitterly (Luke 22:62).
- 2. The church has forgotten how to fast!
 - a. Jesus fasted 40 days – (Matthew 4:1-2).
 - b. Disciples fasted AFTER Christ had ascended (Matthew 9:14-15).
- 3. The church has forgotten how to pray!
 - a. Jesus prayed all night (Luke 6:12).
 - b. Disciples could not watch and pray one hour (Matthew 26:40)!
 - 1. WHEN was the last time anyone prayed “for one hour?”
- 4. We pray without tears – we feast but don’t fast -
 - a. Is it any wonder our nation is a fallen nation???
- 5. Look at the difference (Daniel 9:3-19).

II. Nehemiah Prayed a Prayer of Confession (Repentance) (Nehemiah 1:5-7).

A. Look at his prayer (Nehemiah 1:5-7):

- 1. In deepest humiliation, he says:
 - a. “I confess the sins...which **WE** have sinned... (Verse 6).

- b. He cries again, "...both **I and my father's house** have sinned against thee."
- c. "**We** have dealt very corruptly against thee."
- d. "**We** have not kept the commandments..." (Verse 7).
 - 1. We need to pray for our city, our state, our country.

2. He confessed his "personal" sins.

3. He confessed "the national" sins.

- a. Confessing "national" sins and praying for our country is of NO AVAIL - -
- b. **Until** we confess "personal" sins.

4. **Starting point to rebuild the walls of our country** (II Chronicles 7:14).

III. **Nehemiah Prayed a Prayer of Confidence** (Nehemiah 1:8-10). (**Remember...!**)

A. Nehemiah is "claiming" a promise that God made to His people!

- 1. Leviticus 26:40-45
- 2. Deuteronomy 4:23
- 3. Deuteronomy 30:1-7

B. Real prayer is "rooted" in the **Unchanging Promises of God**.

C. Nehemiah "prayed a prayer of Confidence," saying:

- 1. God, I believe the promise that you gave me. I have full confidence in you Lord.
 - a. **Remember, you said - - I'm holding You to Your Word!**

D. Do this with "all respect" but DO IT. God honors His promises.

- 1. *ALL the promises are Yea and Amen* (II Corinthians 1:18-20).

IV. **Nehemiah Prayed a Prayer of Commitment** (Nehemiah 1:11).

A. Nehemiah was "the King's cupbearer."

- 1. King Artaxerxes was a wealthy king and lived a lavish life style.
- 2. Very important job – The King's Cupbearer.
 - a. Came and tasted all food and drink before the King ate or drank.
 - b. He had closer contact with the King than anyone in the country.
 - c. Nehemiah was not living as in captivity and was not poor!
 - d. He lived a very comfortable, enjoyable lifestyle! (**Better than us.**)

B. Nehemiah's heart had been touched – **He was not the same!**

- 1. He could not stay in his comfortable, enjoyable life-style after "seeing" the walls!
- 2. When he visualized the wall, he said, "I am going to get involved!"
 - a. I am committed to rebuilding the walls.

C. It is NOT ENOUGH for Christians to:

- a. Pray a prayer of Contrition.
- b. Pray a prayer of Confession.

- c. Pray a prayer of Confidence.
- d. UNLESS you are willing to pray a prayer of Commitment!!!
 - 1. **When we pray – we must be willing to be part of the answer!**
 - 2. **Prayer is NO SUBSTITUTE FOR COMMITMENT!**

(Psalm 119:121-128) “It is time for thee to work...” (Verse 126)

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Lesson 4 – Part #2

INTRO: No Christian is “spiritual” unless they are willing to be “practical.”

A. Nehemiah was deeply spiritual and intensely practical.

1. He said, “What can I do?”
2. He said, “How can I do it?”
3. He said, “Give me a plan!”

B. Some people object to Organizing.

1. God is/was organized! – Look at the universe!
2. If you do not have a plan to “do something” you will “do nothing!”

ORGANIZE TO REBUILD THE BROKEN WALLS

HE WAS SENT BY THE KING

I. Nehemiah Asked the King to Send him (Nehemiah 2:1-5).

A. Remember, Nehemiah was in captivity, but was the king’s Cupbearer.

1. He had spent “4 MONTHS in prayer before...he asked to be sent” (Verse 5).

2. EVEN when the king said, “For what dost thou make request?”

a. **Notice**, Nehemiah DID NOT answer until...

1. **He prayed to the God of Heaven...!**

2. **We should pray about everything we do!**

b. Assured of the Lord’s mind, he said,

“If thy servant hath found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldst SEND me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers’ sepulchers, that I may build it.”

c. **Why** did the king decide to send him???

“The heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord” (Proverbs 21:1).

B. God has asked, “Whom shall **I SEND** and who will go for me?” (Isaiah 6:8)

1. Can you imagine that??? God asking us... who will go???

2. In this age of Grace, you would think EVERYONE would say, “Here am I, **send me!**”

3. Chez-Moravian movement – Count Zinderoff asks, “Is anybody here ready to go?”

(Is anybody here ready?)

C. Paul was “called” (**sent**) (Romans 1:1).

1. Every Christian is “called” (**sent**) (Romans 1:6).

a. ARE YOU READY?

D. One final thing - - - Why did the king send Nehemiah?

1. Above stated: “The heart of the King is in the hand of the Lord” (Proverbs 21:1).

“...according to the good hand of my God upon me.” (Nehemiah 2:8b)

HE WAS KEPT SAFE BY THE KING

II. Nehemiah Asked the King for a Letter to Keep him Safe (Nehemiah 2:7 & 9).

A. He was going through lands where he was a stranger and was in continual danger.

1. He asked for the king's protection to keep him safe.

a. He wanted "a letter" **something in writing** from the King - - **845 miles**.

1. Something he could "pull it out" and show it.

B. Why did the king write such a letter – to keep Nehemiah safe?

1. Because "The heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord" (Proverbs 21:1).

"...according to the good hand of my God upon me" (Nehemiah 2:8).

C. God has promised to keep you and me safe.

1. God has given you/me/us "something in writing" with – hundreds of promises.

a. The king gave him "something in writing."

b. The king sent Captains of the army and horsemen.

2. God has given us "**something in writing**"...

a. God sent "angels" to protect us.

b. For the purpose of keeping us safe as we travel through this world.

c. **(Seven Verses):**

1. Exodus 23:20

2. Psalm 91:11

3. Psalm 34:7

4. Daniel 3:28

5. Daniel 6:22

6. Luke 4:10

7. Hebrew 1:14

II Kings 6:17 – **Open his eyes...**

Isaiah 54:17 "**NO** weapon formed against me shall prosper."

Trust God – Claim Promises

3. God has committed to protect "his children" personally!

a. God is ABOVE us (Deuteronomy 4:39).

b. God is BEFORE us – (Exodus 13:21).

c. God is BEHIND us – (Exodus 14:19-20).

d. God is BENEATH us – (Deuteronomy 33:27).

e. God is WITH us – (Matthew 28:19-20).

f. God is IN us (I Corinthians 3:16).

g. God is ALWAYS with us (Hebrews 13:5) (Joshua 1:9).

4. Hebrews 13:5 "*...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*"

a. The Greek word for "leave" is *aniemi*.

1. "*I will never slacken my hold on you nor let you sink.*"

b. The Greek work for "forsake" is *egkatalipo*.

1. "*I will not let you down – I will not leave you in a lurch.*"

5. We never face ANY situation or problem alone.
 - a. We ALWAYS have the Holy God with us to guide us, comfort us, support us!
 - b. Isaiah 43:2

HE WAS SUPPLIED BY THE KING

III. Nehemiah Asked the King for a Letter to Supply all he Needed (Nehemiah 2:8).

- A. He wanted yet “another letter” – “**something in writing.**”
 1. Nehemiah said, “I need some building materials!”
 2. The king granted it ... (Verse 8).
- B. All that Nehemiah asked for to build the walls WAS GRANTED by the king.
 1. Why did the king supply his every need?
“...according to the good hand of my God upon me.” **Look at Verse 18.**
 2. **Jerusalem** (wall was 4 miles long, 12 feet high and approx. 10-12 feet wide).
 - a. The gates – a house (unbelievable amount of lumber).
 3. The King of Kings has given you/me/us “something in writing.”
 - a. Assuring us that all our needs will be provided to “build the walls!”
- C. He **HAS SUPPLIED** for you and me as His children.

1. God will supply food:
 - a. Genesis 3:9
 - b. Psalm 107:9
 - c. Psalm 37:25
2. God will supply wisdom:
 - a. James 4:7
 - b. Jeremiah 1:8-9 (Give you words.)
3. God will supply strength:
 - a. Isaiah 40:29-30
 - b. Isaiah 41:10 & 13
4. God will supply for fighting battles:
 - a. Exodus 14:14
 - b. Deuteronomy 1:30
5. God will supply ALL things:
 - a. Matthew 6:31-33
 - b. Philippians 4:19
6. God will supply a plan for your life:
 - a. Jeremiah 29:11-13
7. God will supply comfort (In time of fear, sickness, storms, and loneliness):

- a. Psalm 23:4
- b. Isaiah 51:12
- c. II Corinthians 1:3
(*paraklesis*: One who can soothe and quiet you in a time of distress).
Paul said, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*
- d. Isaiah 40:31 "Wait is not just sitting idle."
Wait is when we "spend time communing with God – Continually!"

Father, we pray that You will lay upon our hearts a burden, O God, that we'll not be content to be in our warm comfortable security, but Lord, that we might do something to rebuild the walls that lie in decay as our country lies in ruin. Grant Father that each of us will say, "We, as your servants, will arise and build,"– *"...according to the good hand of my God upon me."*
"...for thou has provided all things which we will need!"

IV. **Nehemiah Immediately Faced Opposition** (Nehemiah 2:10). (Still true today!)

A. Sanballat the Horonite:

- 1. Sanballat a native of Horonain, a city of **Moab**.
- 2. Tobiah an **Ammonite**.
- 3. These were both hostile races.

B. They were two races who were forbidden to enter the Congregation.

- 1. Nehemiah 13:1
- 2. This can be traced back to Deuteronomy 23:3.

C. **Why** were these two tribes, the Moabites and the Ammonites rejected?

- 1. Both Moab and Ammon were the natural sons of Lot -He was their father!
- 2. They were illegitimate children (Hebrew 12:8).
- 3. But, they were born to Lot's two daughters (Genesis 19:33-38).

D. They picture those of the world, who profess "to be saved" but are not!

- 1. They are "false professors" and "lived according to the flesh."
- 2. They pretend to be "our friends" but they are deceitful and undermine us.
- 3. **Their purpose has not changed** – They oppose and corrupt the work of God.

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson 5

Nehemiah 2:11-16

Intro: This is the history of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

Principles for rebuilding walls:

In our first lesson we shared:

1. What did this mean in that day?
2. What does this mean today?
3. What does this mean to me personally?

Things that you and I are building today: (God has a job for us today.)

1. Our Christian Life
2. Our family
3. Our business
4. Our church

These are great and eternal principles.

They are tried and tested and found to work.

Now a man has surrendered his life, while living a great life, to go to Jerusalem and rebuild.

1. Think about **what a great faith** that took for Nehemiah to do this!
2. One man! No helpers when he left Shushan the Palace!
 - a. Traveled about 800 miles.
 - b. Transported sufficient building materials to build a 4-mile-long wall.

INVESTIGATION

Nehemiah 2:12

Seven Principles to Solve Problems

HE SURVEYED THE WALLS

I. Nehemiah Surveyed the Ruins (Nehemiah 2:12).

A. He “arose” and went out by night.... (Don’t get used to the dark!) - **(Water pipes....)**

1. He took a “few men” but did not tell them why he was going (Verse 12).
 - a. He bore the burden ALONE!
2. Imagine what a dark, discouraging, and desperate feeling he must have had.

B. He returned by night – and still had not told anyone where he went or why (Verse 16).

1. Nehemiah surveyed the “walls that had fallen.”

C. **Question:** Are we willing to “survey” the fallen walls in America?”

1. Before we answer that – let’s look at “spot-lighting” the problem.

SPOT-LIGHTED THE PROBLEM

II. Nehemiah Spot-lighted the Problems (Nehemiah 2:13-16).

A. The walls that **had fallen**:

1. The walls representing the Glory of God had fallen.
2. The walls representing faithful Prayer had fallen.
3. The walls representing God's Protection had fallen.
4. The walls demanding Separation had fallen.
5. The walls demanding Exclusion had fallen (Nehemiah 2:20).
6. **The walls demanding Obedience had fallen!!!** (II Chronicles 7:17-22).

B. **We look** at the walls that have fallen in our country:

1. The walls of Divine Blessing have fallen.
2. The walls of Domestic life have fallen.
3. The walls of Decency have fallen.
4. The walls of Doctrine have fallen.
5. The walls of Dedication have fallen.
6. The walls of Decision have fallen.
7. The walls of Determination have fallen.

C. Fact: "The Walls of Fundamentalism" have fallen. (In most Churches in America.)

1. The Inspired Word of God is rejected, ridiculed, and rendered "out of date."
2. The world has been brought into Churches:
 - a. The world's music.
 - b. The world's methods.
 - c. The world's dress.
 - d. The world has substituted "praise" for "worship."
 1. You will not find "a praise service" in the Bible.
 2. Christians are to praise the Lord all day every day.
 - e. The world's liberals have come into the church (Jude 1:4).
 1. Every miracle in the Bible has been explained – away!
3. Preachers no longer preach **"Thus saith the Lord!"**

D. Question: Where did the fall of "the walls of our country" begin?

1. (II Chronicles 7:14) - - - (God said, "...then **I** will heal their land.)
 - a. Revival **always** begins at the **house of God**. (The world CANNOT be revived.)

E. Are you and I willing to "spot-light" the problem – **personally**?

1. (Psalms 139:23) David prayed.
2. Will you pray the prayer – and mean it?

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson 6

Intro: Last week we found that Nehemiah had a goal – His goal was to “**build the walls.**”

1st step: He Surveyed the ruins.

2nd step: He Spot-lighted the problems.

Those were under “Investigation.”

Today, we find Nehemiah’s 3rd step toward his goal:

The people said, “*Let US arise and build.*” (*Neh. 2:18*)

CO-OPERATION

Nehemiah 2:17

SELECTED THE LABORERS

I. Nehemiah Selected and Organized the Workers.

A. What Nehemiah **DID NOT SAY**: - (He used no reproach or Pharisaic attitude.)

1. He did not say, “Jerusalem is a disaster.”
2. He did not say, “Why haven’t you people fixed this?”
3. He did not say, “All of this is your fault.”
3. He did not say, “Get up, get busy, do your part, get to work!”

B. What Nehemiah **DID SAY**: (He approached them very delicately.)

1. He said, “You see the distress **WE** are in.” (**Not the government!**)
2. He said, “Come, let **US** build the walls of Jerusalem.” (**Not the government!**)
3. He said, “...that **WE** be no more a reproach.” (**Not the government!**)

C. Then he shared two things with the rulers and people:

1. He told them of “the good hand of God upon him.” (**Has God been good to us?**)
2. He told them of “the King’s words.” (**They saw he had been kept safe – supplied.**)

D. **What did they say?** “...let **US** rise up and build” (Verse 2:18).

1. Nehemiah was **ONE** man – in captivity!
2. Now - - - - - **EVERYONE** had an assignment.
 - a. It started with the “high priest” (Nehemiah 3:1).
3. Chapter three gives a list of the workers
 - a. The family names of 40 families are given – **great numbers in a family.**
4. The word, “repaired” is found **36 times** in **32 verses** of Chapter 3.
 - a. “**next to them...**” (Verses 4,5,7,8, etc... **15 times...**
 - b. They all did different jobs and separate jobs – but worked “side by side.”
 - c. **Every person** was involved except....

5. **The “NOBLES”** put not their necks to the work of their LORD (Verse 5).

- a. We are not told why!
 - 1. Maybe they thought that type of work was beneath them!!

6. The “nobles” got **a sharp rebuke** (Judgment) (Nehemiah 5:7).

E. What will we say?

- 1. Each of us has been selected as a laborer (I Corinthians 12: 7 & 11).
 - a. Each of us has a gift – “every man” - **Are you using your gift???**
- 2. Do you want to be known as a “laborer” or as a “noble?”
 - a. One day we will stand before God (I Corinthians 5:10).
 - Give an account for “what we did.”
 - Give an account for “what we COULD have done but would not do.”
 - b. Those who did not use their spiritual gift will receive a sharp rebuke!
 - 1. Some will be ashamed (I John 2:28).
 - 2. Because...Some will go in “empty handed” (Matthew 25:14-26).

II. How did the walls of Jerusalem get rebuilt in 52 days?

A. It started with **one man** who had a burden.

- 1. He agonized in prayer.
- 2. He made himself available - **died to self** (Romans 12:1).
- 3. **Jim Elliot – Nate Saint – Roger Youderian – Ed McCully & Pete Flemming**
1953 - 1956

“God Planted Five Seeds”

“Through Gates of Splendor”

Jim Elliot - - Died on an altar in Wisconsin 1953 - Wrote:

“I dare not stay home.”

Nate Saint wrote:

*A man is no fool to give that which he cannot keep
To gain that which he cannot lose*

B. God has a job for you.

- 1. Start where Nehemiah started (Nehemiah 1:4).
 - a. Ask God to burden your heart for some part of the ministry.
 - b. Agonize in prayer.
 - c. Die to self.
 - d. Survey the ruins.
 - e. Spot-light the problem.
 - f. Start building!
 - 1. If you will not, you will **regret it in this life.**
 - 2. If you will not, you will **regret it in the life to come!**

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson 7

Nehemiah 2:17-20

Theme Verse for Today!

*“It is time for Thee, Lord, to work:
For they have made void Thy Law.”
Psalms 119:126*

DETERMINATION NEHEMIAH STRENGTHENED HIS FAITH

I. Nehemiah Strengthens his Faith (Nehemiah 2:18).

A. Nehemiah, “by the good hand of my God,” had just won a great battle – time of rejoicing!

1. Great victories – are always followed by great opposition.
 - a. You can expect opposition! (2 Samuel 5:18-25).

Smote: (*Nakah*) wound, kill, slaughter, murderer, punish, slay, smite.
David “slaughtered” the Philistines! – **Watch...**
They came RIGHT BACK! (Verse 22).
 - b. Nehemiah saw that coming – “*so they strengthened their hands*” (Neh. 2:18).
2. **Why** did they strengthen their hands?
 - a. Nehemiah knew that he and the people were doing God’s will.
 - b. Nehemiah knew their adversary would attack them.
3. **How** did they strengthen their hands? (Nehemiah 8:10).
 - a. We are strengthened by:
 1. Remembering God’s blessings from the past (Mark 6:52).
 - a. Psalms 106:7
 - b. Isaiah 40:29-31
 - c. Psalms 77:11-20
 - d. Psalms 34:4
 - e. Deut. 1:28-30
 2. Remembering God’s promises for the future (II Corinthians 1:20).
 - a. Isaiah 43:2
 - b. Jeremiah 33:3
 - b. Submit yourself to the Holy Spirit – Saturate yourself with the Word of God.

NEHEMIAH SUFFERED OPPOSITION

II. Nehemiah Suffered Opposition (Nehemiah 2:19).

A. When you say, “I will rise up and build.” – Satan says, “I will rise up and oppose.”

1. Your adversary will oppose you – just knowing you have a “desire” to serve God.
 - a. **All they said was**, “...*we will arise and build.*” Opposition (Nehemiah 2:18).
 - b. As soon as you “start to build” – the opposition will show up.
2. Sanballat & Tobiah began to oppose Nehemiah in (Nehemiah 2:10).
 - a. Now a third adversary joins them!!! (Ezra 4:1-5).
 1. Geshem is a descendant of Ishmael – (the illegitimate son of Abraham).
 2. The forever enemy of God’s people (Genesis 16:11-12).
 - b. Later, “**other** enemies opposed them” (Nehemiah 6:1).
- B. We should view opposition as a blessing!
 1. I would hate to be a person that the devil was not after!
 2. When you witness (etc.)– something always happens to interrupt it.
 - a. View that as a blessing of God – **WHY?**
 - b. **Why?** You know you are clean-hearted and in God’s will.
 - c. **Why?** Because you know God is working and using you.
- C. Claim these verses:
 1. “If God be for us, who can be against us.” (Romans 8:31).
 2. “Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (I John 4:4).
Isaiah 54:17 – NO weapon that is formed against me will prosper.

NEHEMIAH SEPARATED FROM THE WORLD

III. Nehemiah Separated from the World (Nehemiah 2:20).

- A. I care not what the cause is – The end does not justify the means!
 1. You cannot yoke up with:
 - (a) Unbelievers from the world or -
 - (b) Liberals from within some denomination!
(II Corinthians 6:17)
 2. We, nor our church, can join the world even in a “common cause” (Amos 3:3).
- B. In Chapter 13 we will see the compromise of the Jews – **AGAIN!**

NEHEMIAH STARTED REBUILDING

IV. Nehemiah Started Rebuilding the walls (Nehemiah 3:1–32).

- A. We covered Chapter 3 last week.
 1. What does Chapter 3 show us? (God has a plan – He is organized.)
- B. Some closing comments:
 1. The Pattern -
 - a. Each one of them was found in an “organized” spot.
 - b. Each one had a leader and,
 - c. Each one followed their leader.
 2. The Place:

- a. A place is designed for every person in the local church.
 - b. It starts **“at my house”**: (House: Verses 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29).
 - 1. It extends to everywhere we go!!!
 - 2. It extends to the entire world.
 - c. Each of us has been given -
 - 1. A Book of instructions to follow and,
 - 2. Tools to build with.
- 3. Let us rise up and build!**

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson #8 - Part 1 of 4 parts Nehemiah 4:1-12

OPPOSITION!

“I will rise up and build,” and the enemy says, “I will rise up and oppose!”

Intro: This entire lesson, which is in 4 parts, deals with Satan’s methods.
It also gives us God’s “means” for victory.

I. We are studying the “greatest character” in the whole Bible concerning service and leadership!

II. When a Christian says, “I will rise up and build,” Satan says, “I will rise up and oppose.”

III. We need to understand and expect that there IS GOING to be opposition!

The victory is ours, but there is no victory without opposition.

The victory is ours, but we are ON A BATTLEFIELD.

Satan plans to do all possible to “ruin your life.”

IV. Look at the names used for Satan in the Bible:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Deceiver | (II John 1:7) |
| 2. Liar | (John 8:44) |
| 3. Murderer | (John 8:44) |
| 4. Accuser | (Revelation 12:10) |
| 5. Tempter | (I Thess. 3:5) |
| 6. Destroyer | (I Corinthians 10:10) |
| 7. Wicked one | (I John 2:14) |

V. Satan is not just “an evil influence” – Satan is a “real created being” (Lucifer- Isaiah 14:12).

VI. His power was broken at Calvary – but he will continue to try and ruin your life.

A. To do that, he **“works through deception.”**

B. Ephesians 6:11 states, “...that ye may be able to stand against the **wiles** of the devil.”
“Wiles” (Greek is: “*methodeia*”) meaning **“the methods of the devil.”**

C. II Corinthians 2:11 “...we are not ignorant of his devices.”

SATAN’S SEVEN STRATEGIES TO STOP THE SAINTS FROM SERVING

I. Nehemiah Suffered Derision (Ridicule or mockery) - (Nehemiah 4:1-3).

A. Opposition **from without!** (Nehemiah 2:10, 19)

Opposition **from within** (Nehemiah 4:10-12).

1. “What you’re doing is nothing!” You people are fighting a losing case.

2. We preach that the Gospel is the only hope for the world.
They laugh at our preaching, standards, small numbers, etc. (I Corinthians 1:18).

B. They did the same to Christ (Luke 22:63).

THREE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR OVERCOMING DERISION
(They cast themselves wholly upon the Lord – Nehemiah 4:4-6)
“...so built we the wall!”

A. The People Had a Mind to Work (Nehemiah 4:6).

1. They did not stop “building” to do “battle.”
 - a. Noah is an Example: (Genesis 6:13-14).
 - b. They may have laughed and mocked.
 - c. We are sure they ignored his preaching.
 - d. He continued to WORK.

B. The People Had a Heart to Pray (Nehemiah 4:9).

1. If you have no heart to pray – you have no mind to work.
2. It does not say to “stop working and start praying.”
 - a. They go “hand in hand” BOTH are necessary!
 - b. People say, “Just pray about it!” NOT ENOUGH!
 - c. Joshua 7:6-10 The Lord said,
“...get thee up: wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?”
 - d. Farmer with garden: “you and God have done a good job with that garden!”

C. The People Had an Eye to Watch (Nehemiah 4:9).

1. Nehemiah “set a watch.”
 - a. Why? (I Peter 5:8-9).

II. Nehemiah Suffered Discouragement (Nehemiah 4:10- 12).

A. They said, “It’s impossible!”

1. People in churches, people among us say, “That’s impossible – It can’t be done.”

B. Those people are “looking at the circumstances.”

1. We are not supposed to “look at the circumstances.”

THE PRESCRIPTION FOR OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT

I. Have Your Life Firmly Planted in Faith (Proverbs 3:5-6).

A. We are to “look at the Lord.”

1. With God “...all things are possible.”
2. Remind yourself that you are in the will of God.
3. Galatians 6:9: “...be not weary in well doing, for in due time ye shall reap...”
 - a. We may be “tired” WHILE serving Christ.

- b. We should never be “tired” OF serving Christ.
- c. We should never be “discouraged” – tired, but not discouraged!
 - 1. (II Chronicles 20:15) The battle is the Lord’s.

II. Remember That You Are Indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Colossians 2:9-10).

A. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord” (Zechariah 4:6).

B. Empowered to do greater works: (John 14:12 – Matthew 19:26 – Mark 9:23).

III. Strengthen Your Life “by Building” – Next Week I will give you “Seven Building Blocks.”

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson 9 – (Part 2 of 4 parts)

Nehemiah 4:10-13

Intro: We are continuing the series on “opposition” from last week.
We studied Derision – Discouragement.

I. Nehemiah Suffered Danger (Nehemiah 4:11) (Opposition from **without!**)

- A. The enemy **planned** a “concerted” attack (Nehemiah 4:7-8).
 - 1. Sanballat – Tobiah – Arabians – Ammonites – Ashdodites (They conspired.)
 - a. They put aside their own differences to fight against God’s people.
- B. The enemy **plotted** a “cruel physical” attack (Nehemiah 4:11).
 - 1. Started out with “all talk” (Nehemiah 4:1-3).
 - 2. Stimulated to planning “...*come in the midst among them, and slay them....*”
 - 3. Stated they were determined “...*we shall cause the work to cease!*” (Nehemiah 4:11).
- C. The enemy **purposed** to put fear in the hearts of God’s people (Nehemiah 4:12).
 - 1. Fear caused the workers to want to “give-up!”
 - 2. Fear comes from various sources???
 - a. This case: **TOO CLOSE TO THE ENEMY** (Nehemiah 4:12a).
 - 1. “...*they said unto us TEN times!*”
 - 2. ALL they could think about was - the enemy and the threat.
 - 3. ALL that happens “when we talk and listen.”
 - b. **Commanded to separate** (II Corinthians 6:17)! Are you living too close?
- D. The enemy tried to make them fear, because:
 - 1. The walls were finished “to the half” (Nehemiah 4:6).
 - 3. **The enemy is only angry at YOU when he sees you working!**
 - a. Satan is not opposed to fundamentalism – or sound doctrine!!
 - b. Satan opposes you, when he sees you “building for God.”
- E. Christians and the church are not facing that type of danger – NOT YET...but it is coming.
 - 1. Danger is coming - (Matthew 24:5-9; & 24:15-18).
 - 2. “The wicked one...” (II Thessalonians 2:8). “The lawless one....” Coming!

THREE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR OVERCOMING THE DANGER

A. Remember the Lord (Nehemiah 4:14).

- 1. We are not to remember **who He is**, BUT remember what He is...
 - a. “*He is a great and terrible God...*” (Verse 14)
 - 1. “A terrifying God – An awesome God – An all-powerful God.”
 - 2. **Think of Pharaoh:**
 - a. First born slain...
 - b. Drown entire army...
 - b. David - slew the giant! (I Samuel 17:42–46).

2. Don't look at "how much bigger the enemy is than we are."
Look at "how much smaller the enemy is than God!"

B. Reflect on the Issue – Reflect on all that is at stake (Nehemiah 4:14)! (Some not worth it.)

1. What is at stake?
 - a. Everything that is important to us – is at stake.
 - b. Today – Your wife, your children – everything is at stake.
 1. In this world of liberals and materialism – They are worth fighting for.
 2. The enemy is AFTER YOUR CHILDREN!

C. Resist the Enemy (Nehemiah 4:16-18).

1. Half were building the walls – half were holding weapons – **Changed places daily.**
 - a. We have "tools to build with."
 - b. We have "a sword to fight with."
 - c. We must never put "fighting first" but rather "put building first" (Isaiah 41:10).
2. How? By working together! **"I have your back."**
 - a. "...we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work (Neh. 4:15).
 - b. "...every one with one of his hands wrought in the work..." (Neh. 4:17).
3. Churches are failing... Why? – **Because everyone is not doing their part.**
 - a. If you are not for me, you are against me (Matthew 12:30 - Numbers 32:23).
 - b. He that knoweth to do good and does it not...it is sin (James 4:17).
4. Nehemiah had a rallying point for the workers (Nehemiah 4:20).
 - a. When the trumpet sounded, they were to gather together as "one man."
 - b. One day soon – the trumpet will sound, and we will be gathered together to our Commander-in-chief! – **He will fight for us! – Will see He is all powerful.**
5. **The battle is the Lord's** (II Chronicles 20:15)!
 - a. **He will fight for us ...** (Nehemiah 4:20).

NOTE: Our enemy is a "relentless" foe (II Samuel 5:18-24)!

1. If one thing does not work – Satan will try another!
2. He tried Derision – Discouragement – Danger.
3. Now he tries a **"different method."**

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson 10 – (Part #3 of Lesson #8)

Nehemiah 5:1-6

Intro: We are continuing the series on “opposition” from last week.
We studied Derision – Discouragement – Danger.

I. Nehemiah Suffered Discord (Nehemiah 5:1-6). (Opposition from within).

A. Opposition from within: The most difficult problem to handle – Internal discord.

1. God says He HATES discord (Proverbs 6:19b).

B. Discord is more dangerous to a church than drinking whiskey!

1. A “little discord” will do more harm to a church than a “barrel of whiskey!”
 - a. Sowers of discord are very subtle.
 - b. Sowers of discord pretend to be very spiritual.
 - c. Sowers of discord are very knowledgeable in Scripture.
 - d. Sowers of discord “work under-cover.”
 - e. Sowers of discord are very dangerous.

C. Satan is always behind discord (Revelation 12:10).

1. Generally it is because **they want it done their way.**

THREE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR OVERCOMING DISCORD

A. Maintain a Right Attitude (Ephesians 4:30-32).

1. We are to love one another – even in the midst of discord (John 15:12-14).
 - a. **IF** we love God “like we ought to” – we **WILL** love our brother (I John 4:21).
2. We are not to be lured into conversation by the enemy (Nehemiah 6:1-6).
3. We are to MAINTAIN a right attitude **BUT - not get involved. (They are subtle.)**
 - a. Nehemiah did not get involved (Nehemiah 5:15 – “...so did not I.”).
 - b. Nehemiah had a fear of God **“Do right if the stars fall.”**
4. Overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

B. Maintain a Right Motive (Nehemiah 5:15b).

1. Have a “heart-felt” motive to restore the brother (Galatians 6:1 & 2).
2. Have a “heart-felt” motive to win a brother (Matthew 18:15).
3. Have a “heart-felt” motive to heal any schism in the body (I Corinthians 12:25).
4. Have a “heart-felt” **goal** for those who have sown discord. **That goal is....**
 - a. Repentance (Nehemiah 5:7-13)
 - b. Restitution
 - c. Resumption of the work.
5. No problem is “too big” to solve.
 - a. But sometimes we have people who are “too small” to solve them.

“If you please the Lord, it doesn’t matter who you displease.

If you don’t please the LORD, it doesn’t matter who you do please.”

C. Maintain a Right Power to Overcome.

1. “Be ye filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).
 - a. This is the key to everything (Zechariah 4:6).
 - b. If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God (James 1:5).
2. It is in THAT power and that power only that we can overcome the evil one.
 - a. I John 2:13-14 & I John 4:4

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson #11 – (Part #3 of 4 parts)

Nehemiah 6:1-14

WE WILL COMBINE THESE LAST THREE ATTACKS INTO ONE - IN THREE PARTS.

Sanballat and Tobiah were behind all three attacks.

Distraction Nehemiah 6:1

Defamation Nehemiah 6:5-6

Deception Nehemiah 6:12

I. Nehemiah Suffered Distraction (Nehemiah 6:1-4).

A. Satan is very clever

1. **First - derision**
2. **Second - discouragement**
3. **Third - danger**
4. **Fourth - discord**
5. **No success by “attacking” God’s people... Therefore....**

B. The enemy **changed his attack to the exact opposite!**

1. Sanballat said: *“Come, let’s meet together in some one of the villages of Ono.”*

C. Sometimes Satan is a “roaring lion” **but sometimes he is an “angel of light.”**

1. They sent that message to Nehemiah 4 times (Nehemiah 6:4).
 - a. This was a subtle attempt to influence Nehemiah to “compromise.”
2. Satan does not generally tempt Christians “to get drunk or commit moral sin.”
 - a. He tempts them to “compromise” – just a little!
 - b. First with music – then Christian standard – then contemporary.
3. **Beware of people of the world who want to be friends** (James 4:4).
 - a. The world ALWAYS has an ulterior motive!
4. Often times Christians try “to get ahead” by using the world.
 - a. They leave God’s place and plan for them.
 - b. They accept the offer from the world to “move” to another city.

II. Nehemiah Suffered Defamation (Nehemiah 6:5-7). (Sanballat tried to discredit Nehemiah.)

A. **HOW QUICKLY Sanballat changed – Deceiver!**

B. Satan used a “method of the world.” He started a “**dirty rumor**” about Nehemiah.

1. In the Marine Corp – they have a saying:
 - a. “If you do not hear a rumor every 30 minutes – start one!”

C. He accused Nehemiah of having a **wrong motive** for building the walls.

1. Accused him of rebelling against the king (Verse 6).
2. He accused him of pride.

- a. Claimed he was building the walls to “**set up his own kingdom.**”
- b. Accused him of planning to “be the king of Jerusalem.”
- 3. He tried to use “**fear**” to get Nehemiah to meet with him (Verse 7).

- D. Many God fearing, holy living Christians have been destroyed by “a rumor.”
 - 1. They accused Jesus of being a “wine bibber” (Matthew 11:19).

III. Nehemiah Suffered Deception (Nehemiah 6:10-13).

Distraction did not work.

Defamation (discredit) did not work.

Deception was his last option!

- A. The enemy came and pretended to have “a message from God!” (Neh. 6:10)
 - 1. He tried to deceive Nehemiah into meeting with him in the Temple.
 - a. He used a common tool called “FEAR” (Neh. 6:13).
 - 2. Remember that: “God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love and a sound mind” (II Timothy 1:7).
- B. Nehemiah knew that he was not from God.
 - 1. He had been hired by Tobiah and Sanballat (Neh. 6:12).
 - a. He offered an easy-going, compromising religion that has no enemies!
 - b. They don’t want anyone leaving church feeling bad!
- C. Nehemiah faced an enemy.
 - 1. He faced people within his group talking with the enemy (Nehemiah 4:10-12).
 - 2. He faced people soliciting help from other enemies.
 - a. Nothing works: They “hired people” to make them afraid (Neh. 6:13).
 - 3. He faced people writing him letters with threats (Nehemiah 6:17).
 - 4. He faced people in “mixed marriages” (Nehemiah 13:23-27).

THREE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR OVERCOMING THE THREE ATTEMPTS

A. Nehemiah’s Answer to Sanballat when he Attempted to Distract him:

- 1. *“I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it and come down to you?” (6:3)*
 - a. Realize that you are in the will of God and doing a great work.

B. Nehemiah’s Answer to Sanballat when he Attempted to Slander him:

- 1. *“There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart ... O God strengthen my hands.” (6:8)*
 - a. Know in your heart that you are living a clean life.
 - b. Know that you are in God’s will.

C. Nehemiah's answer when Sanballat attempted to tempt him to Compromise:

1. "Should a man such as I flee?" (6:11)

- a. There is no reason to flee when we are in God's will – building for God.

D. When all looks cloudy and you think all is lost, do like the eagles do when facing a storm -
Spread your wings and ride the storm higher and higher until you break out into bright
blue skies and bright sunlight.

A GREAT PICTURE OF JESUS CHRIST

God had only one way of fulfilling His redemptive plan to save your soul from hell, and that took the complete co-operation of His Son, Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus, God's Son, in order to fulfill our redemption, had to face the exact same opposition as Nehemiah had to face.

The enemies of Nehemiah said, "Come down and meet with us in the plain..." (Nehemiah 6:2-3).

1. The enemies of Jesus said, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

- a. Jesus said;

1. "I am doing a great work. I cannot come down."
2. "None of the things you have said are true."
3. "Why should a man such as I flee!"

And, WHAT A WORK! If he had come down from the cross, there would not have been salvation for one single person who has ever been born on this earth. The whole world would have been cast into the lake of fire and spent all eternity in Hell. Jesus, by His response, said:

"No, I cannot and will not come down, for then nobody will ever be saved!"

As God's children, washed in His Blood, filled with His Spirit, having His inspired Word:

- a. We can say, "I am doing a great work – I cannot come down."

THE CONCLUSION

Nehemiah 6:15

"So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days"

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson 12 – (Part #4 of 4 Parts)

Nehemiah Chapters 4-6

GOD’S “BUILDING BLOCKS” TO STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH

II Peter 1:4-9 Genesis 37:1

Intro: I. Saved (1) You are on your way to Heaven. (2) You have a Divine nature.
God has given us “all things” (II Peter 1:3).
Christians are not “fit for world system” (II Corinthians 6:14).
However, some depart from World System – (What Satan offers).
The World System: (I John 2:15)
The lust of the flesh – The desire to do more.
The lust of the eyes – The desire to have more.
The pride of life – The desire to be more.
(Demas is a Bible example.)

II. Some tell us being Saved is enough. - That is not true.

God instructs us to “add some things.”
God has “Called” us to “glory and virtue: (II Peter 1:3).

JOSEPH IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF HAVING ADDED THESE SEVEN THINGS.

I. Virtue (Genesis 37:2)

- A. Joseph brought THEIR evil report. (**Refused to join them in things displeasing to God!**)
 - 1. Mixed Swimming (**Naked** Isaiah 47:1-3).
 - a. Pools and beaches are covered with bathing suits and wild music (Exodus 28:42).

II. Knowledge (Genesis 37:5) - This is not worldly or intellectual knowledge.

- A. This refers to “Bible” knowledge.”
 - 1. Old Testament had Dreams / New Testament - we have the Bible.
 - 2. Do you study? Do your parents see you study?
 - a. It is not “what you feel” that will see you through the storm, it is “what you know.”

III. Temperance - Control - Dominance (Genesis 39:7-8).

- A. Joseph refused (Titus 1:8 - temperate).
 - 1. Eyes (Psalms 101:3) Body (I Corinthians 9:27)

IV. Patience (Genesis 39:20)

- A. Patience is listed with righteousness, godliness, faith, love, meekness (I Timothy 6:11).
- B. It is not missing your plane by 5 minutes without cursing.
- C. It means “enduring tribulation” (Romans 5:3-5, - James 1:3, - Revelation 1:9).

V. Godliness (Genesis 39:21-23)

- A. God’s will - (Romans 8:29)
- B. Deny SELF - (Luke 22:42)
- C. Think like -Want what - Ask for - Do what God wants - (Philippians 2:5).

VI. Brotherly Kindness (Genesis 42:21 & 24-25)

- A. Joseph’s brothers meant it for evil (Chapter 50).

1. No excuse for harshness, rudeness or anger.
2. Abraham (Genesis. 13:8)

VII. Charity (Love) (Genesis 45:4 & 50:15-20)

- A. I Corinthians 12:31 - 13:1
- B. We are to love our brother, our church, lost people, and the things of God.
 1. For God so loved the WORLD....
 - a. Why – We certainly did not merit or deserve His love, but ...

Conclusion: Look at three things in II Peter 1:8.

A. ...If...

1. Unless you are a successful Christian:
 - a. You are a total failure.
2. Is Bill Clinton successful in his life???? **Absolutely not!**
Bill Clinton's life is a total loss!

B. ... If Not... (II Peter 1:9)

1. You are blind – You cannot see what is “down the road in life” (Verse 9).
 - a. You cannot see the future - or - you are not interested in the future.
 Many people have climbed the ladder of success.
 When they reached the top and found out he had the ladder on the wrong wall.
2. You will forget that your sins are forgiven, and forget you are saved.
3. You will come to the end of life – **you will be fearful and cry tears of regret.**

C. “It won’t happen to me.” “That is what people think!”

1. Choices determine the “if” or the “if not.”
 - a. Drunk in gutter – Started his life by thinking “**that won’t happen to me.**”
 - b. Man in jail – Started his life by thinking, “**that won’t happen to me.**”

D. God promises that “...if you do these things, you will never fall.”

E. Reread Verses 8 and 9.

F. Verses to strengthen your faith:

1. Isaiah 40:31
2. Galatians 6:9
3. II Corinthians 1:3-4

NEHEMIAH

Lesson #13

Nehemiah Chapters 8-9

Three Principles to Prepare for Church Revival

Intro: We are not talking about Evangelism!

Churches call it “a revival meeting” and then invite a man who preaches evangelistic messages!

Revival has nothing at all to do with lost people.

Revival will always produce “preaching the Gospel to the lost.”

America was founded on the belief that a country must be devoted to righteousness. That devotion comes from the understanding of the Word of God. Devotion to the Word of God, when taught and preached in the power of the Holy Spirit, produces righteousness.

Righteousness will always bring revival. When God’s people get away from loving, reading, studying, and understanding the Word of God they lose the blessings of God (Psalms 1:2-3).

This explains why Nehemiah called for a Bible Conference in Chapters 8-12. The walls were finished, and the gates were hung. The material needs of the city and people had been met. Now it was time for Nehemiah to **focus** on the spiritual needs of the people.

Nehemiah invited Ezra, the scribe, and they focused on “the Word of God.”

Ezra was the ideal man to conduct the Bible Conference (Ezra 7:10).

Notice the various ministries Ezra followed to make that conference successful.

I. Read the Word of God (Nehemiah 8:1-8). (A perfect outline for preaching or teaching.)

A. Ezra **“Brought”** the Book on the “first day” of the Seventh Month (Nehemiah 8:1-2) (Oct).

1. (Heshvan) **October was the equivalent of our “New Year’s Day!”**

2. The Jews celebrated the “Head of the Year.”

a. The Feast of the Trumpets on the “first day of the New Year” (Lev. 23:23-25).

1. Prophetic: Gathering of Jews - after the tribulation.

b. The Feast of Atonement on the “tenth day of the month” (Leviticus 23:27-32).

1. Sorrow and repentance.

c. The Feast of Tabernacles on the “fifteenth day of the month” (Leviticus 23:34).

1. Memorial: Deliverance out of Egypt.

2. Prophetic: 1000 years of rest after regathering (Zechariah 14:16-21).

d. This was done in order that **“the nation started the year right!”**

3. The word **“understanding” is found in** (Nehemiah 8:2,3,7,8,12 &13).

B. Ezra **“Opened”** the Book (Nehemiah 8:5-6). - Stood on a high wood box (Verse 4).

1. Ezra started by “Blessing the Lord, the great God (Nehemiah. 8:6).

a. The people honored the Book by standing and saying Amen! (Nehemiah 8:5)

C. Ezra **“Read”** from the Book (Nehemiah 8:3).

1. He read from “morning to midday.”
2. He continued reading for seven days (Nehemiah 8:18).
3. He read again on the “twenty-fourth” day (Nehemiah 9:1-3).
4. He read for “a fourth part of the day” (**six-hours**) (Nehemiah 9:3).
5. The people confessed their sins for “a fourth part of the day” (Neh. 9:3) (**six-hours**).
6. **What type of attendance would we have today for “six hours of reading?”**
What type of attendance would we have today for “six hours of confessing?”
We wonder why we do not have revival in churches today!!!

D. Ezra “**Explained**” the Book (Nehemiah 8:7-8).

E. Ezra “**Gave them Understanding**” of the Book (Nehemiah 8:7-8).

II. Recall the Greatness of God.

A. Remember that He alone is God (Nehemiah 9:6a).

B. Remember that He alone Created the Universe (Nehemiah 9:6b).

C. Remember that He alone cares for the Creation (Nehemiah 9:9c).

D. Remember that the “Host of Heaven” Worships Him (Nehemiah 6:9d).

III. Remember the Grace of God (Nehemiah 9:31-35).

A. God was good to His people when they were not good to him (II Chronicles 36:14-15).

1. God could have destroyed them, but... (Nehemiah 9:33).
 - a. In Mercy He did not give them what they deserved.
 - b. In Grace He did give them what they did not deserve.
2. The Jews made a covenant with God (Exodus 24:3-8).
 - a. They failed and did not keep their word to God.
3. God, in His grace, gave them a “new beginning” (Nehemiah 9:38).
 - a. This is the history of Israel:
 1. Joshua 8:30-35 – Renewed their covenant from Exodus 24!
 2. Joshua 24:14-28 – Reconfirmed their covenant!
 3. Judges 2:6-15 ----- **Broke their covenant!**

B. The one thing we learn from history is that “we do not learn from history.”

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson #14A - Part #1

Nehemiah Chapters 9 & 10

(Nehemiah 9:1-21 & 32-38)

Intro: We are not talking about Evangelism!

We call a meeting “a revival.”

Revival has to do with Christians - born again people – Revival is not for lost people.

Four Biblical Principles That Guarantee Revival (Revival: Greek: “*Chayal*” - Meaning: **To live again**)

Revelation 3:1 Church at Sardis

“...thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead”

Is our church “on fire for God?”

I. Return to Broken Heartedness (Nehemiah 9:1-3) (Nehemiah 8:9). They wept!

A. The wall had been built, the law of God expounded, the feast of tabernacles and harvest festival had been observed.

1. This was the first time since the days of Joshua.

A. Joshua 8:30-35 – Renewed their covenant from Exodus 23-24

2. There was **GREAT rejoicing** (Nehemiah 8:17)!

3. A few days later came fasting and repentance (Nehemiah 9:1-3)!

B. These should always go together - (**Repentance & Rejoicing**).

1. A Christian should never be caught up in rejoicing **and** forget how sinful they are.

a. **REJOICING LEADS TO SELF-CONFIDENCE**

2. Confessions of sin and repentance are not things that belong in the background.

a. They are not things that were done only at the early days of our salvation!

1. If you avoid these – you will soon become “hard-hearted.”

2. Oh for the tenderness that was in our hearts when we were first saved.

3. **Where does Revival begin?**

a. **Remembering...**

- From where you fell - (Revelation 2:1-5) – (**REMEMBER** Verse 5).

II. Reflect on God’s Goodness (Nehemiah 9:6-15) –

The goodness of God leadeth to repentance (Romans 2:4).

Throughout Chapter 9, Ezra says, “**Remember...**”

A. Almost the entire 9th chapter is a chapter pointing out God’s goodness:

Remember ...and thou preserved them all... (Verse 6)

Remember ...Thou ... didst choose Abram (Verse 7)

Remember... and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees (Verse 7)

Remember....and gavest him the name of Abraham	(Verse 7)
Remember ...and madest a covenant with him...	(Verse 8)
Remember ...he hearest their cry by the Red Sea	(Verse 9)
Remember ... shewedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh...	(Verse 10)
Remember ...and thou didst divide the sea before them...	(Verse 11)
Remember ...and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps...	(Verse 11)
Remember ...Thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar	(Verse 12)
Remember ...and in the night by a pillar of fire...	(Verse 12)
Remember ...and thou gave them light in the way...	(Verse 12)
Remember ...and spakest with them from heaven...	(Verse 13)
Remember ...and madest known unto them thy holy sabbath...	(Verse 14)
Remember ...and gavest them bread from heaven...	(Verse 15)
Remember ...and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock...	(Verse 15)
Remember ...and promised them that they should go in to possess the land...	(Verse 15)

Constant repetition of God's grace and goodness. (17 things listed)

B. Verse 16: “**But**, they and our father dealt proudly and hardened their hearts.”

1. They hardened their hearts.
2. They hearkened not to God's commandments.

C. Verse 17: “...**but** thou art a God ready to pardon...”

Remember ...Thou gavest also thy good spirit.	(Verse 20)
Remember ...Thou withheld not manna.	(Verse 20)
Remember ...Thou gavest them water	(Verse 20)
Remember ...Thou didst sustain them.	(Verse 21)
Remember ...They lacked nothing.	(Verse 21)
Remember ...Thou gavest them kingdoms.	(Verse 22)
Remember ...Their children multiplied.	(Verse 23)
Remember ...Thou broughtest them into the Promised land.	(Verse 23)
Remember ...Thou subduedest the enemy before them.	(Verse 24)
Remember ...They took strong cities.	(Verse 25)
Remember ...They possessed houses full of all goods.	(Verse 25) (11 More listed)

D. Verse 26: “**Nevertheless**, they were disobedient and rebellious against thee.”

GOD'S COMPASSION

A. Verses 30-31: ...**Nevertheless**, for thy great mercies sake thou did not utterly consume them.
(Patient and Long suffering.)

APPLICATION TO CHURCHES IN 2020

A. No Excuse! - - - “We have the Holy Spirit” – they did not!

1. They read the Word of God for a fourth part of the day (Nehemiah 9:3).
2. They confessed and worshiped for a fourth part of the day (Nehemiah 9:3).
- a. **How many of us do that????**

- B. What would happen if we set aside a half part of our day to read and worship???
1. Revival takes time to “spend” with God and His Word.
 2. Revival takes time to “reflect” on the goodness God has shown us in our life.
 3. Revival takes time to “recall” the grace God has shown us in our life.
- C. How long has it been since “any of us” have spent ONE HOUR:
1. Alone with God?
 2. Confessing our sins?

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson #15

Nehemiah 11:1, 2–23; Nehemiah 12:27-30, 43

Three Biblical Principles for Church Success

Intro: The Jews who returned to Jerusalem numbered about 50,000.
The Jews were greatly out-numbered and in danger.
The Jews quickly learn the principle in Zechariah 4:6:

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts”

I. The First Principle is “Disposition” (Organization) (Chapter 11:1-2).

A. Protection of Jerusalem was of great importance.

1. The rulers were to occupy Jerusalem (Verse 1).
 - a. Only 10% in Jerusalem (Verse 1).
 1. Very dangerous place.
 2. Listed in Verses 4 – 19 – Look later.
 - b. Those living in Jerusalem were to be men of great valor (Nehemiah 11:14).
 1. **BUT:** they included porters (Verse 19) (**Door Keepers**).

II. The Second Principle is “Delegation.”

A. Every soldier is not on the “front line” fighting the battle.

1. **BUT:** Grateful for those who are “out of sight” but supporting them.
2. **Delegation** in Jerusalem (Verses 3-19) “**And...15 times. (Everyone assigned.)**”
3. **Delegation** to other cities Verse 20–36 – “**And... 9 times. (Everyone a place.)**”

B. “Ninety **percent** “**occupied other** cities round.”

1. **BUT:** Serving with joy - and “in the will of God.”
 - a. These are **just as important, or more so**, than those dwelling in Jerusalem.
 1. **Marine Corp** has men on “front line.”
 2. Marine Corp has **MORE** men who support them “unseen.”
 - b. See **I Corinthians 12:22-25**

2. **Don’t envy** “gifts of others.”

3. The secret to “**Victorious Christian Service**” is found in Ephesians 4:7-11)

*“But unto **EVERY ONE** of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”*

***EVERY ONE** of us are important!*

C. They follow the same pattern as building the walls (Chapter 3).

1. EVERYONE had an assignment.

2. EVERYONE had a place (Chapter 4:15 & 17).

D. Look at Nehemiah 11:22, 23:

1. The singers did nothing but “sing” in the house of God. (HOW MANY IN CHOIR?)

a. They were not “on the front lines” but they filled a very important place.

b. They sang the praise of God – encouraging those serving in other places.

2. **The king commanded they be “given a certain portion” for the labors.**

a. That clearly made them important to the “over-all” ministry.

3. God has “delegated” a **responsibility** to EVERY member of the Body of Christ.

a. God has given a special gift to EVERY member (I Corinthians 12:7 & 11).

4. If you are “not helping” you are “hurting” the cause of Christ.

EXAMPLE:

I had a very unusual experience about 1975. I was home from the field and was attending the Annual Candidate School of Maranatha Baptist Mission in Natchez, Mississippi. The Mission had arranged for us to have meals together at a city park that had a pavilion about a mile from the church. They had a serving line. One day during lunch I was standing in line waiting to fill my tray and fellowshiping with other missionaries attending the school.

An older man, who looked very frail, walked up to me and started a conversation. He shared how at one time he was very active in the ministry of the church but had had some serious health problems and was unable to do the things he once did. I expressed my sympathy to him for his condition. He asked me to please not be sorry for him and assured me that he was in the will of God. He gave no other explanation.

Then he began to ask me questions about a number of situations involving the people and church we were planting in Mexico. Keep in mind, to my knowledge I had never seen this man before. He had a list in his hand and asked, “What about the young man you are training named “Pepe Rodrigues?” I gave him an answer but wondered how he knew about Pepe. Then he said, “What about the Bible study you are having with the Sanchez family?” Again, I wondered how in the world he knew about the Sanchez family, but I gave him an update and told him how they had both trusted Christ and were faithfully attending and serving in the church. He looked down and marked something off his list. Then he asked about Lupe and her health problems. Again, I shared that she was doing well and rejoicing in the Lord.

I very politely asked him: “Sir, how do you know about Pepe, the Sanchez family, and Lupe?” He said, “Oh, when the Mission puts your prayer letter and prayer requests in the ‘Maranatha Paper’ I cut all of the prayer requests out and put them in my prayer file. Then each day I spend time going through the request and praying for the things you shared, along with the requests of every missionary with Maranatha (100 families)! He showed me his list. He had every request I had sent over the past 4 years in Mexico! Many of them were “marked off” but his list showed he was still praying for several of our people.

I was so blessed and so humbled by the ministry that this man had that I began to feel tears roll down my face. I have never forgotten how excited he was when he learned his prayers had been heard and

God had answered them! He shared why I should not feel sorry for him being in the physical condition he was in. He shared what a tremendous blessing it had been to him that God allowed him to spend every day for over 12 years praying for missionaries, the churches they were planting, and for souls to be saved.

I have often wondered, when we get to Heaven, how many people from the countries around the world will be there **because** of the “unseen ministry” this man had for many years. I am sure of this, in “that day” he will not be “unseen” but will be one of the first to hear our Lord say, “Well done good and faithful servant.”

I cannot help but wonder if you or I would be willing to be “delegated” to this type of ministry??? What would I do if all of my Christian work was taken away from me and I was physically laid aside. Would I be rejoicing as this man was? I wonder.

E. Recognize those whom God has delegated **unseen ministries**.

1. They **are of equal importance** to the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:23-25).

III. The Third Principle is “Dedication.”

A. The “dedication of the walls” --- “touched every part of their life.” (Victory!)

1. The dedication of the walls and city “**touched their hearts.**”

a. Their sacrifice and rejoicing were so great – *it was heard afar off!* (Neh. 12:43)

Heart - Emotions

2. The dedication of the walls and city “**touched their heads.**” (Nehemiah 10:29-31, 39)

Head – Facts

a. It made them realize what really mattered in life!

1. ... *their relationship to the Lord.*

b. They built the walls with a great deal of fear.

c. They dedicated the walls with a great deal of joy.

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.” (Psalm 126:5)

3. The dedication of the walls and city “**touched their pockets**” (Nehemiah 10:37-38).

B. The dedication of the walls was possibly because of:

1. The “strategy in their warfare” was matched by the “surrender of their lives.”

a. The surrender of their lives was “complete surrender.”

1. Their **hearts** – Their **heads** – Their **hard-earned money**.

b. Complete surrender calls for “dying to self” (Romans 12:1-2).

2. **Example:** David is mentioned 6 times in Chapter Twelve.

a. Of David it was said, “...*a man after mine own heart.*” (Acts 13:22)

3. **Would you like to be known as “... a man after God’s own heart?”**

a. **YOU CAN BE!**

C. The dedication of the walls was possible because the people not only:

1. Gave all they had to the Lord, but they “Took all that God offered them.”
 - a. We “take so little” of what God wants us to have (I Corinthians 1:30).
2. *In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.* (Colossians 2:9-10).
 - a. Complete: **Pleroma**: “Rigged for the journey.”

D. Dedication and Stewardship does not just apply to “material things” but “practical things.”

1. Your **home** will become more than a dormitory and a restaurant.
 - a. Your home will become a place to raise and train your children to serve God.
2. Your **business** will cease to be “just a job.”
 - a. Your business will become a place “to serve the Lord.”
 - b. Your business will become “your mission field.”
 - c. Your business will cause your employer to wish all his staff was Christian.
3. Your **country** will profit from your dedication.
 - a. Your country will profit from Christian statesmen!
 - b. Your country will profit from Christian teachers.
 - c. Your country will profit in every walk of life.
4. The failures in America today are not failures of government.
 - a. They are failures of the church and of Christians.
5. Your church will grow by you being a “servant rather than a spectator.”
 - a. Every Christian should be a member of a local church.
 - b. Every Christian should pray daily and diligently for the church.
 - c. Every Christian should give sacrificially for the cause of the church.
 - d. Every Christian should encourage other members of the church.
 - e. Every Christian should have an active part in the church.

LUPE’S TESTIMONY

I learned that we (Americans) do not think like they (Hispanics) think! The first lady saved was an older lady, maybe 70 years old. I met her while visiting door to door. She lived on a small “dead-end” street, which was dirt and gravel. Her house was one of adobe walls and had a “tar-paper” roof. The only room which was concrete block was the bedroom where she and her husband slept. I want to mention her in a special way and for a special reason. From the day she trusted Christ, the dear lady never, ever missed a service at the church, regardless of whether it was Sunday night, Wednesday, any special meetings, rain, cold, snow, wind or sunny; she was there.

She was a large woman and had a little difficulty walking, but she never missed. Several times when she arrived in the cold, she would sit on the “second bench” which was “her seat” and rub her knees and say, “Oh, Hermano Ernesto. Mis rodillas me duelen tanto!” (Oh, Brother Ernest. My knees hurt me so bad.) Lupe always came to church in a dress, but during the winter months she would always wear a pair of “corduroy-pants” under her dress. Still, she would rub her knees and her face told me she was in a lot of pain.

Several times I would arrive on Sunday morning as she would be standing at the door. It was the middle of the winter, cold and raining. My family and I would give her a ride home after services. When we “dropped her off” at her house, I would say to her: “Lupe, we will come by your house tonight, pick you up and give you a ride to church. It is cold and raining and you don’t need to be out in this cold.”

That evening we would drive by and knock on the door, but never get an answer. We would continue on to the church. When we arrived, Lupe would be standing at the front door smiling, and waiting on us to unlock the door. I would “fuss” at her, but in a sweet Christian manner.

However, one Sunday evening in the middle of the winter, it was cold, raining, and the wind was blowing. When we drove up to the church, Lupe was standing at the front door, with her grand-daughter, who always came with her. She was smiling and greeted us as we came through the gate. I quickly opened the door and rushed them inside. Three or four others had also arrived. We all took our coats off, dried our faces and entered the main room of the house where we held services. As usual, Lupe took her seat on the second row (we had benches made out of 1 x 4 pine boards) and begin to rub her knees.

Please do not misunderstand me. I was not harsh with Lupe in any way. But in a “sweet, concerned manner,” I began to “fuss” at her in a Christian manner. I said, “Lupe, it is cold outside! It is dark! It’s raining! The wind is blowing, and it is bad outside. Besides that, you live about 8-10 blocks away and part of the streets you have to walk on are gravel and dirt.” I continued, “Lupe, you don’t have to be here every time the doors open. You don’t have to come to church on nights like this. God knows when you can’t come. He understands that you live a long-ways off, that you have to walk, and that your knees hurt. He doesn’t expect you to be here on nights like this! I don’t expect you to be here on nights like this. If you are not here, we will come by your house after services and check on you.”

I stopped as I saw that Lupe had a look on her face like she could not believe what she was hearing me say. She had tears running down her face. I said, “What’s wrong?” She said, “Brother Ernest. I never remember having a really happy day in my entire life; not from the time I was a little girl until you came to my house. I have always lived in an adobe hut or concrete block and had a corrugated tar-paper roof over my head. We had an ‘out-house.’ All I have now is a ‘water faucet’ in the kitchen. I have never had anything in my entire life and I never had a happy day until you came and told me about Christ. You told me how God loved me and how Jesus died in my place. You told me how I could be forgiven for my terrible sins and how I could go to heaven. I got saved. That day I began to be happy and have joy in my life. I am excited to get up every morning.”

She continued, “Now I come to church. You teach me more about how God loves me. You teach me in the Bible that God has built me ‘a mansion’ in heaven and that one day I’m going to have a brand-new body, and I won’t be sick any more, and I won’t hurt any more, and where I live there will be streets of gold. Coming to church has been the happiest days of my life, and – now you tell me I don’t have to come any more.” The tears poured down her face.

I learned a lesson on that day that I have never forgotten – and will NEVER forget. Sad to say, Christians in America have had it so good that we never stop to realize the blessings and happiness we should have to come to church - every service, and be excited and expecting to learn more about how God loves us and what He has “laid up for us in Heaven.” Amen! I never made that “dumb” mistake again!

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Lesson #16

THE GRAND FINALE

Nehemiah Chapter 13

**Intro: We studied: Four Biblical Principles for Revival.
Three Biblical Principles for Having a Successful Church.**

Today: Three Failures that will Write Ichabod over a Church.

THE HISTORY OF NEHEMIAH

I. Nehemiah had remained in Jerusalem for 12 years (5:14).

- A. The walls had been rebuilt (6:15).
- B. The Worship had been restored (8:1 & 8).
- C. The Feast of Tabernacles had been restored (8:14-17).
 - 1. Not observed since Joshua.

II. Chapter Nine

- A. The people had repented of their failures (9:1-3).
- B. The people returned to worshipping the Lord (9:3).
- C. The people made a covenant with God (9:38).
 - 1. The covenant was in writing (9:38).

III. Chapter Ten

- A. A list of those who signed the covenant (10:1-27).
- B. A “three-fold” covenant explained (10:28-39). (What was the covenant?)
 - 1. Separation (10:28)
 - 2. Sanctification (10:31)
 - 3. Service (10:38-39)

IV. Chapters Eleven & Twelve

- A. The Occupation of Jerusalem and 7 cities round-about Jerusalem (11:1).
- B. The Delegation of responsibilities (11:2).
- C. The Dedication of the walls, the city, and the temple (12:27–43).

V. Chapter Thirteen

- A. Nehemiah returned to Shushan and King Artaxerxes (13:6).
 - 1. Nehemiah was “a man of his word.”
 - 2. It had been 12 years since he left Shushan (13:6 & 5:14).
 - 3. He asked permission to return to Jerusalem (13:6).

VI. Nehemiah’s Return to Jerusalem (13:7)

- A. This is a clue to Nehemiah’s undying, unswerving loyalty to his God.
“...And I came to Jerusalem and understood...”
 - 1. He understood that God has a plan for His people.
 - 2. He understood that God intended to reach the multitude through a few.

3. He understood that God was totally unconcerned about crowds, but channels.
4. He understood that God demands a “pure heart” of how He would judge His people.
5. He understood that God was “no respecter of persons.”
6. He understood that God wants his people to fulfil His purpose for the world.
7. He understood that God’s people had compromised and failed.

“THE GRAND FINALE”

Three Failures That Will Write “Ichabod” Over a Church

I. They failed in Separation.

- A. The people had made a covenant to “separate from other nations” (Nehemiah 10:28).
- B. The people went back “mixing with the nations” (13:4-5 – 13:23-28).
 1. **Eliashib - high priest** - prepared a “chamber” in the house of God for Tobia (13:7&8)
 2. **Eliashib - the high priest’s son** - married a daughter of Sanballat (Nehemiah 13:28).
- C. **God DEMANDS separation** (II Corinthians 10:17).
- D. Nehemiah’s response was, “**Remember me**, O my God!” (13:14)

II. They failed in Sanctification.

- A. The people had promised to “remember the Lord’s day and keep it Holy” (10:31).
 1. The Greek words for “Day of the Lord” means “It belongs to Him.”
- B. The people returned to “buying and selling” in the temple (13:15-22).
 1. Nehemiah’s response was, “**Remember me**, O my God!” (13:22)

III. They failed in Service.

- a. The people had promised to “not forsake the House of God” (10:38-39).
- b. The people “forsook the House of God” (13:10-14).
 1. Nehemiah’s response was, “**Remember me**, O my God!” (13:14)

NEHEMIAH’S CONCLUDING REMARKS

Nehemiah 13:29

Now Nehemiah says...

*“**Remember them**, O my God,
because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.”*

Nehemiah was the last historian in the Old Testament.

Shortly after Nehemiah concluded his life’s work in Jerusalem, and the people returned to their sinful ways, God closed the door on the Old Testament and the “400 years of silence” between the Old and the New Testament began.

During those 400 years, as far as we have records, God did not say one word to Israel.

That takes us to the “time of Christ.”