

Nehemiah



Len Cutting

Nehemiah

How a call on Someone's life, can Overcome Anything.

What the Scriptures are saying, concerning these chapters:

Chapters

1 to 8

Scripture Quotations by:

The Authorized Old King James Version, printed by Holman Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee, 1968.

The Message Bible in Contemporary Language, Eugene H Peterson, Navpress, 2002.

The Strongs Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Hebrew and Greek Translations, Abington, Nashville, 1890.

Originally, I started writing this Study Guide back in February of 2003 and it got put down for many years with nothing added to it.

On Friday the 6th of October, 2018, I believe that the Lord spoke to me with one word, Nehemiah. I believe that it is time to complete the writing of this book and see it completed so as to encourage God's people.

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Introduction to the Scriptures:

- Chapter 1. Receiving a Word from God to Act.**
- Chapter 2. The King Enquired as to why he was Sad.**
- Chapter 3. The Building and Restoration has Started.**
- Chapter 4. The Enemy tries to hinder the work of God.**
- Chapter 5. A cry comes up from the People.**
- Chapter 6. The Enemy tries to Deceive Nehemiah.**
- Chapter 7. Singers and Worshipers were Appointed.**
- Chapter 8. The People as one, Wanted to hear the
Word of God Ministered Again.**

The Reason for writing this Study Guide:

The following is a Word that the Lord has quickened to me on January the 22nd, 2013.

On Tuesday the 22nd of January, 2013, I was sharing a message at our Tuesday night Bible Study at 237 High Street, Golden Square, when the presence of the Lord came down.

The next day, one of the men that was at the meeting the night before came to see me and asked me did I feel the presence of the Lord come down in the meeting last night, at about half way through it?

Of course I agreed and said yes to his question.

That night, I asked the Lord, what did I mention and speak about that caused your presence to come down? And the reply that I got was **Nehemiah**.

Note, I was not speaking on or about Nehemiah, I just briefly mentioned his name concerning something.

I started to look at Nehemiah by reading Chapter 1 and I was amazed at what the Lord began to show me.

The book of Nehemiah starts off with Nehemiah being in the King's palace, and one of his brethren, Hanani, and a few men of Judah, came to him, and Nehemiah asked them concerning the welfare of the Jews that have escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning the city of Jerusalem.

Their reply was, that the people are in great affliction and reproach and therefore are in great captivity.

The walls of the city are broken down and destroyed and the gates of the city are all burned with fire, all 12 of them.

When Nehemiah heard these words, it affected him so much that he sat down and wept and mourned certain days, as well as he fasted and prayed for the Lord to make a way for him to rebuild the city of God. [**Jerusalem.**]

He continually sought the Lord over the welfare of God's people, as well as the condition of the city of God.

As we read the next 3 chapters we see how the king enquired of his well-being and offered to help him to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

I could go on a lot further with this but the encouragement that I want to share is this:

For a while now I have been seeking the Lord concerning the welfare of our city Bendigo, and I believe that the Lord has been showing me that Nehemiah, through having a heart that was concerned about not only the people of God, but also the city of God, was able to, through much prayer and fasting and weeping, got the Lord to provide the material and manpower so that Nehemiah could rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

I believe that through a willing and gentle heart of God's people and much prayer and fasting, we can begin to pull down the strongholds of the enemy and begin to take back our city of Bendigo for the Lord and begin to see the Church within the city flourish again.

God used a man called Nehemiah, because he asked him to use him, so why cannot God use us because we ask him to?

We have to start somewhere, so my encouragement to the people of God in our city that read this is, please begin to seek the Lord, not only for the Christians within the city of Bendigo but other towns and cities as well, but also for the city itself and let's see our God move on our behalf, because we have asked him to, and begin to take back the city for God.

Those who were at Without Walls on Friday, the 1st of March, 2013, would have heard Milton Alverese share a word from the Lord that he got that really set my spirit jumping.

He said that God was going to do a work in Bendigo that will cause people from all over Australia, as well as the world to begin to fly into Bendigo, Victoria, Australia, to see what God was doing, similar to what the Lord did in Toronto, Canada.

I took hold of that word and I am believing for God to do that very thing.

Nehemiah had a few good men with him. I need a few good men and women with me to start praying and believing for a move of God within this city like we have never had before.

Let's see what the Lord can do when the people of God ask him to move.

Len Cutting.

Now belonging to,

The Lamp Church International.

About the Author

This is my 5th book that the Lord has helped and encouraged me to write.

I certainly would like to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for his wisdom and quickening when it came to putting pen to paper.

I am 66 years young and gave my heart to the Lord at the age of 16 and knew that same week, the call that the Lord had laid upon me.

I have been blessed to be able to travel a lot while ministering the Word of God both here in Australia and overseas.

Titles of other books written by the Author:

1. **Divorce.** Do we as Christians have the Godly Right?
2. A Study Guide for small groups and Churches.
Foundation Principles. The Building Blocks for a Fulfilled life as a Christian.
3. A Study Guide for small groups and Churches.
A Famine of Hearing the Word of God. A Decision that will Affect our Eternal Future.
4. A Study Guide for small groups and Churches.
Is there a Second Coming of Jesus Christ? What the Scriptures say about this Subject.
5. A Study Guide for small groups and Churches.
Nehemiah. How a call on Someone's life can Overcome Anything.

The Book of Nehemiah.

Chapter 1.

Vs. 1-4.

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month of Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,

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.

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.

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.

The Message Bible says.

The memoirs of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.

It was the month of Kislev in the twentieth year. At the time I was in the palace complex at Susa. Hanani, one of the brothers, had just arrived from Judah with some fellow Jews. I asked them about the conditions among the Jews there who had survived the exile, and about Jerusalem.

They told me, "The exile survivors who are left there in the province are in bad shape.

Conditions are appalling. The wall of Jerusalem is still rubble; the city gates are still cinders."

When I heard this, I sat down and wept. I mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of Heaven.

What do we see in these four verses?

Vs. 1-2.

- What we see is that Nehemiah had a heart for his Christian brothers and sisters by enquiring about their well-being.

- When was the last time that you, or we, enquired about our Christian brothers and sisters and the ones that we attend church with, to see how they are going and to make sure that the battle of their walk with God is not overcoming them?

Vs. 3-4.

- The remnant that are left are in great affliction and hardship. They are doing it tough.
- They are living in appalling conditions and are in bad shape.
- The walls of Jerusalem, or our modern-day prayer life, are broken down, along with the gates into the city which have been burnt down. The entrance into the city, the entrance into our heart.
- This speaks of our faith which is affected because of the fact that we are not reading the Word of God because of what we are experiencing.
- The enemy has free access into the city of God, which speaks about our heart, because our prayer life is not what it should be, and our faith is not in the Word of God because we are not reading the Word like we should be.
- **Vs. 4. says that when Nehemiah heard of the state of the nation of God, he was very sorrowful.**

How does this relate to us now concerning the Church in our city?

- Our faith in God allows us to become priests in God. **1 Peter 2:5-9.** A Holy Priesthood, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, and this allows us to be placed in the palace of our God beside our King, where we are able to receive from our God.
- The latter-day church has been through a lot of battles and many spiritual Jews are not in a good spiritual condition and their walk in God has been affected and they are not in a very good relationship, spiritually, with the Lord.
- The walls of protection for God's city and the gates, which both speak of our prayer life and faith in the Word of God, does not allow the people of God to stop the enemy from entering into their life and causing problems and issues because their faith has been compromised. They are worn down because of the battles that they have been facing. If we do not read the Word of the Lord or pray as much as we are able to, then we are not able to destroy the works of the enemy.

- **In Vs. 4.** When Nehemiah heard the words of the fate of the nation of Israel, it affected him so much that he sat down and wept, and mourned many days with fasting and he prayed continually before the God of Heaven.

What have we done concerning the Church in our City?

- When we see and hear that the men and women of God are leaving their churches, or probably going nowhere, or not going to church as much, for whatever reason, are we affected?
- Do we humble ourselves and pray to the Lord for them? Do we fast and pray for the fallen and lost sheep of Israel? Jesus said that I have not come, but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel. **Matthew 15:24.**
- Are we sorrowful in our heart when we see churches nearly shut down because of the attack of the enemy against the house of God? What state will we allow the church to come into captivity by the enemy, before we begin to allow ourselves to be emotionally affected and begin to cry out to the Lord for the Spiritual house of God?
- Let's see the spiritual walls of protection rebuilt around the city [or our prayer life] increased to pull-down the strongholds of the enemy. Let's see the gates of the city, or the entrance into the city of our God, rebuilt, all 12 of them.

Vs. 5-6.

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:

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.

The Message Bible says.

I said, "GOD, God of Heaven, the great and awesome God, loyal to his covenant and faithful to those who love him and obey his commands: Look at me, listen to me. Pay attention to this prayer of your servant that I am praying day and night in intercession for your servants, the People of Israel, confessing the sins of the People of Israel. And I am including myself, I and my ancestors, among those that have sinned against you."

What do we see in these Scriptures?

- My heart is crying out to you God, for the sake of your people.
- You are the one that blesses his people if we obey your commandments.

- Nehemiah is saying, hear me Lord. Listen to the prayer that I am praying unto you. I am a man that is desperate for you to move on my behalf because of your people.
- I am praying day and night for your people and I expect you to move, because I have asked you to.
- I am admitting the sins of your people, myself, and my ancestors. Forgive us, because I have asked you to.

James 4:2.

... you have not, because you ask not.

II Chronicles 7:14-15.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

Points of Interest:

- You do not have what you want in your life because you either have not bothered , or do not realize that you have to ask to get what you want.
- As God's people, the ones that are called by the name of Jesus, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and have nothing to do with that which is not of me, I will hear from heaven, forgive you and heal your land.

Vs. 7-9.

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.

Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though 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.

The Message Bible says.

We have treated you like dirt: We have not done what you told us, have not followed your commands, and have not respected the decisions you gave to Moses your servant.

All the same, remember the warning you posted to your servant Moses: "If you betray me, I will scatter you to the four winds, but if you come back to me and do what I tell you,

I will gather up all these scattered peoples from wherever they ended up and put them back in the place I chose to mark with my Name.”

Points of Interest:

- We all as Christians have done the wrong things by not keeping the truth of his Word.
- God will deal with us as we disobey him.
- God says that he will always receive us back when we see the error of our ways and repent to him and asked for forgiveness and start walking a Godly path and having a pure heart and a humble spirit.
- Wherever you are, if you turn back to the truth of God’s Word and obey what his Word says, then the Lord says that ‘I will take you back and I will place you where my Word is and where I have placed my name for ever.’
- Where God’s name is, so is his nature.

II Chronicles 7:16.

For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

The Message Bible says.

Believe me, I have chosen and sanctified this Temple [Us] that you have built: My Name is stamped on it forever; my eyes are on it and my heart in it always.

As for you, if you live in my presence as your father David lived, pure in heart and action, living the life that I have set out for you, attentively obedient to my guidance and judgments, then I will back you ...

Points of Interest:

- Now I have chosen you and sanctified you by the precious blood of my son Jesus Christ.
- I have placed my name upon you forever.
- You are my dwelling place.
- My eyes are forever looking out for you and my heart is always concerned for you.
- It is the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead, that lives and dwells in you.

II Corinthians 6:17-18.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The Message Bible says from II Chronicles 7:15 - 18:

I will be there ready for you: I will listen from heaven, forgive their sins, and restore their land to health. From now on I am alert day and night to the prayers offered at this place.

Believe me, I have chosen and sanctified this Temple that you have built: My Name is stamped on it forever; my eyes are on it and my heart in it always.

As for you, if you live in my presence as your father David lived, pure in heart and action, living the life that I have set out for you, attentively obedient to my guidance and judgments, then I will back your kingly rule over Israel - make it a sure thing on a sure foundation....

Points of Interest:

- God is telling us to come away from where the sin is that we are connected with and to be separate from that sin, so that it does not and cannot affect us.
- God is asking us not to touch anything that is unclean or that may have an ability to affect us.
- The Lord then says, if we do that, then he will receive us back unto himself.
- I will then be a Father unto you and you will be my precious sons and daughters and I can care for and look after you.

Vs. 10-11.

Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

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.

The Message Bible says.

"Well, there they are - your servants, your people whom you so powerfully and impressively redeemed.

O Master, listen to me, listen to your servant's prayer - and yes, to all your servants who delight in honoring you - and make me successful today so that I can get what I want from the King..."

Points of Interest:

- We are the chosen ones of God.
- Lord, let your ears hear the prayers of your saints. We are desperate for you.
- Hear our cry and move on our behalf.
- As I put my life on the line for you daily, hear what I ask of you.

Hebrew meaning:**Cupbearer:**

- A butler or servant to the King.
- Someone that tastes food and drink.
- Someone that when required will put his life on the line for his King.
- Someone that gives, gives to, lets, and drinks.

Points of Interest:

- Nehemiah reminds God that these people in captivity are his servants whom he has redeemed by his great power and strong hand.
- We need to remind ourselves of the saints of God that are in captivity, or going through things, to uphold them before the Lord.
- God we desire to fear your name and prosper. Help us to do that. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. **Proverbs 9:10.**
- Grant me mercy that I may accomplish your will.

I believe that it is time now, as we hear this word from the Lord, to begin to cry out unto the Lord and begin to go to war in prayer for the deliverance of the city and the releasing of the captive saints in the city.

As Moses said to Pharaoh, "Let my People go."

Notes.

Questions.

Chapter 1.

1. **Vs. 2-3.** What news affected Nehemiah?
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2. **Vs. 3-4.** What was the news that Nehemiah heard?
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3. **Vs. 5-6.** What did Nehemiah ask the Lord?
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4. **II Chronicles 7:14-15.** What does this scripture say?
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5. **Vs. 7-9.** What did Nehemiah say in his prayer to God?
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6. **II Chronicles 7:18.** What did God say in this scripture?
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7. **II Corinthians 6:17-18.** What does this scripture say to you?
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8. **Vs. 11.** What does the scripture say that Nehemiah is? What does it mean?
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Nehemiah

Chapter 2.

Vs. 1-3.

And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.

Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,

And said unto the king, Let the king live forever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchers, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

The Message Bible says.

It was the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king.

At the hour of serving wine I brought it in and gave it to the king. I had never been hangdog in his presence before, so he asked me, "Why the long face? You are not sick are you? Or are you depressed?"

That made me all the more agitated. I said, "Long live the king! And why should I not be depressed when the city, the city where all my family is buried, is in ruins and the city gates have been reduced to cinders?"

Points of Interest:

- Nehemiah was in the King's Palace.
- We can be in the presence of the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings as often and as much as we either want to or need to, because the veil in the tabernacle was torn when Jesus died, and we can access the Holy of Holies at any time for any purpose.
- Just to worship or request a need; it does not matter.

- When we accept Jesus into our lives as our Lord and Saviour, we have our names written in the 'Lamb's Book of Life' in heaven and God the Father places his seal upon us.
- We are his children, and as such he will listen to any request that we offer up to him.
- The king asked Nehemiah, why are you sad in my presence?
- This caused Nehemiah to open his heart to the king and explain to him why he felt so sad.
- We know that the sadness that came about in the life of Nehemiah when he heard of the condition of the city of God, **Jerusalem**, or the Church, and the condition of God's people that still remained within the ruins of the City, or the Church.
- It is the people that are the Church, not a building.
- We are the Temple of the Holy Spirit once we get filled with the Holy Spirit and begin to speak in tongues as the Spirit of God gives us utterance.
- The scripture says that it is the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead that dwells in us.
- The Church world-wide is not in a great condition. People have moved away, either by having their faith destroyed for whatever reason, being hurt and/or bruised by the church or the people in it.
- We need to be in Church continually, so as to hear the Word of the Lord so that our faith remains strong.
- Satan is doing whatever he can to destroy our faith and get us depressed or upset with Church.

1 Peter 5:8.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

The Message Bible says. Verse 8 - 11

Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You are not the only ones plunged into these hard times.

It is the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering will not last forever.

It will not be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ - eternal and glorious plans they are! - [God] will have you put together and on your feet for good.

He gets the last word; yes, he does.

Points of Interest:

- Be ever mindful of your situation, as the devil is watching and waiting to pounce on anybody whose heart and mind could have an off day.
- We need to be able to read the Word of God as much as we are able to, as well as have a constant and regular prayer life. If we are not filled with the Holy Spirit, then we need to find someone who is and get them to pray for us to be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is a gift from God, through Jesus Christ. It cannot be earned, bought, or in any other way be received. As I said, it is a Gift from God.

Acts 2:38-39.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

The Message Bible says.

Peter said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven.

Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away - whomever, in fact, our Master God invites."

Points of Interest:

- Peter said repent, or ask for forgiveness of all of our sins, ask Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Saviour.
- Be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, so that the sins that are in our human aspect, right back from Adam, can be forgiven.
- The *name* of Jesus Christ is the name of the Godhead. God the Father is Lord. Jesus is God the Word. Christ is God the Holy Spirit. 3 individuals, but all thinking the same and speaking the same. Perfect union and thoughts. No disagreements.
- Then we are able to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The promise of receiving this gift is not just to us but also our children and family and friends, if they will listen to the Word of God and allow Jesus to become their Lord and Saviour.
- God invites everyone on the planet to accept his son Jesus Christ into their life, so that they may receive eternal life in heaven and have the Lord look after them.

Vs. 4-6.

Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.

And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

The Message Bible says.

The king asked me, "So what do you want?"

Praying under my breath to the God of Heaven, I said, "If I please the king, and if the king thinks well of me, send me to Judah, to the city where my family is buried, so that I can rebuild it."

The king, with the queen sitting alongside him, said, "How long will your work take and when would you expect to return?"

Points of Interest:

- I have no doubt that the thoughts that Nehemiah had concerning the city of Jerusalem and the people of God that were still in that city, were planted there by the Lord.
- I have no doubt that God had called Nehemiah to rebuild that city and encourage the people of God.
- I have no doubt that it was God that moved upon the king and caused him to ask Nehemiah "what do you want me to do for you?"
- Nehemiah prayed under his breath. In other words, no one heard him enquire of God "what will I say concerning all these matters?" So that he could give the king an answer that would please him and be acceptable to the king.
- Nehemiah blessed the king and asked him, "Have I found favor in your sight that you would allow me to go and rebuild the city of Jerusalem in Judah?"
- Because the words that Nehemiah used pleased the king, because God had given Nehemiah the words to speak, after he prayed under his breath, this caused the king to ask Nehemiah, "How long will the trip take and how long will you be away, and when would I expect you to return to my palace?"
- What is amazing here is that Nehemiah had not seen the damage done to the walls and gates round about Jerusalem, neither the damage done to the city itself, yet, Nehemiah was able to give the king a time frame for how long that he would be away.
- **Amazing!** Nehemiah had never seen the ruins of Jerusalem.

James 4:2.

...Yet, ye have not, because ye ask not.

The Message Bible says.

You want what is not yours. And will risk violence to get your hands on it. You would not think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not?

Matthew 7:7.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

The Message Bible says.

Do not bargain with God. Be Direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat and mouse, hide and seek game we are in.

Matthew 10:19.

...Take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

The Message Bible says.

...And don't worry about what you will say or how you will say it. The right words will be there; the Spirit of your Father will supply the words.

Ecclesiastes 3:1.

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

The Message Bible says.

There is an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth.

Hebrew Meaning.

The Hebrew meaning of the word, Judah. Means: The House of Praise.

Vs. 7-10.

Moreover, I said unto the king, If I please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come unto Judah;

And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

When Sanballat the Horonite, [or Moabite] and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

The Message Bible says.

Then I said, "If it please the king, provide me with letters to the governors across The [River] Euphrates, that authorize my travel through to Judah; and also an order to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, to supply me with the timber for the beams of The Temple fortress, the wall of the city, and the house where I will be living.

The generous hand of my God was with me in this and the king gave them to me. When I met the governors across The River (the Euphrates) I showed them the king's letters.

The king even sent along a cavalry escort.

When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very upset, angry that anyone would come to look after the interests of the People of Israel.

Points of Interest:

- Again, Nehemiah blessed the king before he asked anything.
- There came a boldness upon Nehemiah to ask of favours for the Lord's work, as to what the Lord had either laid upon the heart of Nehemiah, or spoken to him when he prayed under his breath.
- I have no doubt in believing that a revelation came unto Nehemiah, in order that he was able to give to the king a list of materials and manpower that was needed, as well as the time it would take to do all the work to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, along with the 12 gates, let alone the building of the house where he was planning to stay, as well as the Temple of God, when he had not even seen the damage that was done yet.
- Because it was God. The king approved all that Nehemiah asked for.

- The king even gave Nehemiah a military escort, to make sure that he was safe in his journey.
- What we need to realize is, that when God moves upon an individual to do something, the enemy a lot of the time, will move also to try and stop that person that God is using, for the task at hand, to hinder him and cause things to go wrong, hoping that the person will stop doing what he is doing.
- When Sanballat and Tobiah heard of what was going on and saw the military escort that was provided by the king, they were very angry and mad, that somebody, or anybody, was actually thinking of the welfare of the nation of Israel.
- That is why the scripture often refers to the warfare that we face in our walk with God. It is when the devil tries to stop what we are doing for God, even if it is what the Lord wants. The enemy is not happy when he sees the people of God stepping out in him.
- This warfare can come in many different forms, and from many different people. Including the people of God, who may not have the wisdom that they think that they have in saying what they may say.
- The enemy will use any method at his disposal to stop you, the believer, from doing what God has laid on your heart to do.

Philippians 4:19.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The Message Bible says.

You can be sure that God will take care of everything that you need, his generosity exceeding even yours in the glory that pours from Jesus.

II Kings 6:14-17.

Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

The Message Bible says.

Then he dispatched horses and chariots, an impressive fighting force. They came by night and surrounded the city.

Early in the morning a servant of the Holy Man got up and went out. Surprise! Horses and chariots surrounding the city! The young man exclaimed, "Oh master! What shall we do?"

He said, "Do not worry about it - there are more on our side than on their side."

Then Elisha prayed, "O God, open his eyes and let him see."

The eyes of the young man were opened and he saw. A wonder! The whole mountainside was full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha!

Points of Interest:

- The young servant was horrified at the sight of the enemy having a lot of horses, chariots and men of war surrounding them.
- He became scared and asked Elisha, "What, are we going to do now with all of this great army surrounding us?"
- Elisha, as calm as a cucumber, started to pray, and asked God to cause the young servant to have his spiritual eyes opened that can see the hosts of the army of God around him, and he did.
- We need to understand that there are more for us than against us, and despite the obstacles and hurdles in our life at times, let your faith rise up and start believing God, and then call upon him and tell him what it is that you want and then see the awesomeness of the power of God come into being.

II Chronicles 20:15.

...Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

The Message Bible says.**Jahaziel, The Levite, said:**

“Attention everyone - all of you from out of town, all of you from Jerusalem, and you King Jehoshaphat[This is] God’s Word:

Do not be afraid; do not pay any mind to this vandal horde. This is God’s war, not yours.”

Vs. 11-16.

So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.

And I went out by night by the gate in the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.

Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king’s pool: but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass.

Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned.

And the rulers knew not whither I went or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

The Message Bible says.

And so I arrived in Jerusalem. After I had been there 3 days, I got up in the middle of the night, I and a few men who were with me. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. The only animal with us was the one I was riding.

Under cover of night I went past the Valley Gate toward the Dragon’s Fountain to the Dung Gate looking over the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken through and whose gates had been burned up.

I then crossed to the Fountain Gate and headed to the King’s Pool, but there was not enough room for the donkey I was riding to get through.

So I went up the valley in the dark continuing my inspection of the wall. I came back in through the Valley Gate.

The local officials had no idea where I had gone or what I was doing - I had not breathed a word to the Jews, priests, nobles, local officials or anyone else who would be working on the job.

Points of Interest:

- Nehemiah was in the broken-down city for 3 days before he went out for an inspection of the city.
- This was because he was being watched to see what he was up to by some of those that came with him. This included the military escort and the enemy, Sanballat and Tobiah, who were very angry and hostile towards Nehemiah because he enquired of the welfare of the Jewish people.
- Nehemiah got up in the middle of the night after realizing that there were those that were spying on him over the last 3 days. They would have thought that he was asleep.
- He took with him a few men that had a similar mindset and spirit to himself.
- He, Nehemiah, did not tell them what he was doing, nor did he let them in on what God had laid on his heart.
- The only beast that was there was the one that Nehemiah was riding. This speaks of **not just Authority, but Authority and Leadership that comes from the Lord, as far as being in charge of a situation and in control of it.**
- He went to the high places and open places, so that he could see the state of the walls and gates. This speaks of someone that has a great prayer life and an intimate relationship with his God.
- God can rely on him.
- None of the rulers or military personnel knew what he had done or what he was doing, as far as where he went in the city, to check things out.
- If you want nothing to get out, then you tell no one, Christian or not, especially those that say 'you can trust me, I will not say anything to anyone.' Yeah, right.
- The enemy was watching what he was doing so that at the first opportunity, they could trip him up.

Isaiah 48:10.

Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

The Message Bible says.

Do you see what I have done?

I have refined you, but not without fire.

I have tested you like silver in the furnace of affliction.

In other words, the Lord is saying that he has allowed the things of life and personalities to try and test us to see how we react and what we do.

When the Lord is happy with us, he will then use us.

Amos 3:3.

Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Matthew 6:3.

But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand is doing.

The Message Bible says.

You have seen them in action, I am sure - 'Play-actors' I call them - treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds.

They get applause, true, but that is all they get. When you help someone out, do not think about how it looks. Just do it - quietly and unobtrusively.

That is the way that your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out.

Vs. 17-20.

Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

Then I told them of the hand of my God which was upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? Will ye rebel against the king?

Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

The Message Bible says.

Then I gave them my report; “Face it: we are in a bad way here. Jerusalem is a wreck; its gates are burned up. Come - let’s build the wall of Jerusalem and not live with this disgrace any longer.”

I told them how God was supporting me and how the king was backing me up.

They said, “We are with you. Let’s get started.” They rolled up their sleeves, ready for the good work.

When Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they laughed at us, mocking, ‘Ha! What do you think you are doing? Do you think you can cross the king?’”

I shot back, “The God of Heaven will make sure we succeed. We are his servants and we are going to work, rebuilding.

You can keep your nose out of it. You get no say in this - Jerusalem is none of your business!”

Points of Interest:

- Nehemiah said to the men that were with him, “we are in a bad way guys. The walls around the city are destroyed, along with the gates of protection, as they are all burned up. Let’s get cracking and start rebuilding the walls of protection around the city of our God, and rebuild the gates, so that the enemy has no way of getting into the city of our God and destroying our families.”
- “Let’s begin to rebuild so that the house of God is no more a reproach.”
- Nehemiah then revealed to the men that were with him what God had laid on his heart and how the Lord God had caused the king to help him and supplied all the material and labour that was needed as well as supplied a military escort to make sure that they all got there safe and sound in the journey that they were in.
- The men that Nehemiah had picked and were with him said, “Let us rise up and build.” So they strengthened their hands by praying and seeking God for all their needs and protection from the enemy while they built this good work.
- When the enemy heard of it, that is Sanballat and Tobiah, they were very angry and started to mock Nehemiah and make fun of him. Nehemiah then rebuked the enemy and said that their faith was in the God of heaven and “he will prosper us and see that we complete the rebuilding program. We his servants will rise to the occasion, but you have no right to be here, so go away and leave us alone, for you have no authority in the house of God and nothing to do with this city or the kingdom of heaven for that matter.”

Proverbs 29:18.

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, **[The Word of God]** happy is he.

The Message Bible says.

If people cannot see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

Points of Interest:

- If human nature has trouble believing, understanding, or seeing through the Word of God what God is able to do and can do, then he will have doubts and unbelief and he will stumble along in his Christian journey.
- But, if we open up our heart, and ask God to show us what he wants us to see and do, then there will be a peace and a rest in our lives as well as doors that will be open to us so that we are able to step out in the Lord and begin to do things for him as he makes the opportunity available to us.

Hosea 4:6.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shall be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, **[The Word of God]** I will also forget thy children.

The Message Bible says.

Because you have turned your back on knowledge, I have turned my back on you priests. Because you refuse to recognize the revelation of God, I am no longer recognizing your children.

Proverbs 1:7.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The Message Bible says.

Start with God. - the first step in learning is bowing down to God; only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning.

Proverbs 9:10.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

The Message Bible says.

Skilled living gets its start in the Fear-of-God., insight into life from knowing a Holy God.

Notes

Questions.

Chapter 2.

1. **Vs. 1-3.** What does James 4:2 say?

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2. **Matthew 7:7** Says what?

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.....

3. **Vs. 4.** When the king asked Nehemiah what he wanted him to do for him, what did Nehemiah do?

.....

.....

4. **Matthew 10:19.** What does this scripture say to us?

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.....

5. The meaning of the Word **Judah** in the Hebrew means what?

.....

6. **Philippians 4:19.** Tells us what?

.....

.....

7. **II Kings 6:14-18.** What did Elisha ask God to do and what did God do?

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.....

8. **II Chronicles 20:15.** How does this scripture encourage us as believers?

.....

9. **Proverbs 29:18.** What does this scripture warn us about?

.....

.....

Nehemiah

Chapter 3.

Vs. 1.

Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.

The Hebrew meaning of Eliashib.

- God will restore.
- Strength.
- Mighty.
- One like The Almighty.
- Powerful and strong.
- To Build.
- Deliver again.
- Rescue.

Eliashib is a type and shadow of Jesus Christ and what he is doing to the last day Church, as far as he is rebuilding, not only the city of God, or the Church, but also the lives of the sons and daughter of God - us, the people that make up the Church, The Bride of Christ.

He is causing the protection that we have around his city, or his Church, to be built up and strengthened, and he is raising up the people for such a time as this and for such a work as this, increasing the numbers that make up the Church.

Galatians 3:24.

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might by justified by faith.

The Message Bible says.

Until the time when we were mature enough to respond freely in faith to the living God, we were carefully surrounded and protected by the Mosaic Law.

The law was like those Greek tutors, with which you are familiar, who escort children to school and protect them from danger or distraction, making sure the children will really get to the place they set out for.

Points of Interest:

- Eliashib, the High Priest, or spiritual leader of a Church Group, along with the other priests that were under him, or elders and leaders in the Church, they got their hands dirty in the physical aspect of building as a start to rebuilding the Sheep Gate around about the city of Jerusalem.
- The Sheep Gate was where the sacrifices were brought in for the sacrifices. That was the first gate to be repaired.
- When lambs and sheep were brought in to be sacrificed, it was the High Priest that checked over the lambs and the sheep to make sure that there were no faults or blemishes.
- When we, by prayer and supplication, go into the presence of the Lord to either commune with him or just to talk with him and worship him, Our High Priest, Jesus Christ, sees that there is no blemish in us because of his sacrificial blood that covers us; then we are allowed into the Holy City of God, Heaven.
- Beside each gate in the wall around Jerusalem there are 2 towers, one on each side, called **Meah and Hananeel**. They would have been repaired first, so that a watchman or guard would be able to keep a watchful eye out for the enemy and what they were doing.
- It is interesting that the Hebrew meaning of the word watchman here is, **being able to see beyond that which the natural eye can see. A Spiritual vision.**
- When the towers and the gates were prepared here, they sanctified it by the sacrifice of a perfect lamb, with no faults.
- The Sheep Gate faced the east, which speaks of the presence of God.

I Corinthians 15:46.

Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

The Message Bible says.

We follow this sequence in Scripture: The First Adam received life, the Last Adam is a life-giving Spirit. Physical life comes first, then spiritual - a firm base shaped from the earth, a final completion coming out of heaven.

The First Man was made out of earth, and people since then are earthy; the Second Man was made out of heaven, and people now can be heavenly. In the same way that we have worked from our earthy origins, let's embrace our heavenly ends.

I am a firm believer in that the Old Testament is certainly a Prophetic Book, as this and that happens in the natural in the Old Testament, always comes about spiritually in the New Testament and we can relate to that.

Hebrews 3:1.

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.

The Message Bible says.

So my dear Christian friends, companions in following this call to the heights, take a good hard look at Jesus.

He is the centerpiece of everything we believe, faithful in everything God gave him to do.

Points of Interest:

- Because of our faith, we are considered Holy in the eyes of the Lord.
- We can receive and be operational in what we receive from the Lord.
- If God is in the call that we believe is on our life, then nothing is impossible to us.

Hebrews 2:4.

God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, [or distributions] according to his own will?

The Message Bible says.

First of all, it was delivered in person by the Master, then accurately passed on to us by those who heard it from him.

All the while God was validating it with gifts through the Holy Spirit, all sorts of signs and miracles, as he saw fit.

Points of Interest:

- God is bearing witness to his written Word so that it is proven to be true.
- God is causing both signs and wonders and miracles to take place and happen all over the world.
- Jesus is allowing the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be given to people and, as they, the people, get the boldness to step out into those gifts and start to operate in them, the Lord releases the power of the operation of those gifts as he sees fit and is necessary for the time.

Hebrews 4:14-16.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

For we have not an High Priest that cannot be touched with feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come **boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

The Message Bible says.

Now that we know that we have - **Jesus**, this great High Priest with ready access to God - let's not let it slip through our fingers.

We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all - all but sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.

Points of Interest:

- Jesus, our High Priest, by one offering for sin, took away all the sin of the world by the sacrifice of his blood.
- Jesus was tempted in all this as we are, but there was no sin found in him.
- Let his grace and mercy be poured out onto us, that we too will become sinless before him.

How do we receive or get Boldness?**Acts 4:29-31.**

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.

By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child, Jesus.

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the Word of God with boldness.

The Message Bible says.

And now they are at it again! Take care of their threats and give your servants fearless confidence in preaching your Message, as you stretch out your hand to us in healings and miracles and wonders done in the name of your holy servant Jesus.

While they were praying, the place where they were meeting trembled and shook. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God's Word with fearless confidence.

Points of Interest:

- Despite their threatenings and accusations, they cannot harm us.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit we have the Power and Authority to speak the Word of God with Boldness, destroying all the work of the enemy.
- By the Power of the Holy Spirit we are able to do signs and wonders and miracles in the name of Jesus Christ and him Crucified.
- When we pray in the Power of the name of Jesus, the place where we are speaking can shake under the Power and Authority of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 5:17.

And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

The Message Bible says.

One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and religion teachers were sitting around. They had come from nearly every village in Galilee, and Judea, even as far away as Jerusalem, to be there. The healing power of God was on him.

Points of Interest:

- The people that were there to hear Jesus speak were not all believers.
- Some were lawyers and doctors and religious teachers of the Law of Moses.
- Some, most likely, were there to criticize and point the finger at Jesus and condemn him as someone who was teaching against the Law of God.
- Despite this critical heart that was in some people and also a lack of faith in Jesus himself, **the power of the Lord was present to heal.**
- This power was to demonstrate the power and authority that Jesus had from his Father through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **Vs. 18- 25.** Some men demonstrated their faith by lowering a man down through the roof in order to get their sick friend to Jesus so that he could be healed.
- **When Jesus saw their faith he said, “Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.”**
- The religious leaders and Pharisees lawyers got mad and were offended at what Jesus said because they did not recognize Jesus as the Son of God and said that it was blasphemous to say “your sins are forgiven you,” because only God can forgive sin.
- When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he said, “which is easier to say, thy sins will be forgiven or rise up and walk?”
- **Jesus declared the Boldness that he had in this situation.**

Hebrews 10:19.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

The Message Bible says.

So friends, we can now - without hesitation - walk right up to God, into “the Holy Place.” Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The “curtain” into God’s presence is his body.

Points of Interest:

- The boldness that we are talking about is the boldness that comes from being filled with the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
- Boldness is confidence in God that we know, that we know, that we know, that because the curtain in the tabernacle was torn from corner to corner, when Jesus gave up the ghost and died on the Cross, it gave us access into the Holy of Holies by the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ.
- We, as Christians, now have free access to God the Father and his Son Jesus into the throne room of heaven through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ is our High Priest and we have become priests because of our faith.

1 Peter 2:5.

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

The Message Bible says.

Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life.

The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you will serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God.

Points of Interest:

- We are like building stones that are chipped away at, on a continuing basis, in order to make us fit properly into the place that God has called us to be.
- We are being built up as a ‘Spiritual House.’
- We are a Holy Priesthood, offering up and speaking spiritual sacrifices to God.

The only way that we are able to accomplish this task is through the blood of Jesus Christ that has made us worthy to be in his presence.

Ephesians 3:11-12.

According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

The Message Bible says.

All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we are free to say whatever needs to be said, **bold** to go wherever we need to go. So do not let my present trouble on your behalf get you down. **Be Proud!**

Points of Interest:

- **Ephesians 1:4** - We have not chosen him, but he has chosen us, before the foundation of the world.
- This is the eternal purpose that God is talking about.
- This has been chosen or purposed in Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.
- And because of this we are automatically given boldness and authority in Christ because of the confidence and faith that we now have as a believer and a chosen son or daughter of God.

Acts 17:6.

And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, these that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.

The Message Bible says.

They broke into Jason`s house, thinking that Paul and Silas were there. When they could not find them, they collared Jason and his friends instead and dragged them before the city fathers, yelling hysterically,

“These people are out to destroy the world, and now they have shown up on our doorstep, attacking everything we hold dear!

And Jason is hiding them, these traitors and turncoats who say Jesus is king and Caesar is nothing!”

Points of Interest:

- When the raging mob could not find Paul or Silas they grabbed Jason and his friends.
- They dragged them to the rulers of the city, yelling and screaming about what they were doing and that Jason was hiding the disciples.
- They said that these are those that have turned the world upside down.
- Wouldn't it be great to be labelled as one of those people of God, that has such an impact on the area that we live in, that we can turn it upside down for God.

Who are the Priesthood of Believers? We are.

1 Peter 2: 9-10.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

The Message Bible says.

But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you -

From nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

Points of Interest:

- We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood.
- A Holy nation.
- A Son and Daughter of the Lord.
- A special and peculiar people because of the Sacrificial Blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.
- We have been called from outer darkness into his marvelous light.
- We are now a people, because of the Blood of Jesus Christ, that have been able to obtain and receive mercy.

1 Peter 2:5-6.

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

The Message Bible says.

Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you will serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent:

Look! I am setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor.

Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it.

Information concerning the Wall and the Gates.

The Sheep Gate.

Ref: Taken from the Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible.

The Hebrew meaning of the Sheep Gate is:

- The Gate of the Flock.
- The Gate or Door pertaining to Sheep.

It is the Eastern-most entrance into the North side of the Ancient City of Jerusalem.

- The sheep gate marked the terminus in the circuit of the walls and was located in the Temple area.
- **John 5:2.** Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market, a pool, which is called in the Hebrew Tongue, **Bethesda**, having 5 porches.
- It was rebuilt in **442. BC.** We find this in **Nehemiah 3:1 and 32.**
- Almost 5 centuries later, Christ healed the man who had been lame for 38 years at the neighboring pool of **Bethzatha, found in John 5:2-9.**
- This in turn confirms the location of the sheep gate, since pilgrim's reports from the 4th Christian century.
- The Mosaic map from **Madeba, [In the 5th century]** and the modern excavation of the large double pools by the Church of St Anne, unite to confirm the North-eastern location of **Bethzatha, and hence the Sheep Gate.**
- Even today there are sometimes sheep markets held at the same location.

This is the gate where the sheep are taken in and out of the city; some for sacrifice and some for pasture.

Sanctified it:

- To make clean.
- To observe cleanliness.
- To appoint, consecrate or dedicate to the Lord.
- Keep Holy.
- To keep, prepare, proclaim and purify.
- To Sanctify oneself.

Prophecy Concerning Jerusalem.

- **Jeremiah. 31:7-17.** Fruit shall come from the land of Israel. God will gather them home again of all kinds. Men and Women, both, to do the work of the Lord
- **Zechariah. 14:10.** Jerusalem shall arise and be inhabited.

Set the Doors of it.

John 10:7-9.

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

The Message Bible says.

Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again.

“I will be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good - sheep stealers, every one of them. But the sheep did not listen to them. I am the Gate.

Anyone who goes through me will be cared for - will freely go in and out and find pasture.

It must be remembered that God had many men of Israel not only in Jerusalem, but in many areas around Jerusalem, so that when manpower was needed, God, through the Holy Spirit just sent a word out to come home and work and rebuild the city of God and re-establish his kingdom.

- There were 444,114 registered men in Israel that came back when called.
- **Ezra 2:** 1724 men returned with Ezra.
- **Ezra 8:** Many did not settle in Jerusalem, but in many other cities and places in Israel.
- **Ezra 2:70, 3:1, 4:10 10:14. Nehemiah 7:73 8:15, 9:25, 10:37, 11:1-3,20,36 and 12:44.**
- **In Nehemiah 11:20-36,** it lists 32 cities that were occupied by the Nation of Israel.
- Each small group of exiles sought to rebuild their own homes and part of the wall thereof where they were.
- When **Nehemiah** came to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, he found that the Temple of God had already been rebuilt. **Nehemiah 2:8, 3:10, 6:10, 8:16, 10:32-39, 11:1-22, 12:40,**

It is understandable why the walls of Jerusalem were not completed up to the 20th year of Artaxerxes, 69-70 years after Ezra and a group of exiles returned from captivity.

The Fish Gate, **Nehemiah 3:3,** was so-called because it was here where the fish from the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee were brought through into the city.

The Towers, What are they and where are they?

The Hebrew meaning of the towers beside the Sheep Gate is:

Meah: In the Hebrew means:

- A Hundred or a Hundred fold.
- A Blessing and an Increase.

The Hebrew meaning of the Word Hananeel is:

Hananeel:

- God had favored.
- To Favor and bestow.
- To Entreat and be gracious.
- Be merciful and to have and to shew mercy.
- To have pity upon and pray for.
- To make supplication for.

Jesus is using himself as the High Priest. We who are of the Priesthood of Believers, have a mandate from God to rebuild the City of God, [The Church] and to make a way that unsaved people, as well as God's fallen people that are bruised and hurt, will be able to find a way into the house of God.

We shall erect a wall of protection for our city of God, by our prayers and fasting as well as exercising our faith which shall be obtained by hearing the Word of God, as well as the reading of God's Word.

So that future believing sheep, as well as Christians, may enter through the Sheep Gate or the Church and allow Jesus to be the door, so that he will accept all those that come in and they shall be forgiven and become saved because we have found favor with the Lord and his grace and mercy has been extended toward us and the blood of Jesus shall cleanse us from all sin.

We see in this chapter how it describes which tribes and people were working on what gate, and what part of the wall, all at once, so as to quicken the building process and confound the enemy, who were watching them.

Ancient history, as well as commentaries and study bibles, all indicate that **Nehemiah** had a constant battle of attacks and verbal abuse while in the process of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and the gates of the city.

It is also written that in the days ahead, many rebuilt the wall that was in front of their house where they used to live.

All of Nehemiah Chapter 3 talks about the different people that were involved in the rebuilding.

Notes.

Questions.

Chapter 3.

1. **Galatians 3:24.** What was the Law put there for?

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2. **1 Corinthians 15:46.** Which is the first, the Natural or the Spiritual?

.....

.....

3. **Hebrews 3:1.** Who does it say that our High Priest is?

.....

4. **Acts 4:29-31.** What does it say that the Lord is going to grant unto us and why?

.....

.....

5. **Hebrews 10:1** What does it say that boldness is going to allow us to do?

.....

.....

6. **Ephesians 3:11-12.** What is faith going to give us?

.....

.....

7. **Acts 17:6.** What was the accusation that was said against Jason and his friends?

.....

8. **1 Peter 2:9-10.** What does it say that we are?

.....

.....

9. **John 10:7-9.** What did Jesus say that he was?

.....

.....

Nehemiah.

Chapter 4.

Vs. 1-2.

But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

And he spake before his brethren and army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? Will they fortify themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they make an end in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?

The Message Bible says.

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall he exploded in anger, vilifying the Jews.

In the company of his Samaritan cronies and military he let loose: "What are these miserable Jews doing? Do they think that they can get everything back to normal overnight? Make building stones out of make-believe?"

In Chapter 2-3 we find that the enemy groups that had banded together to stand and fight against Nehemiah and the Jews had grown to 4 groups in number. Over the next 3 chapters it will grow to 6 different enemy groups, coming together to try and stop the Jews in doing what God wanted them to do.

The devil knows that he cannot defeat God or his people and the purpose that God has ordained, but he still tries, so as to frustrate the work of our hands.

The Enemy Groups are:

- Sanballat the Horonite.
- Tobiah the Ammonite.
- Gershem the Arabian.
- The Army of Samaria.

Points of Interest:

- When word got out that the Jews had started rebuilding the walls and gates around Jerusalem, Sanballat got really mad because God's people were moving.
- Sanballat spoke to friends of his, condemning what the Jews were doing.
- Sanballat was gathering as many groups of people against the Jews as he could.
- The devil is trying to stop us and is doing what he can to hinder us moving for God and operating through the name of Jesus Christ and him Crucified.

Revelation 12:10-11.

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

The Message Bible says.

War broke out in Heaven. Michael and his Angels fought the Dragon. The Dragon and his Angels fought back, but were no match for Michael.

They were cleared out of Heaven, not a sign of them left. The great Dragon, the ancient Serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, the one who led the whole earth astray - thrown out, and all his Angels thrown out with him, thrown down to earth.

Then I heard a strong voice out of Heaven saying,

Salvation and power are established! Kingdom of God, authority of his Messiah!

The Accuser of our brothers and sisters thrown out, who accused them day and night before God.

They defeated him through the blood of the Lamb and the bold word of their witness.

They were not in love with themselves; they were willing to die for Christ.

Points of Interest:

- There was war in the Heavens between the Lord's armies, and the devil's armies, and God's armies were the victors.
- They threw the devil and his armies down to the earth, never to be allowed to dwell in the heavens again.
- The accuser of the brethren is cast out of heaven and down to the earth. God never listened to the accusations that the devil made to him against us (the brethren).
- They, us, defeated the enemy through and by the blood of the Lamb. The sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ on the cross.
- Because of the love that they have for Jesus Christ and Him Crucified, they were not worried about dying, but were prepared to lay down their lives for the testimony and love that they have for Jesus Christ, the living Son of God.

Luke 10:18.

And he said unto them. I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven.

The Message Bible says.

Jesus said, "I know. I saw Satan fall, like a bolt of lightning out of the sky. See what I have given you?"

Safe passage as you walk on snakes and scorpions, and protection from every assault of the Enemy."

Points of Interest:

- Jesus said that I saw Satan fall as lightning out of the sky to the earth.
- Jesus was still on the earth when he made this statement, so when he said this he had not yet died on the cross or ascended to the heavens. He was referring to when he was in heaven as part of the triune Godhead, as God the Word, before the Word came to earth and became flesh. **John 1:14:** ...and Satan was cast down to earth, between **Genesis 1 and Genesis 2.**
- Because of the Cross, Jesus says that he will look after us and that we shall tread on snakes and scorpions and they shall not harm us.

Nehemiah 4:3-6.

Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

Hear O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity.

And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders.

So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof; **for the people had a mind to work.**

The Message Bible says.

At his side, Tobiah the Ammonite jumped in and said, "That is right! What do they think they are building? Why, if a fox climbed up that wall, it would fall to pieces under his weight."

Nehemiah prayed, "O listen to us, dear God. We are so despised: Boomerang their ridicule on their heads; have their enemies cart them off as war trophies to a land of no return; do not forgive their iniquity, do not wipe away their sin - they have insulted the builders!"

We kept at it, repairing and rebuilding the wall. The whole wall was soon joined together and halfway to its intended height **because the people had a heart for the work.**

We see from these scriptures that the enemy will do all that he can do to disrupt our walk in the Lord, but also, he, satan, will go beyond the normal means to trouble the work of our hand and to bring our faith into question.

Romans 8:31.

What shall we say then to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?**

The Message Bible says.

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose?

Isaiah 54:17.

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

The Message Bible says.

If anyone attacks you, do not for a moment suppose that I sent them,

And if any should attack, nothing will come of it. I create the blacksmith who fires up his forge and makes a weapon designed to kill.

I also create the destroyer - but no weapon that can hurt you has ever been forged.

Any accuser who takes you to court will be dismissed as a liar.

This is what God's servants can expect. I will see to it that everything works out for the best. God's Decree.

Points of Interest:

- No weapon: That means verbal abuse, accusations, or implying things, will ever be able to come against us, unless we let it.
- We are God's servants, and as such we are heirs to his promises and it is impossible for God to lie, therefore, if God says that we are more than conquerors, then we are.
- We just have to believe it and start acting like we believe it.
- Just because somebody says something or implies something, it does not mean that it is true.
- We need to stand up for what we believe and pray our heart out against these attacks.
- A lot of Christians do not like warfare, well we had better get used to it because to be an overcomer, then warfare is what we endure.
- The Word says that they that overcome and endure, the same shall receive a crown of righteousness. This means that things are not going to be easy in our Christian walk.

James 1:12.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

The Message Bible says

Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life.

1 Peter 2:6-8.

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner.

And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

The Message Bible says.

Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor.

Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you will serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent:

Look! I am setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor. Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it. To you who trust him, he is a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him, The Stone the workmen threw out is now the chief foundation stone.

For the untrusting it is a stone to trip over, a boulder blocking the way.

They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted.

Points of Interest:

- Jesus has been laid up as the Chief Corner Stone of the New Church.
- The Jewish leaders rejected him.
- God set his Son up as the person of Power and Authority.
- If we as Christians believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and him crucified, then we shall sit alongside of Jesus in the Heavens.

- If we reject Jesus as the Son of God, then we will be rejected from the place prepared for us in Heaven.
- Do not let Jesus Christ become your stumbling block, because of your lack of faith.

Nehemiah 4: 7

But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth.

We see here that there is another enemy group. The Ashdodites had decided to join in with the other groups that had decided to raise their hands against the Nation of Israel, or, if you like, the modern day Church.

This now numbers 5 separate enemy forces that have joined together to fight Israel to try and stop them from rebuilding the wall around the city of Jerusalem.

As much as they tried, they could not stop the work of the Lord, no matter how many there were, because God was on the side of the Israelites, because they were doing his work.

Vs. 8.

And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

Hebrew Meanings.

The Word Hinder means:

- Cause to make a mistake.
- Cause to go astray.
- To deceive.
- To seduce in whatever form he can.
- To make an error.
- Make to stagger.
- To wander.

Vs. 9.

Nevertheless, we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

To Watch means:

- To be a Guard.
- An Observer.

- Someone to protect.
- To be aware of the circumstances.
- To wait and watch.
- To be able to see, beyond your natural vision.

Vs. 10.

And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

Bearers of Burdens:

- Someone that carries the weight of a situation.

The Word Decayed:

- To struggle through when in weakness.
- The ankles cannot bear the weight of the body. The spiritual body is the Church.
- To falter, to stumble or fall.
- To be cast down.
- To feel feeble and weak.

The Word Rubbish:

- Whatever stunts growth or development.

The Message Bible says. Nehemiah 4:7-10

When Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the wall repairs of the walls of Jerusalem were going so well - that the breaks in the walls were being fixed - they were absolutely furious. They put their heads together and decided to fight against Jerusalem and create as much trouble as they could. We countered with prayer to our God and set a round-the-clock guard against them.

But soon word was going around in Judah, that the builders are pooped, the rubbish piles up; We are in over our heads, we cannot build this wall.

Points of Interest:

- We see here that despite more enemy troops coming on board, the enemy could not stop the work of the Lord being completed. They, the enemy, became very mad and hostile.
- Nehemiah and the people of God set a watch against the enemy by praying day and night.
- Even though they became tired because of the high physical work they struggled on.

- This caused the enemy to cause rumors that we were getting tired and losing faith and much rubbish or things of discouragement started to be heard of.
- Beware of listening to Christians that do not have the faith that you do. They will try to tear you down.

Nehemiah 4:11-12.

And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you.

The Message Bible says.

And all this time our enemies were saying, "They will not know what hit them. Before they know it we will be at their throats, killing them right and left.

That will put a stop to the work!" The Jews who were their neighbors kept reporting, "They have us surrounded; they are going to attack!" If we heard it once, we heard it ten times.

When we look at splits in Churches and families, they did not know what hit them.

Points of Interest:

- The scripture is telling us that the devil is going around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)
- The Word is telling us here, that the enemy thinks that he can come in amongst us and kill us before we know what is going to hit us.
- The enemy says that by doing this, he will be able to stop the work of the Lord.
- Just as God used other Jews to warn Nehemiah about an attack from the enemy, the Holy Spirit warns us.
- If we are not a praying people or church, we will not be able to hear of the warning and we could be attacked.
- When Nehemiah set a watch from the towers, to see when the enemy makes a move, that's what we need to do. Pray like we have never prayed before.
- We are in the last days. The attacks of the enemy are going to be far more than what they were.
- If we do not heed advice as Nehemiah did, we could be deceived.

Nehemiah 4:13-14.

Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

The Message Bible says.

So I stationed armed guards at the most vulnerable places of the wall and assigned people by families with their swords, lances, and bows.

After looking things over I stood up and spoke to the nobles, officials, and everyone else;

“Do not be afraid of them. Put your minds on the Master, great and awesome, and then fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”

Points of Interest:

The weapons that we have are:

- Faith in God that cannot be defeated.
- A powerful Word of God that is described as a two-edged sword.
- A prayer life that allows us access into the very throne room of God, boldly knowing that we will be heard and that if we believe, we can expect an answer from God for the things that we have asked, expecting God to move on our behalf to fulfil our request.
- We have Brothers and Sisters in the Lord that are able to stand by us if needed.
- We are made perfect by the Blood of the Lamb.
- Through Christ, we are made overcomers.

II Corinthians 10:4-6.

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

The Message Bible says, verse 3-6

The world is unprincipled. It is dog-eat-dog out there! The world does not fight fair.

But we do not live or fight battles that way - never have and never will. The tools of our trade are not for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture.

We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.

Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.

Points of Interest:

- The weapons that we have at our disposal are not natural weapons but spiritual weapons.
- Our prayer life and the ability that we have to read God's Word and understand it is an incredible gift from God.
- Every-day, being able to humble ourselves and lay our lives down for the sake of the Gospel of Christ.
- Looking at our heart and mind, seeing what we need to change, in the way that we think and how we act, in any given situation.
- We need to bring every thought and action that is not of God into obedience of the Word of God.

James 5:16.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

It was accounted unto Abraham for righteousness, because he believed the Word of God.

The Message Bible says.

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together [side by side], whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.

Points of Interest:

- As you are comfortable with your brother and sister in the Lord, if you need prayer, tell them your fault or sin and let them pray for you.
- When we pray for somebody there should be no judgment or criticism from the person praying for any individual.
- By doing this before the Lord, we are able to be healed.
- The scripture says that an effectual and fervent prayer from a believer can accomplish much through their faith.

Revelation 12:11.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Hebrews 4:12.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Message Bible says.

God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey.

Nothing and no one is impervious to God's Word. We cannot get away from it – no matter what.

Nehemiah 4:15-18.

And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.

They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

The Message Bible says.

Our enemies learned that we knew all about their plan and that God had frustrated it.

And we went back to the wall and went to work. From then on half of my young men worked while the other half stood guard with lances, shields, bows, and mail armour.

Military officers served as a backup for everyone in Judah, who was at work rebuilding the wall.

The common labourers held a tool in one hand and a spear in the other. Each of the builders had a sword strapped to his side as he worked.

I kept the trumpeter at my side to sound the alert.

What is your choice of weapon?

- Faith.
- Reading and understanding the Word of the Lord.
- Study of the Word of the Lord.

- Prayer and intercession.
- Prayer and fasting.
- Physical work.
- Encouragement of the brethren.
- All of the above is very important in the Body of Christ.

Nehemiah 4:19-20.

And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

The Message Bible says.

Then I spoke to the nobles and officials and everyone else: “There is a lot of work going on and we are spread out all along the wall, separated from each other.

When you hear the trumpet call, join us there; **Our God will fight for us.**”

Points of Interest:

- Nehemiah, or the Pastor of the Church, speaks to his nobles and officials, as well as his eldership, leaders and the people.
- Hear what I have got to say, ‘The work is great and in our human eyes, it may seem impossible, but our God is able to abundantly, above all that we ask and think, so he is able to move through us and achieve what he wants to get done.’
- If the enemy comes the trumpet will be blown. When you hear it, come to our help to fight the enemy.
- While we are praying, and we sense the enemy moving on somebody or moving against the power of God, then turn your prayers to that need.

Nehemiah 4:21-23.

So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men on the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them of for washing.

The Message Bible says.

And so we kept working, from first light until the stars came out, half of us holding lances.

I also instructed the people, "Each person and his helper is to stay inside Jerusalem - guards by night and workmen by day."

We all slept in our clothes - I, my brothers, my workmen, and the guards backing me up. And each one kept his spear in his hand, even when getting water.

Points of Interest:

- So as a Church, the Pastor and the people labored together, as the people looked to Nehemiah, their Pastor, if you like, knowing that he was receiving Instructions from the Lord as to what to do and when to do it.
- We all are working on the wall, which speaks of our prayer life and focuses on the Word.
- As the people worked on the wall, they all held a weapon in one hand and worked with the other.
- As we build the modern day Church, we need to have a great prayer life and a time set aside to read the Word of God, as well as doing what needs to be done, for the sake of the Church.
- Nehemiah said that everyone was to remain within the walls of Jerusalem for protection from the enemy.
- We need to remain with the Church and not leave it, but attend the meetings as often as we can, not allowing the enemy to use friends and family to stop us attending Church.

Notes.

Questions.

Chapter 4.

1. **Vs. 1-2.** When they heard that the walls were being rebuilt. How did they respond?

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2. **Revelation 12:10-11.** Who was cast down out of heaven?

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3. **Luke 10:18.** How did Jesus describe the time that Satan fell?

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4. **James 1:12.** What shall we receive if we endure temptation?

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5. **1 Peter 2:6-8.** What is Jesus is described as?

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6. **Nehemiah 4:8.** What did Sanballat try and do?

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7. **Nehemiah 4:10.** What caused a ceasing of the rebuilding of the wall.

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8. **Nehemiah 4:11-12.** What did the enemy say to encourage themselves concerning the Jews?

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.....

9. **Nehemiah 4:13-14.** What was it that Nehemiah did?

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10. **II Corinthians 10:4-6.** What does it say that our weapons are?

.....

Nehemiah

Chapter 5.

Vs. 1-2.

And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews.

For there were that said, We, our sons, and our daughters, are many: therefore we take up corn for them, that we may eat, and live.

The Message Bible says.

A great protest was mounted by the people, including the wives, against their fellow Jews.

Some said, "We have big families, and we need food just to survive."

Points of Interest:

- There was a great cry from the people, for the people.
- Hurt was being afflicted upon the people by the wealthy Jews.
- In the natural here, it is the wives that are crying out for their children, but spiritually it is the Church that should be crying out for the Sons and Daughters of the Lord.
- How often do we pray for one another for the people that are in our Church?
- The sons and daughters need food. We need food also but our food is the Word of God.
- Without hearing the Word of God as we gather together every week, we will not survive for long. Our faith will become weak and the enemy could lay things in our path and we will not be able to discern where it is coming from.

Exodus 3:7.

And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their task masters; for I know their sorrows.

The Message Bible says.

God said, "I have taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters; I know all about their pain."

Points of Interest:

- Gods sees and knows and understands what we are going through.
- Egypt speaks of the world. Even though we live in the world, we are not part of the world in relation to what the world does and how it behaves.
- What was going on in the lives of the people caused a cry to come from the people unto God.

Psalm 34:17.

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

The Message Bible says.

Is anyone crying for help? God is listening, ready to rescue you.

Points of Interest:

- Things happen in our lives for a reason. We may not understand why, and we may not like it, but if it creates a cry in our heart towards the Lord then it is a good thing.
- When the Lord hears the cry and then sees the response within our heart, he will move on our behalf and deliver us, or rescue us out of what we are experiencing, until next time.

Isaiah 55:11.

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; It shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

The Message Bible says.

So will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed.

They will do the work I sent them to do, they will complete the assignment I gave them.

Points of Interest:

- Once we accept the Lord into our life as our Lord and Saviour, then God uses his Word to cause things to come about and happen in our life so that by his Word and the circumstances that happen in our life, eventually, it will make us perfect.
- Every life experience, or the circumstances that we face, whether they be good or bad, God has them in his control, even though we may think that things are out of control.
- God says that we shall prosper by the things that we go through and if this is what is needed to create a cry unto the Lord then it is a good thing.
- God says that even though we may not understand why we need to face and experience what we do, God says that his Word shall accomplish that which he sent it to do or achieve.

Isaiah 65:24.

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

The Message Bible says.

Before they call out, I will answer. Before they have finished speaking, I will have heard.

Matthew 21:22.

And all things, whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

The Message Bible says.

Absolutely everything, ranging from small to large, as you make it a part of your believing prayer, gets included as you lay hold of God.

Points of Interest:

- When we pray, we need to believe for what we ask and we shall see God move on our behalf.
- The size of the situation is no barrier to God.
- The more that we pray, especially in the Holy Spirit, the closer we get to the Lord and the greater the intimacy of our relationship becomes.
- Therefore we can believe for more.

Nehemiah 5:3-5.

Some also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth.

There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, and that upon our lands and vineyards.

Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them; for other men have our lands and vineyards.

The Message Bible says.

Others said, "We are having to borrow money to pay the royal tax on our fields and vineyards. Look: We are the same flesh and blood as our brothers here; our children are just as good as theirs. Yet here we are having to sell our children off as slaves - some of our daughters have already been sold - and we cannot do anything about it because our fields and vineyards are owned by somebody else."

Points of Interest:

- What we see happening here is that the nobles and the rulers of Israel were taking advantage of their position of wealth in the community and were preying on people who were less fortunate, as far as not having a lot of money and were making them take out loans and pay high interests, having to sell their children as slaves so that they could just buy food to live.
- It was bad enough having to borrow money to pay their taxes to the king, but then having to put up with their own people ripping them off was worse.
- We cannot pray for the return of our children, because we now do not own the fields and houses anymore as our brethren have taken them off us.
- This is what created the cry in the hearts towards Nehemiah.

What should have happened is this:**Acts 2:43-45.**

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles.

And all that believed were together, and had all things in common;

And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

The Message Bible says.

Everyone around was in awe - all those wonders and signs done through the Apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

Points of Interest:

- At the time, because of their belief, many signs and wonders were accomplished by the Apostles and everyone was in awe and full of amazement.
- Because of all that was going on, the fear of the Lord came upon everyone.
- All the people were in the same place in God. They all believed the same thing and were concerned for each other's well-being.
- It was because of this love and unity that they had for one another that they were looking out for and were prepared to do what they had to do, so that no one in the community was missing out on anything.
- That is why people were selling their excess and things that they did not need so as to be able to help others.

Acts 4:32.

And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

The Message Bible says.

The whole congregation of believers was united as one - one heart, one mind! They did not even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That is mine, you cannot have it."

They shared everything. The Apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them.

Points of Interest:

- All of them believed the same thing and accepted everything that they heard.
- They were all of one heart, one mind and one spirit.
- When they saw the need of others, they had no hesitation in selling what they had excess of or did not need anymore, so that others could receive the benefit and meet the need that a brother or sister in the Lord had.
- They as people were not concerned about their possessions.
- The heart of the people was that no one missed out because their need was not met.
- It is called for within the Church. The modern day Church needs to look at this attitude.

Philippians 2:4.

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

The Message Bible says.

Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Do not be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough, to lend a helping hand.

Nehemiah 5:6-9.

And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.

Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury [**or interest**] every one of his brother.

And I set a great assembly against them.

And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? Or shall they be sold unto us? Then they held their peace, and found nothing to answer.

Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?

The Message Bible says.

I got really angry when I heard their protest and complaints. After thinking it over, I called the nobles and officials on the carpet. I said, "Each one of you is gouging his brother."

Then I called a big meeting to deal with them. I told them, "We did everything we could to buy back our Jewish brothers who had to sell themselves as slaves to foreigners. And now you are selling these same brothers back into debt slavery!"

Does this mean that we have to buy them back again?" They said nothing. What could they say?

"What you are doing is wrong. Is there no fear of God left in you? Don't you care what the nations around here, our enemies, think of you?"

Usury means in the English Dictionary:

- Extravagant Interest rates.
- The practice of making unethical or immoral monetary loans.
- The loan may be considered usurious because of excessive or abusive interest rates.

The Hebrew means:

- To lead astray.
- To deceive and lead astray.
- To lend with interest.
- Cause somebody to have debt.
- To borrow on security.
- Be an extortioner.
- To lend on, or be a taker of usury.

Deuteronomy 23:20.

Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury; but unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all that thou settest thine hand to in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

The Message Bible says.

Do not charge interest to your kinsmen on any loan: not for money or food or clothing or anything else that could earn interest.

You may charge foreigners interest, but you may not charge your brothers interest; that way God, your God, will bless all the work that you take up and the land that you are entering to possess.

Nehemiah 5: 10-11.

I likewise, and my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury.

Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive yards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them.

100th part of what you have charged them in interest is all what you have charged them.

The Message Bible says.

“I and my brothers and the people working for me have also loaned them money. But this gouging them with interest has to stop.

Give them back their foreclosed fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes right now. And forgive your claims on their money, grain, new wine, and olive oil.”

Gouging Means:

- Charging far too much interest.

Nehemiah 5:12-13.

Then said they, we will restore them, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou sayest. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.

Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied.

And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the Lord. And the people did according to this promise.

The Message Bible says.

They said, “We will give it all back. We will not make any more demands on them. We will do everything you say.”

Then I called the priests together and made them promise to keep their word. Then I emptied my pockets, turning them inside out, and said, “So may God empty the pockets and house of everyone who does not keep this promise - turned inside out and emptied.”

Everyone gave a wholehearted “Yes, we’ll do it!” and praised God. And the people did what they promised.

Nehemiah 5:14-16.

Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.

But the former governors that had been before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God.

Yea, also I continued in the work of this wall, neither bought we any land: and all my servants were gathered thither unto the work.

The Message Bible says.

From the time King Artaxerxes appointed me as their governor in the land of Judah - from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of his reign, twelve years - neither I nor my brothers used the governor's food allowance.

Governors who had preceded me had oppressed the people by taxing them forty shekels of silver (about a pound) a day for food and wine while their underlings bullied the people unmercifully.

But out of fear of God, I did none of that. I had work to do: I worked on this wall. All my men were on the job to do the work. We did not have time to line our own pockets.

What Nehemiah was saying is this:

- From when I was appointed governor by the king we did not afflict a tax on the people so that we could have more food and wine. In 12 years we did not do this.
- That was not our heart to do like others did, but we were there to work on the wall and that we did, so did all of my servants.

Nehemiah 5:17-19.

Moreover there were at my table an hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, beside those that came unto us from among the heathen that are about us.

Now that which was prepared for me daily was one ox and six choice sheep; also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days store of all sorts of wine: yet for all this required not I the bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this people.

Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

The Message Bible says.

I fed 150 Jews and officials at my table in addition to those who showed up from the surrounding nations.

One ox, six choice sheep, and some chickens were prepared for me daily, and every ten days, a large supply of wine was delivered.

Even so, I did not use the food allowance provided for the governor - the people had it hard enough as it was.

Remember in my favour, O my God, Everything I have done for these people.

Notes.

Questions.

Chapter 5.

1. **Exodus 3:7.** What did the Lord say concerning the people?

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2. **Psalms 34:17.** Who cried out, and what was the result?

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3. **Acts 2:43-45.** What came upon the people, and what was the result?

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4. **Acts 4:32.** What was the condition of the Jewish people?

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5. **Nehemiah 5:6-9.** What Got Nehemiah mad?

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6. What does usury mean?

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7. **Deuteronomy 23:20.** As Christians, what are we to do and not to do?

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8. **Nehemiah 5:12-13.** What did Nehemiah tell the nobles and rulers to do?

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9. **Nehemiah 5:14-16** What didn't Nehemiah do and why?

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Nehemiah

Chapter 6.

Vs. 1-2.

Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)

That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

The Message Bible says.

- That the enemies wanted to meet in a place called Kephirim.
- I knew that they were scheming to hurt me.

The enemy decided to change their tactics, they started to send messages but Nehemiah discerned that they were planning to do evil to him and kill him if they had the chance.

Points of Interest:

- When the enemies of the Jews heard that the breaches in the wall were all repaired with no gaps anywhere, and that the large gates were hung in place, except the small doors in the large gate, they would not be very happy, to say the least.
- They decided that they would need to change their tactics as what they were doing did not work.
- Sanballat and Geshem the Arabian decided to try and lure Nehemiah out away from Jerusalem into a smaller village where they might have a chance of killing him, so they sent him an invitation to meet them at a location picked by them.
- Nehemiah discerned that they wanted to do him harm, so he did not accept the invitation.
- Because Nehemiah was a prayer, he had discernment from God.

John 8:44.

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

The Message Bible says.

“You are from your father, the Devil, and all you want to do is please him. He was a killer from the very start.

He could not stand the truth because there was not a shred of truth in him. When the Liar speaks, he makes it up out of his lying nature and fills the world with lies.

I arrive on the scene, tell you the plain truth, and you refuse to have a thing to do with me.”

Points of Interest:

- Jesus was talking to the religious Jewish leaders and they could not see who he was.
- Jesus says to them that they are from their father the devil, because they lie.
- Jesus said they could not in any way understand or see truth because they came from their father the devil, who is the father of lies.
- Nehemiah understood about the enemies and the lies that they make up, just to be able to try and get their way in any given situation.

Nehemiah 6:3-5.

And I sent messengers unto them, saying, 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?

Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.

Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;

The Message Bible says.

Four times they sent this message and four times I gave them my answer.

The fifth time - same messenger, same message - Sanballat sent an unsealed letter with this message:

Points of Interest:

- The enemy did not let up. He tried to wear down Nehemiah and his people by continuing to come against them with accusations and statements.
- Every time Nehemiah gave them the same answer, but they refused to listen.
- We need to understand that the enemy goes around like a roaring lion seeking who he may devour and deceive in any manner he can.
- Nehemiah’s strength was that he was a man of prayer and continually called out to God to help him and the people. We the Church need to do the same thing.

Nehemiah 6:6-7.

Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words.

And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

The Message Bible says.

The word is out among the nations - and Geshem says that it is true - that you and the Jews are planning to rebel. That is why you are rebuilding the wall.

The word is that you want to be king and that you have appointed prophets to announce in Jerusalem, 'There is a King in Judah!' The king is going to be told all this - don't you think we should sit down and have a talk?"

Points of Interest:

- Sanballat the enemy, ups the stakes.
- He now fabricates a series of lies and fabrications and says them to Nehemiah in order to make him scared and worried.
- He accuses him of wanting to be King of Judah and this is treason against the king and is punishable by death.
- This accusation could mean trouble for the Jews, if the king believed it, and could cause the wall to be destroyed again.
- Sanballat says that Nehemiah has appointed prophets of God to say that he is the king of Judah and that he, Sanballat, was going to make sure that the king heard about it.
- Sanballat tries again to have a meeting with Nehemiah so that he can kill him.
- Nehemiah is aware of this. He is no fool.

Nehemiah 6:8-9.

Then I sent unto him, saying, there are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart.

For they all made us afraid, saying, their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

The Message Bible says.

I sent him back this: "There is nothing to what you are saying. You have made it all up."

They were trying to intimidate us into quitting. They thought, "They will give up; they will never finish it."

I prayed, "Give me strength."

Nehemiah stood his ground. He knew what the enemy was trying to do and would not have a bar of it but instead called out to the Lord to give him strength.

Nehemiah admitted that they were all afraid of the continual accusations and lies.

This is no different to us as believers in the church. We have to stand against all of the lies of the enemy and all of the accusations and things that are not true.

Nehemiah 6:10-11.

Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.

And I said, Should such a man as I flee? And who is there, that being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.

The Message Bible says.

Then I met secretly with Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, at his house. He said:

Let's meet at the house of God, inside the Temple; let's find safety behind locked doors because they are coming to kill you, yes, coming by night to kill you.

I said, "Why would a man like me run for cover? And why would a man like me use the Temple as a hideout? I will not do it."

Points of Interest:

- This man had been hired by Sanballat to trick Nehemiah that there would be safety in the house of God.
- The enemy would actually be waiting inside to kill Nehemiah, not outside as the man said.
- The Lord strengthened Nehemiah into not believing what the man said, as well as it went against the spirit of Nehemiah to hide from the enemy.
- The enemy knows the Word of God probably better than all of us and he can use that word to deceive us.
- At the temptation of Jesus, the devil quoted and used the Word of God against Jesus, trying to deceive him, but it did not work.

- I understand and relate how the spirit of Nehemiah did not want to hide from the enemy.

Nehemiah 6:12-13.

And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

Therefore was he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and that they might have matter for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

The Message Bible says.

I sensed that God had not sent this man. The so-called prophecy he spoke to me was the work of Tobiah and Sanballat; they had hired him. He had been hired to scare me off - trick me - a layman, into desecrating The Temple and ruining my good reputation so they could accuse me.

Points of Interest:

- Again, the enemy was using lies and deceit to try and deceive the man of God.
- Nehemiah sensed in God that this man was not true.
- He was able to sense this because of his relationship with the Lord.
- They were trying to put fear into the lives of the believers.
- They were using false prophecy to try and deceive the man of God.
- This could have created sin in the lives of the Jewish people and have caused them to disobey the Word of God and then be reprimanded by God.
- The devil is out to destroy the reputation of God's people so as to be able to create a bad report and destroy our reputation as a believer.
- As Christians we need to realize that the devil can hide in a Church, especially one that does not teach or minister the Truth of God's Word.
- He, the devil, can use ministers and Christians alike to create disharmony in the Church.
- The word tells us that if we do not have a hunger for the Word of God, then God is going to send a delusion upon us so that we, who have not accepted Christ, will believe a lie.

II Thessalonians 2:10-11.

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.

The Message Bible says.

And since they are so obsessed with evil, God rubs their noses in it - He gives them what they want. Since they refuse to trust truth, they are banished to their chosen world of lies and illusions.

Nehemiah 6:14.

My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess, Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

The Message Bible says.

“O my God, do not let Tobiah and Sanballat get by with all the mischief they have done. And the same goes for the prophetess Noadiah and the other prophets who have been trying to undermine my confidence.”

Points of Interest:

- Nehemiah asks God to deal with the enemy and names them by name.
- He also mentions the Prophetess and the other prophets and declares them to be false prophets, because they tried to put fear into him and destroy his confidence.
- We need to come before the Lord and ask him to deal with the opposing spirits that are hindering us in our walk with the Lord.
- It is not wrong, nor does it show weakness or a bad attitude to ask God for help in dealing with these evil spirits. God has no time for them so why should we?
- They are out to maim, kill and destroy us, so why should we be concerned for their wellbeing.
- Our confidence is in Jesus Christ and Him Crucified and the devil wants to destroy that.

Nehemiah 6:15-16.

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

And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

The Message Bible says.

The wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul. It had taken fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard the news and all the surrounding nations saw it, our enemies totally lost their nerve. They knew that God was behind this work.

All the hard work, day and night, and all the efforts of the enemy, as well as the amount of enemies that came together, 6 in all, to try and stop Nehemiah from completing the job that God had laid on his heart had failed to stop God’s purposes.

Nehemiah had done what he felt the Lord had laid on his heart to do. He endured the hardship of verbal abuse, false accusations, threats, and long days and nights, to see the fulfilment of God’s plan.

I am sure that it would have been a great relief in the heart of Nehemiah to see the work completed, despite the hardships and the pressure that had been put upon him.

Nehemiah trusted in God continually, prayed and sought the Lord when he not only felt the pressure of the call but when his strength needed to be increased to be able to do the work, despite the enormity of the task at hand and the continual presence and pressure of the enemy.

This account of Nehemiah is a great example to us all on what God can do.

Joshua 2:9-11.

And she, [**Rahab**] said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

Faint in the Hebrew means: Melt away. No strength to fight.

For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

The Message Bible says.

“I know that God has given you the land. We are all afraid.

Everyone in the country feels hopeless.

We heard how God dried up the waters of the Red Sea before you when you left Egypt, and what he did to the two Amorite kings east of Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you put under a holy curse and destroyed.

We heard it and our hearts sank.

We all had the wind knocked out of us.

And all because of you, you and God, you and your God,

God of the heavens above and God of the earth below.

God caused the fear of the Children of Israel to go before them, because of the power of their God.

There was no ability to fight the Children of Israel, because of the power of their God.

Joshua 5:1.

And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.

The Message Bible says.

When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and the Canaanite kings along the seacoast heard how God had stopped the Jordan River before the People of Israel, until they had crossed over, their hearts sank; the courage drained out of them just thinking about the People of Israel.

Points of Interest:

- It took 52 days for Nehemiah to complete the building of the wall. **An amazing effort.**
- When the enemy heard of it and all the heathen round about them they were so cast down in their own eyes and depressed.
- And by this they, the enemy, perceived that only their God, the God of the Jews that they fought so hard against, could have been able to achieve such a huge task as this.
- Whenever our Lord moves upon somebody to do something, the enemy moves also so as to try and stop the work being completed.
- This situation of events here is a great encouragement to us all as Christians, to realize that no matter how big the task is at hand, our God will see us through to the completion of that work, if it of the Lord.

Nehemiah 6:17-19.

Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came unto them.

For there were many in Judah sworn unto him, because he was the son in law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.

Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to put me to fear.

The Message Bible says.

All during this time letters were going back and forth constantly between the nobles of Judah and Tobiah. Many of the nobles had ties to him because he was the son-in-law to Shecaniah son of Arah and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam, son of Berechiah.

They kept telling me all the good things he did and then would report back to him anything I would say. And then Tobiah would send letters to intimidate me.

I find it amazing that the nobles, or rich and powerful men, were actually doing treasonous acts against Nehemiah because of promises made or connection through marriage.

No doubt the nobles would have been concerned about their wealth and position and wanted to be on both sides of the fence to secure their position and wealth to serve whoever wins the battle of the current situation.

Big mistake.

Points of Interest:

- The nobles of Judah were actually stabbing Nehemiah in the back with their actions of treason.
- They felt to be connected with both sides of the fence to secure their position of power and wealth, so as to be able to continue it after the battle had been fought and won.
- Why Nehemiah allowed this I do not know, as it would have certainly helped with the pressure and attacks.
- If somebody that I had beside me in authority kept telling me how good certain members of the enemy force was doing, I would have been very concerned and I guarantee that they would not have been by my side for very long at all.
- God's Word tells us not to be involved with a mixture of people as he hates mixtures.
- If God has appointed an Individual as the leader in any given situation. You cannot go against him for any reason.
- You cannot favour another man as leader, no matter how you feel.
- What we see here is that the devil was using Christian brothers to help pull down the leader of God's work. Not good.

Notes.

Questions.

Chapter 6.

1. **Nehemiah 6:1-2** Why did Sanballat want a meeting with Nehemiah?

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2. **Nehemiah 6:3-5.** Sanballat changed his tactics to what?

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3. **Nehemiah 6:8-9.** How did Nehemiah feel and what did he do?

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4. **Nehemiah 6:10-11.** Nehemiah did not want to do something. What was it?

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5. **Nehemiah 6:12-13.** Nehemiah said what?

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6. **Nehemiah 6:14.** Nehemiah asked the Lord what?

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7. **Nehemiah 6:15-16.** How long did it take to rebuild the wall?

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8. **Nehemiah 6:17-18.** What does it say that the nobles were doing?

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Nehemiah

Chapter 7.

Vs. 1-2

Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed,

That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.

The Message Bible says.

After the wall was rebuilt and I had installed the doors, and the security guards, the singers, and the Levites were appointed, I put my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah the captain of the citadel, in charge of Jerusalem because he was an honest man and feared God more than most men.

Points of Interest:

- The wall was built. Nehemiah's job was completed.
- The door, or the eye of the needle, was installed into the large gates.
- Security guards were set in place.
- Singers and worshippers were appointed to the Temple.
- The Levites, or Priests, were also appointed and set in place.
- His brother Hanani and Hananiah, the Captain of the Citadel were put in charge of Jerusalem, because of their faith in God and they feared God above most people.

Nehemiah 7:3.

And I said unto them, Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar them: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one to be over against his house.

The Message Bible says.

I gave them this order: "Do not open the gates of Jerusalem until the sun is up. And shut and bar the gates while the guards are still on duty. Appoint the guards from the citizens of Jerusalem and assign them to posts in front of their own homes."

Points of Interest:

- Nehemiah has learnt not to trust the nobles and rulers because of the way that they did the dirty on him while working on the wall and were communicating with the enemy behind Nehemiah's back and causing trouble for him.
- Nehemiah said 'do not allow the gates to be opened to the city while it is getting light in case some not so loyal nobles and leaders decide to do something to help the enemy out. Wait until it is hot and the sun is up. That way we will be able to see who is either waiting to come into the gates or wants to come into the city of God and we will be able to discern who they are.'
- Even the small doors in the large gates are not to be opened, but shut and barred shut, even while the guards are standing on duty. This is extra security and safety for us all.
- Appoint watchers or guards from the citizens of the city of God and cause them to be at their posts in front of their own houses. That way they will be more careful and diligent when it comes to being alert and watching the wall for the enemy, so that they can protect their own house as well.
- Smart move that.

As Christians we need to be watching and praying and be alert for our own house or Church where we are and be watchful for everyone that wants to come into the house, or Church, so as we can discern if the enemy tries to get one of his own into the Church.

Nehemiah 7:4-5.

Now the city was large and great: but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded.

And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein,

The Message Bible says.

God put it in my heart to gather the nobles, the officials, and the people in general to be registered. I found the genealogical record of those who were in the first return from exile.

This is the record I found.

God laid on the heart of Nehemiah to make a record of all the Jewish people, so as to establish a Jewish line or lineage, so as to find out who is written in their scrolls, or books.

This is also a way of weeding out the ones who said they were Jews but were not.

The Jews were and are great record keepers. So is God.

Verses 6 to 63 cover all the Jewish line or the Jewish lineage and all the recorded Jews who were recorded in their book.

Anyone who was not found to have a Jewish Heritage and were in the priesthood were considered polluted and thrown out of the Priesthood.

Matthew 22:1-14.

- This is the parable concerning the wedding feast of a King and his Son.
- It says in **Vs. 2** that the wedding feast is like the kingdom of heaven.
- The king sent forth invitations to the wedding and they would not come.
- Again and again he sent out invitations, but they still would not come.
- **Vs. 5 says that they made light of the invitation and went their ways.**
- Some even took the king's servants and treated them badly and slew them.
- The King was furious, so he sent his army and destroyed the murderers and their cities.
- The king said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but those who would not come were not worthy."
- The King said, "Go ye therefore into the highways and byways and all that shall agree to come, invite them."
- So the servants went out into the streets and gathered both good and bad, as many as would come, and the wedding was furnished with guests.
- And when the King came into the wedding, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment. And he was speechless.
- Then said the King, "bind him hand and foot and cast him out into outer darkness and there shall be great sorrow on his part."
- **For many are called, but few are chosen.**

As Christians we need to understand that the king is gathering in any person who is willing to come.

- The homeless.
- The druggies.
- The prostitutes.
- The homosexuals.
- Other religions.
- Good and bad people, in their own eyes and if they will accept the invitation to the Kingdom of Heaven, God will accept them.

Nehemiah 7:64-65.

These sought their register among those that were reckoned by their genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.

And the Tirshatha, [or Governor] said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim. **Ezra 2:63: The same thing.**

The Message Bible says.

They looked high and low for their family records but could not find them.

And so they were barred from priestly work as ritually unclean. The governor ruled that they could not eat from the holy food until a priest could determine their status by using the Urim and the Thummim.

Points of Interest:

- Everybody's Jewish history was checked out.
- If no record was found of your family Jewish History you were not counted as Jewish and could not serve in the Priesthood.
- They were classed as polluted before God, because there was no record found of them in the book of histories.
- They were not allowed to partake of anything in the Priesthood, nor eat any holy food that was available to them.
- A High Priest had to be called in and a check was made of their life and heart.
- This was done by using the Urim and the Thummim.

What are the Urim and the Thummim?

- They are two stones.
- They are a type of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus Christ is our High Priest and He is the fullness of the Word of God, and the fullness of the Holy Spirit in Him.
- It was worn on the breastplate of the High Priest in an area that covers the heart and it had gold chains linked to shoulder pads worn on the priestly garment on the shoulders of the High Priest.
- The Shoulders speak of Government and Authority.
- This speaks of a revealing of the truth, whether good or bad and can create a division between good and bad.
- When it is connected to the heart as well, it also speaks of Government and Authority because of the connection with the shoulders.
- Upon each Stone are written the 12 Tribes of Israel, 6 upon each.

How do they Work?

- The High Priest takes them out of the shoulder pads and holds them in his hand.
- In revealing a sin or a truth in the Children of Israel, the High Priest would hold the two stones called the Urim and the Thummim and the leaders of each tribe would pass by the High Priest.
- When the tribe that the truth or the revealing of sin passed by the High Priest, the two stones would glow a bright light.
- Once the tribe was identified, then each family leader would pass by and when the two stones would glow a bright light, then the individual people would pass by and what they wanted to know was revealed by the two stones glowing.
- The Word of God and the Holy Spirit do the same thing in the Church and in our lives today.
- No-one can get away with anything.
- Everything will be revealed by the Word and or by the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 28:13-30.

This is the description that the Lord gave for the construction of the breastplate as well as the location of the Urim and the Thummim 'and he, Aaron, shall wear it as judgement for the children of Israel before the Lord.'

The way that the Urim and the Thummim work is that the High Priest holds the two stones, one in each hand.

Then each tribe is passed by the High Priest, starting with the tribal leader. When the Tribe passed by that has the sin in it, or a truth that had to be revealed, the two stones would glow a bright light.

Then the family leaders would pass by and again, when the family leader that had in him that which had to be exposed walked by, the stones would glow.

They did this with every family member until the person that had the sin, or something that had to be exposed had walked by. The stones would glow, hence it was revealed.

This is no different to what the Word of God and the Holy Spirit do. They expose things that need to be exposed so they can be dealt with.

The Hebrew Meaning of the Urim and the Thummim.

- Bright Lights.
- A brilliancy of the figures
- A Fire or Fire Light.

Joshua 7:11-26.

Paraphrase:

This is the account of a man called Achan, who stole the Babylonian garment and silver and hid it in the earth of his tent and this caused Israel to lose the next battle because God said not to do it and Achan did.

- The Babylonian Garment represents something from the world.
- Silver, speaks of redemption.
- The earth speaks of our heart.
- His actions speak of deceit and lust for worldly things.
- Unfortunately, when things like this happen, lies and untruths need to function as well just to be able to cover up what we have done.
- It revealed his disobedience to the word that was given.

Scripture references for the Urim and the Thummim.

Exodus 28:25.

And the other two ends of the two wreathen chains thou shalt fasten in the two ouches [pouches], and put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod before it.

Leviticus 8:8.

And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.

Numbers 27:21.

And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgement of Urim before the Lord; at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

What we see here is that through the wisdom of Eleazer the High Priest, the Urim and the Thummim were used for judgement in a matter.

Deuteronomy 33:8.

And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummin and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah.

Ezra 2:63.

And the Tirshatha, [**or Governor**] said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with the Urim and with Thummim.

Nehemiah 7:66-69.

These scriptures talk about the size of the congregation, which was 42,360 people, as well as the amount of singing men and women, the number of their horses and mules that they had, also the amount of camels and asses they also had.

Nehemiah 7:70-73.

And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a thousand drams of gold, fifty basins, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

And some of the chief of the fathers gave to the treasure of the work twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand and two hundred pounds of silver.

And that which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand pound of silver, and threescore and seven priests' garments.

So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and some of the people, and the Nethinims, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and when the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.

Notes

Questions.

Chapter 7.

1 Vs. 1-2. Who was put in charge of Jerusalem and why?

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2 Vs. 3. What were Nehemiah's instructions concerning Jerusalem?

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3 Vs. 4-5. What did God put into the heart of Nehemiah to do?

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4. Vs. 4-5. By Nehemiah doing this, what was he going to accomplish?

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5. Vs. 6-63. Cover what?.....

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.....6. **Matthew 22:14.** What is this account about and what does it represent?

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7. Vs. 64-65 If someone's name was not found written in the book. What happened?

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8. **Exodus 28:13-30.** What was used to reveal truth, dishonesty and sin?

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9. What do these two items represent?

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.....

Nehemiah

Chapter 8.

Vs. 1.

And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.

The Message Bible says.

By the time the seventh month arrived, the People of Israel were settled in their towns.

Then all the people gathered as one person in the town square in front of the Water Gate and asked the scholar Ezra to bring the Book of The Revelation of Moses that God had commanded for Israel.

Points of Interest:

- The people all believed the same thing because they were as one man.
- They gathered themselves together in the town square, near the water gate.
- They spoke to Ezra the scribe and scholar and asked him to teach them the Word of God.
- The people asked to hear the Revelation of the Book of Moses that God gave to Moses for Israel.
- As the last day Church, it would be good if we as Christians had a hunger to hear the truth of the word of the Lord ministered to us all.

Vs. 2-3.

And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

The Message Bible says.

So Ezra the priest brought The Revelation to the congregation, which was made up of both men and women - everyone capable of understanding. It was the first day of the seventh month.

He read it facing the town square at the Water Gate from early dawn until noon in the hearing of men and women, all who could understand it. And all the people listened - they were all ears - to The Book of The Revelation.

Points of Interest:

- Ezra brought the Word of God to the people.
- Ezra read the book of Moses from dawn to midday.
- Ezra read the book facing the town square and facing all the people.
- They were all of one accord.
- All the men and women and those that could understand the Word of God listened to what Ezra had to say and were attentive to what he had to say.
- They were all ears.
- Rebuilding the walls around the city of God allowed the Word of God to be spoken as it had not been allowed to be ministered for a long time.
- It would be great if the Church and the house of God were hungry to hear the truth of the Word of God spoken and everyone was keen to listen to what was said.

Nehemiah 8:4-6.

And Ezra the Scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah and Hilkiah and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchijah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) [in height that is] and when he opened it, all the people stood up:

And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

The Message Bible says.

The scholar Ezra stood on a wooden platform constructed for the occasion. He was flanked on the right by Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, and on the left by Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

Ezra opened the book. Every eye was on him (he was standing on the raised platform) and as he opened the book everyone stood. Then Ezra praised God, the great God, and all the people responded, "Oh Yes! Yes!" with hands raised high. And then they fell to their knees in worship of God, their faces to the ground.

Points of Interest:

- Ezra stood on a pulpit made of wood especially made for the task.
- He was flanked on both sides by Levites, the Priests.

- When Ezra opened the book in the sight of the people, all their eyes were on him and everyone stood in respect for the Word of God.
- When Ezra blessed the Lord and praised him, all the people responded with a great Amen, Amen.
- All the people lifted up their hands and bowed their heads in worship with their faces toward the ground.
- As Christians do we look at the Word of God with respect and admiration?
- How much do you appreciate the Word of God that we have?
- When was the last time that you stood to hear the Word of God?
- When was the last time that you bowed your head to the ground and fell on your knees in worship to the Lord.
- In Australia, we have it too easy as Christians. We do not have much persecution and this can make us, at times, not hungry for God's Word and even at times we can lose our passion for the things of the Lord. The Church in Australia needs a wake - up call.

Nehemiah 8:7-8.

Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: [or the Word of God] and the people stood in their place.

So they read in the book in the law of God, distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

The Message Bible says.

Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah,, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah, all the Levites, explained The Revelation while people stood, listening respectfully.

They translated the Book of The Revelation of God so the people could understand it and then explained the reading.

Points of Interest:

- Ezra and the Priests caused the people to understand the meaning of the Word of God.
- The people stood in their place respectfully to hear the Word of God.
- They translated and explained all that they said, so the people understood all that they said.
- They explained the readings that they gave.

- The people were so hungry and privileged to hear the ministry of God’s word again. No one moved at all, for 6 hours they listened to the ministry of the Word of God without a complaint of any kind or moving in any way.
- We as Christians do not respect nor are so grateful to be able to hear the Word of the Lord.

Vs. 9.

And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, **[The Governor]** and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law [Word of God].

The Message Bible says.

Nehemiah the governor, along with Ezra the priest and scholar and the Levites who were teaching the people, said to the people, “This day is holy to God, your God. Do not weep and carry on.” They said this because all the people were weeping as they heard the words of The Revelation.

Points of Interest:

- After teaching the Word of God to the people, Nehemiah, Ezra and the Levites said to the people that “today is Holy unto God.”
- It was classified as Holy because the Word of God was allowed to be ministered again.
- The people were actually crying as they heard the Word of God ministered because it meant so much to them.

Amos 8:11-12.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord and shall not find it.

The Message Bible says.

“Oh yes, Judgment Day is coming!” These are the words of my Master God.

“I will send a famine through the whole country.

It will not be food or water that is lacking, but my Word. People will drift from one end of the country to the other, roam to the north, wander to the east.

They will go anywhere, listen to anyone, hoping to hear God’s Word - but they will not hear it.”

Points of Interest:

- In the last days, which we are in the beginning of, God is going to start to send judgment on the earth.
- There is going to be a famine in all the land, but it will not be a famine of food or water.
- It is going to be a famine of hearing God's Word ministered.
- Nowhere in the earth will anyone be able to hear the truth of God's Word spoken.
- All you will hear is lies and fabrications, made out to sound like the Word of God.
- Because of the lack of discernment people will find it difficult to make out what is truth and what is not.
- People will become so desperate to hear God's word, they will begin to wander all over the planet but to no avail, they will hear nothing.
- That is why we encourage everyone now to listen to and read the Word of God as often as you can, because there is coming a time where it will not be freely available to listen to.

Nehemiah 8:10-12.

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy, neither be ye grieved.

All the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

The Message Bible says.

He continued, "Go home and prepare a feast, holiday food and drink; and share it with those who do not have anything: This day is Holy to God. Do not feel bad. The joy of the Lord is your strength!"

The Levites calmed the people, "Quiet now. This is a holy day. Do not be upset."

So the people went off to feast, eating and drinking and including the poor in a great celebration. Now they got it; they understood the reading that had been given to them.

Points of Interest:

- Because they now understood the Word of God, they were told to celebrate and have a party.
- Do not be upset with emotion but enjoy the time, because the joy of the Lord shall be thy strength.

- When you celebrate the holy day today, do not forget those that don't have anything and invite them to your feast.
- The Priests encouraged them not to grieve or be upset, but to enjoy the moment.
- The people were glad in that they now understood the Word of God because it was explained to them when it was ministered.
- When they heard and received the Word of the Lord, it caused them to worship and enter into the joy of the Lord.

Nehemiah 8:13-15.

And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the Law.

And they found written in the Law which the Lord had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month.

And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.

The Message Bible says.

On the second day of the month the family heads of all the people, the priests, and the Levites gathered around Ezra the scholar to get a deeper understanding of the words of The Revelation.

They found written in The Revelation that God commanded through Moses that the People of Israel are to live in booths during the festival of the seventh month. So they published this decree and had it "posted in all their cities and in Jerusalem: "Go into the hills and collect olive branches, pine branches, myrtle branches, palm branches, and any other leafy branches to make booths, as it is written.

The Hebrew meanings of the word Booth and the different trees and branches are as follows:

Booth:

- A Dwelling Place.
- A Temporary Cottage.
- A Place of separation.
- A Personal Tabernacle or hiding place to be with the Lord.
- A time and place of gathering to hear the Word of the Lord.

Olive Tree Branches:

- An Illuminating Oil.
- The Olive Branches form a covering.
- A sweet Savor of Odor.
- A Calming sensation.
- A type of the Holy Spirit.

Pine Tree Branches:

- Wood. To form a support.
- Used as a Staff, the type that is held in the hand. A long thick stick.
- A staff to lean on for support.
- A richness of Anointing.
- A tree that is fruitful.
- The oil from the Pine tree mixed with the oil from the Olive tree forms a great ointment for healing.

Myrtle TREE Branches:

- They are pleasant to look upon.

Palm Tree Branches:

- To be erect.
- To be able to stand strong.

The following is what I put together with the Hebrew meanings of the trees and branches:

The basis of those people of God is that they decide to separate themselves together in order to hear and understand the Word of God shall come under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and shall become their tabernacle with God and there shall be a sweet smelling odor and a calmness shall be about them.

And there shall be a staff, or Word of the Lord to support them, and they shall become fruitful in the things of the Lord and a great anointing shall be upon them and they shall be pleasant to look upon and they shall stand tall in God and they shall also stand strong against any adversaries of the enemy.

Points of Interest:

- It was found in the scrolls, or the book of Moses, that during the feast in the seventh month, the people had to abide in Booths, or small separate dwelling places.
- Everybody gathered around Ezra the Scribe so that they could get a better understanding of the Word of God.
- Everybody saw a Revelation that God had written in his word revealed to them.
- They, the people, had to live in booths during the festival of the seventh month.
- Gather as many leafy branches as you can and build a booth.
- A place of separation between you and God.
- Today, our booth, is the time that we separate our busy lives just to spend time with the Lord so as to read his word or pray in the Holy Spirit, or even just to talk to the Lord, so as to be able to build up this intimate relationship that the Lord so wants with his people.

Nehemiah 8:16-17.

So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua [Joshua] the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so.

And there was very great gladness.

The Message Bible says.

So the people went out, brought in branches, and made themselves booths on their roofs, courtyards, the courtyards of the Temple of God, the Water Gate plaza, and the Ephraim Gate plaza.

The entire congregation that had come back from exile made booths and lived in them.

The People of Israel had not done this from the time of Joshua son of Nun until that very day - a terrific day! Great joy!

Points of Interest:

- The people did as they were commanded and gathered branches.
- They made booths where they could, even in their own houses and or courtyards.
- The entire people that had come back from being exiles did this.
- The entire nation had not done this since the days of Joshua.
- It was a great time of gladness and there was great joy around the study of the Word of the Lord.

Nehemiah 8:18.

Also, day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God.

And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly; according unto the manner.

The Message Bible says.

Ezra read from the Book of The Revelation of God each day, from the first to the last day - they celebrated the feast for seven days.

On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly in accordance with the decree.

7 in the scriptures is the number for a perfect work down at the end of the age.

As Ezra did, he ministered the Word of God every day to the people. That's what we need to do.

According to Scripture, What is a Booth?

It is a temporary shelter or dwelling that is constructed of branches from specific trees. They are the Olive, The Myrtle, The Palm, and other leafy trees and willows of the brook.

- **Leviticus 23:40 and Nehemiah 8:15.** It was served as a protection from the heat by day and the dew by night.
- **Genesis 33:17.** Such shelters were built by Jacob for the cattle.
- **Jonah 4:5.** Jonah sat under the booth so that he had protection while he looked at the city.
- **II Samuel 11:11. I Kings 20:12 & 16.** The soldiers abode in booths on the battlefield.
- **Job 27:18. Isaiah 1:8.** Used by watchman in the fields at harvest time, so as to protect the crop.
- **Leviticus 23:39-43.** Israel, were encouraged to make booths for celebration of the Feasts of Booths or Tabernacles.

The Israelites were encouraged to dwell in booths at the time of the feast of Booths or in-gatherings.

The returned exiles fell on the 15th day of the 7th month, 5 days after the Day of Atonement and lasted 7 days.

Exodus 23:16-17 and 34:22.

They dwelt in Booths so that the Lord was able to remind the nation of Israel that he, God, delivered them out of Egypt. **Leviticus 23:33-43.**

The returned exiles observed this feast under Darius.in. **Ezra 3:4** and in the time of Ezra at which time, Ezra read the law and led the people in acts of penitence.

Notes

Questions.

Chapter 8.

1. **Vs. 1.** What was the heart and mind of the people like?

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2. **Vs. 1.** What did the people ask Ezra?

.....

3. **Vs. 2-3.** What does the scripture say happened when Ezra ministered the Word of God?

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4. **Vs. 4-6.** Where did Ezra minister from?

.....

5. **Vs. 4-6.** What did the people do when Ezra opened the book?

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6. **Vs. 7-8.** When the book was ministered. How were the people?

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7. **Vs. 9.** What did the people do when they heard the Word of God?

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8. **Vs. 13-15.** What were the people asked to do?

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9. **Vs. 16-17.** Where did the people make their booths?

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10. **Vs. 18.** What did Ezra do everyday and how long was the feast?

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This account of what Nehemiah did, encourages us all as Christians to realize that no matter how difficult a task may be, or how much the enemy comes against us to try and stop what we feel the Lord has laid on our heart to do, the enemy has no authority to stop us, nor can he. So, as we call upon the Lord and pray continually, we will eventually win the battle and accomplish that which the Lord has laid on our heart to do.

Just remember this, it is the Lord that hands out the callings and the gifts, even the abilities that we as human beings have, so it is God that can use anybody, anytime or anywhere.

Just make sure that you are available when the Lord calls, and just make sure that you are prepared to accept any call, gift or ability that the Lord has chosen for you to do, because the Lord thy God has chosen you to do what ever the task is, then no-one will be able to do that job as good as you, because the Lord has chosen you to do it, not you.

When the call, gifts and abilities are handed out, then the Lord also supplies the abilities in God to do what ever you have been chosen to do.

It has nothing to do with you as an individual, it is all about the Lord supplying all your needs.

Not you. Just remember that.

Nehemiah was continually seeking the Lord on various issues to ask for his wisdom and he received it.

May the Lord Bless you and encourage you through the writings and understanding of this Study Guide.

Len Cutting.

