

BUILDING THE WALL

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TEXT:

“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, and 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 good 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” (Nehemiah 2:17-18).

PURPOSE: To exhort each of us to renew our zeal & dedication to the Lord's work in the forth coming year.

INTRODUCTION:

1) Regarding the text:

- (1) Judah been taken captive (70 years)
- (2) 3 Returns - Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah. 444BC
- (3) Nehemiah sad over condition of home land - Jerusalem, Nehemiah chapter 1.
- (4) King gives Nehemiah permission to return, chapter Nehemiah 2:1-16.

2) Nehemiah & Jews had opposition to the work.

(1) “When Sanballat the Horonite, 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” (Nehemiah 2:10).

(2) “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?” (Nehemiah 2:19).

(3) “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 the 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? 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” (Nehemiah 4:1-3).

3) Yet, they continued to build in spite of opposition.

4) Completed work in 52 days.

(1) "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work" (Nehemiah 4:6).

(2) "So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days" (Nehemiah 6:15).

5) Notice that the people said; "Let us rise up and build".

(1) "Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good 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" (Nehemiah 2:18).

(2) Apply to self, to local congregation.

I. LIKE NEHEMIAH & JEWS WE NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LORD'S WORK

1) Chapter one shows Nehemiah's great concern. "And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days; and I fasted and prayed before the God of heaven," (Nehemiah 1:4).

2) Need leaders who view the wall.

(1) "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" (Nehemiah 2:15).

(2) The condition of the church.

3) Walls are under attack by many.

(1) Some say there are Christians outside of the Lord's church. "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

(2) Advocating fellowship with denominations. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11).

(3) Advocating solos/choirs in worship. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

(4) Churches inviting in and fellowshiping false teachers.

(5) "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 16:17).

(6) "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2John 1:9-11).

4) Let us be like Nehemiah and be concerned enough to do something about it.

II LET US RISE UP AND BUILD A PEOPLE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH

1) Like Psalmist:

- (1) "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97).
- (2) "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:104).
- (3) "I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love" (Psalm 119:113).
- (4) "Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them" (Psalm 119:129).

2) Like Jesus:

- (1) "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).
- (2) "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

3) What happens to those that do not love the truth? "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: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2Thessalonians 2:10-12).

III. LET US RISE UP & BUILD A PEOPLE WHO LOVE THE CHURCH

1) Christ loves it.

- (1) "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" (Ephesians 5:25).
- (2) "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

2) It is the body of Christ. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:22-23).

3) Put it first.

- (1) "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).
- (2) "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

IV. LET US RISE UP AND BUILD A PEOPLE WHO HAVE A COMPASSION FOR THE LOST

l) What is it like to be lost?

(1) "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame" (Luke 16:24).

(2) "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name" (Revelation 14:11).

(3) "But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:12).

2) Multitudes on road to destruction. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

3) You and I need to be concerned. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

4) You and I need to carry the gospel.

(1) "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20).

(2) "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

IV. LET US RISE UP AND BUILD A PEOPLE OF COMMITMENT

l) People that continue. "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

2) Not like the stony soil. "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended" (Matthew 13:20-21).

3) Commitment to God and His truth.

(1) "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1 and following verses).

(2) "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23).

4) Crown promised to those that finish.

(1) "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2Timothy 4:7-8).

(2) "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

CONCLUSION:

1) Nehemiah & others saw the wall needed to be rebuilt!

2) They dedicated themselves to the work

3) The churches walls need to be maintained.

(1) Under attack mainly by compromise & unconcern.

(2) Nehemiah would not compromise. "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. 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? " (Nehemiah 6:2-3).

4) Let us renew our zeal in holding on to the Lord's pattern and seeking the lost.