

“Let Us Rise Up and Build”



Lessons from the Story of Nehemiah

Background/Timeline Of Israel's History

- ◆ **606 - Daniel and his friends in captivity**
- ◆ **597 - Second group led into captivity**
- ◆ **586 - Third group taken captive, destruction**
- ◆ **538 - First return, Decree of Cyrus, Zerubbabel, Ezra 1-6, Haggai, Zechariah**
- ◆ **483-473 - Book of Esther**
- ◆ **457 - Ezra leads second Return, Ezra 7-10**
- ◆ **444 -425 - Book of Nehemiah, Nehemiah leads final group out of captivity, the book of Malachi**

Background to Nehemiah

- ❖ **Around 90 years since the first return**
- ❖ **Temple rebuilt as a result of God's prophets Haggai and Zechariah**
- ❖ **Neh. 1:1-3; The walls of Jerusalem still lie in ruins (primary defense of the city)**

The Work of the Lord Requires Passion

- ❖ **Neh. 1:4-11 - Nehemiah is passionate for the Lord - mourns and prays**
- ❖ **Neh. 2:1-8 - Nehemiah, the king's cupbearer, petitions the king**
- ❖ **Neh. 2:9-16 - Nehemiah is permitted to go and inspects the wall alone**
- ❖ **Neh. 2:17-20 - Nehemiah couldn't do it alone and stirs up the passion of God's people to the work - they say , "Let us rise up and build"**
- ❖ **This work is not possible without passion, zeal, and trust in God!**
- ❖ **Neh. 3:1-32 - Notice the transformation of the people**

The Work of the Lord Requires Joint Participation

- ❖ **Neh. 3:1-32 - Notice the transformation of the people**
 - ❖ **“Next to him...”; “After him...”**
- ❖ **People of all status or class got to work!**
 - ❖ **From the high priest to a father and his daughters**
- ❖ **They were active, even in the midst of persecution (Neh. 4:1-8)**
- ❖ **They prayed to God, and set a watch against their enemies (Neh. 4:9)**

The Work of the Lord Requires Perseverance

- ❖ **Neh. 4:9-23 - They were active at building and defending their work**
- ❖ **Organized by families with swords, spears, bows (:9-13)**
- ❖ **Urged them to trust God and not fear (:14-15)**
- ❖ **Worked with one hand and held a weapon in the other (:16-18)**
- ❖ **Organized together to defend the work (:19-23)**
- ❖ **Incredible trust in God demonstrated (4:9, 14, 15, 20)**

The Result

- ❖ **Chapter 5 - insight into the leadership of Nehemiah as governor in Judah**
- ❖ **Chapter 6 - the work is completed**
 - ❖ **Neh. 6:1-9 - the enemies did not let up, Nehemiah forged on**
 - ❖ **Neh. 6:15-19 - the wall is completed in 52 days!**

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