

LED TO BEAR A BURDEN

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Text: Nehemiah 1:1-8

"The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, 2 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. 3 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. 4 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, 5 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: 6 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. 7 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. 8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:" (Nehemiah 1:1-8)

INTRODUCTION

- Nehemiah was cup bearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia (Neh 2:1)
 - * spoke Aramaic language
 - * cup bearer tasted all beverages to detect poison
 - x trusted position
- Ezra → went to Jerusalem in 7th year of reign of Artaxerxes of Persia (Ezra 7:7)
- Nehemiah asks King Artaxerxes in his 20th year of his reign to go to Jerusalem (Neh 2:1)

Quote: "There comes a moment in everyone's life: a moment for which that person was born. That special opportunity, when he seizes it, will fulfill his mission, a mission for which he was uniquely qualified."—**Winston Churchill**

"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." (Proverbs 25:28)

1. FOR Security (v. 3-8)

- A. The people (v. 3) in great distress
B. The prayer (v. 4-8) - by Nehemiah

"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," (Nehemiah 1:4)

HE WEPT - while Nehemiah prayed

"Jesus wept." (John 11:35)

HE MOURNED - the losses in Jerusalem

HE FASTED - prayed instead of eating

"Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." (Matthew 17:21)

HE PRAYED - for forgiveness of past sins

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Quote: "To be much for God we must be much with God."

- C. The project - wants to rebuild

"And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?" (Nehemiah 2:3)

=Nebuchadnezzar had broken down the walls & burnt the gates of city of Jerusalem

"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. 13 And I went out by night by the gate of 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." (Nehemiah 2:12-13)

Quote: "To know the will of God is our greatest knowledge, to do the will of God is our greatest challenge."—**Dr. George Truett**

D. The problem → opposition

"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? 20 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." (Nehemiah 2:19-20)

THE CRITICS OF NEHEMIAH - Samaritans

"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)

THE CONFIDENCE OF NEHEMIAH

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

God's
guidance

2. IN Service

A. They built

"Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel." (Nehemiah 3:1)

- gates & guard towers built

THE GATES - several gates
THE WALL - protection around city

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;" (Philippians 1:27)

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (1 Timothy 3:15)

B. They battled - threats

"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." (Nehemiah 4:1)

THEY BATTLED CRITICISM WITH COURAGE - built walls any way

THEY BATTLED ADVERSITY BY PRAYER

"Men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" (Luke 18:1)

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3)

"In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me." (Psalm 120:1)

THEY BATTLED DISCOURAGEMENT WITH FAITH - swords in one hand - building tools in other hand

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

3. WITH Stewardship

"And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a thousand drams of gold, fifty basons, five hundred and thirty priests' garments." (Nehemiah 7:70)

in 52 days

A. The wall Was Built
"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," (Nehemiah 7:1)

genealogy of Israel

B. The census Was Taken
"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," (Nehemiah 7:5)

C. The offering Had Been Given (v. 70)

Quote: "Ministry that costs nothing accomplishes nothing."

Quote: "The fact that there is a record reminds us that God keeps a record of our giving. This is good news for those who give much but are unnoticed and unrecognized. But it is not good news for those who give ostentatiously and appear to give more than they really do."—**John Butler**

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)

THE LEADERS' GIVING (Neh 7:70)

THE PEOPLE GAVE (Neh 7:72)

"Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;" (2 Corinthians 9:11-12)

THE LORD SUPPLIED

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

Quote: "A man is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."—**Jim Elliott**

Philippian
church poor,
but they
gave

4. God will provide for our needs
"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)
"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

CONCLUSION

Quote: "Unbelief says, 'Let's go back to where it's safe'; but faith says, 'let's go forward to where God is working.'"

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)



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