

Lessons From Nehemiah 2

Video Clip – The Way Home

*****TITLE SLIDE**

Review

We are looking into the book of Nehemiah.

Last week we talked about the fact that Ezra and Nehemiah were originally written as one book, but separated into 2 after the bible was formed.

*******A little history is always helpful when looking into the Old Testament. The time of Ezra/Nehemiah takes place 70 years following the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians and exile of the Israelites to Babylon. The Persians have conquered Babylon and are conquering the known world.

This is a map of the western side of the Persian empire as it existed during this time.

*******It was during this time that we now refer to as “The Restoration Period” that Ezra was first sent to rebuild the temple, then re-establish the law, and finally Nehemiah shows up to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem.

This is a picture of the 3 different walls around the city of Jerusalem.

*******Now to get an idea of the scale of the project here is a picture of one of the actual walls rebuilt by Nehemiah.

*******And also the gate of Damascus or eastern gate.

538 – 433 Time period of The Restoration Period covers 115 years

537 – 516 temple rebuilt 21 years

473 – Esther is queen of Persia

458 – Synagogues and scribes are founded

445 – Nehemiah rebuilds the walls

433 – Institution of reforms

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Last week we covered the first 2 chs of Nehemiah. We saw where Nehemiah got the news of the state of God's people in Jerusalem. How he prayed for 4 months before approaching the King about the problem.

The temple had been rebuilt in 516 and now 70 years later news comes to Nehemiah that the Walls around Jerusalem are still in shambles. Now why did it take 70 years to get to the walls??

***Huh?

There were four people named
Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and
Everybody was asked to do it.

Everybody was sure Somebody would do it,
Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was
Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it but
Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody
when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

***Hmmm...

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Henry Ford

***Nehemiah 2:9-20

9 Then I came to the governors *of the provinces* beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

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Don't show up to do a job without the resources required.

10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard *about it*, it was very displeasing to them that someone had come to seek the welfare of the sons of Israel.

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

Nehemiah actually made 2 trips, one to scout out the severity of the problem and the next to actually do the work.

12 And I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. I did not tell anyone what my God was putting into my mind to do for Jerusalem and there was no animal with me except the animal on which I was riding.

13 So I went out at night by the Valley Gate in the direction of the Dragon's Well and *on* to the Refuse Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were consumed by fire.

14 Then I passed on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was no place for my mount to pass.

***15 So I went up at night by the ravine and inspected the wall. Then I entered the Valley Gate again and returned.

16 The officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; nor had I as yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials or the rest who did the work.

Now you know when Nehemiah showed up in Jerusalem, all of these folks started asking questions...

17 Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach."

18 I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and build." So they put their hands to the good *work*.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard *it*, they mocked us and despised us and said, "What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"

20 So I answered them and said to them, "The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem."

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In the next chapter the people of Jerusalem begin to make repairs to the Walls around the City. I've counted 37 families, tribes, and people groups represented in the rebuilding process.

I'm not going to read the entire passage of ch3 due to time, but I encourage you to do so on your own. Verse 28, though, seems to represent the spirit in which this entire process was undertaken.

***28 Above the Horse Gate the priests carried out repairs, each in front of his house.

Everyday they woke up to the same view of the same problem and for 70 years they did nothing about it.

Folks if you're called to lead, these are the type of people that you will lead. I call them the "somebody ought to" folks.

Nehemiah 3:1-32

1 Then Eliashib the high priest arose with his brothers the priests and built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They consecrated the wall to the Tower of the Hundred *and* the Tower of Hananel.

2 Next to him the men of Jericho built, and next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

3 Now the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

4 Next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz made repairs. And next to him Meshullam the son of Berechiah the son of Meshezabel made repairs. And next to him Zadok the son of Baana *also* made repairs.

5 Moreover, next to him the Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not support the work of their masters.

6 Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars.

7 Next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, also made repairs for the official seat of the governor *of the province* beyond the River.

8 Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah of the goldsmiths made repairs. And next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

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9 Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.

10 Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs.

11 Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and the Tower of Furnaces.

12 Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters.

13 Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They built it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars, and a thousand cubits of the wall to the Refuse Gate.

14 Malchijah the son of Rechab, the official of the district of Beth-haccherem repaired the Refuse Gate. He built it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars.

15 Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, the official of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He built it, covered it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars, and the wall of the Pool of Shelah at the king's garden as far as the steps that descend from the city of David.

16 After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, official of half the district of Beth-zur, made repairs as far as *a point* opposite the tombs of David, and as far as the artificial pool and the house of the mighty men.

17 After him the Levites carried out repairs *under* Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, the official of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district.

18 After him their brothers carried out repairs *under* Bavvai the son of Henadad, official of *the other* half of the district of Keilah.

19 Next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, the official of Mizpah, repaired another section in front of the ascent of the armory at the Angle.

20 After him Baruch the son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the Angle to the doorway of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

21 After him Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz repaired another section, from the doorway of Eliashib's house even as far as the end of his house.

22 After him the priests, the men of the valley, carried out repairs.

23 After them Benjamin and Hasshub carried out repairs in front of their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah, carried out repairs beside his house.

24 After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah as far as the Angle and as far as the corner.

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25 Palal the son of Uzai *made repairs* in front of the Angle and the tower projecting from the upper house of the king, which is by the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh *made repairs*.

26 The temple servants living in Ophel *made repairs* as far as the front of the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower.

27 After them the Tekoites repaired another section in front of the great projecting tower and as far as the wall of Ophel.

28 Above the Horse Gate the priests carried out repairs, each in front of his house.

29 After them Zadok the son of Immer carried out repairs in front of his house. And after him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, carried out repairs.

30 After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah carried out repairs in front of his own quarters.

31 After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, carried out repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, in front of the Inspection Gate and as far as the upper room of the corner.

32 Between the upper room of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants carried out repairs.

3 things I want to leave you with today:

1. Everyone was called all along to accomplish God's purpose, but no ONE could do it. (example of Christ Together)
2. It wasn't until the right time, with the right person, and the right resources came along that it happened. (We look and see obstacles and say, I guess it's just not God's will)
3. When God's people join together, nothing is impossible!

Romans 15:5,6

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.