

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is concern for others so important in living a fruitful Christian life?
2. How did Nehemiah's concern lead to help for his people?
3. What two sources did Nehemiah have for help in building?
4. How did Nehemiah meet the opposition?

SUMMARY:

Nehemiah was only a cupbearer for King Artaxerxes, but his compassion for his brethren back in Jerusalem was the beginning of great accomplishments by the hand of God.

In his determination to help his people, he prayed day and night to God. Through his prayerful concern, Artaxerxes' heart was prepared to help the Jews rebuild Jerusalem. The King gave Nehemiah authority to go and rebuild.

On his arrival in Jerusalem, Nehemiah went out at night to survey the task before Him. He then told the people of Jerusalem "come let us build". Though the task was great, it could be accomplished by the hand of God and the support of the King.

The same concern, prayer, confidence in God and cooperation will make us effective builders for God today.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #8

August 23, 2020

Third Quarter

NEHEMIAH, THE DETERMINED BUILDER

LESSON TEXT: *Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:1-20*

LESSON SETTING: Hanani gives Nehemiah a report about the Jews who had escaped and about Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 446 B.C.

I. A GREAT BURDEN. Nehemiah 1:1-11

- A. Concern (vs. 4) Jeremiah 13:17; Roman 9:1-3
- B. Seeking God's Help (vs. 5) Psalm 91:15; Matthew 7:8
- C. Persistence in Prayer - Deuteronomy 9:18; Acts 12:5

II. A GREAT REQUEST. Nehemiah 2:1-8

- A. The Request (vs. 5)
- B. The Answer (vs. 6)
- C. God's Hand (vs. 8) Psalm 37:23-24; John 10:28

III. A GREAT DETERMINATION. Nehemiah 2:9-20

- A. Opposition (vs. 10) Ezra 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:8
- B. Counting the Cost (vs. 13) Luke 14:28-33
- C. Confidence in God (vs. 18, 20) Number 14:8; Psalm 20:7

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE GOD OF HEAVEN, HE WILL PROSPER US; THEREFORE WE HIS SERVANTS WILL ARISE AND BUILD.*

Nehemiah 2:20

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Nehemiah 4:1-23

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Luke 14:25-33; John 15:18-27
Acts 16:16-24

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People Restored

TOPIC: OPPOSITION FROM WITHOUT

INTRODUCTION:

The surrounding nations became jealous when they saw that the Jews were rebuilding the walls and gates of Jerusalem. They could not tolerate the fact that the Jews were returning. They did all they could to discourage them. But the Jews continued building.

Then the enemies conspired to secretly approach Jerusalem and fight against them. The Jews learned of the secret plot and Nehemiah armed his people and taught them to both work and fight. He knew how to arrange the preparation for the work and for battle. He seems to have been very wise in his decisions. But when we look more closely upon his work, we realize that he was wise only in the fact that he submitted to God, that he depended upon Him for guidance. He, himself, said "nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God." He did not depend upon himself. He knew his power lay only in his faith in God, because he said so pointedly "our God shall fight for us." Always he calls Him our God. He believed that they were God's people and their God would help.

CENTRAL TRUTH: A concern for those in need will challenge the Christian to make determined efforts to advance God's work.

GOLDEN TEXT: *NEVERTHELESS WE MADE OUR PRAYER UNTO OUR GOD, AND SET A WATCH AGAINST THEM DAY AND NIGHT, BECAUSE OF THEM.*
Nehemiah 4:9

Just to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem was a great task for Nehemiah and his helpers. To do the work despite the ridicule of their enemies made the task even greater. And then the threat of the Arabians, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites to stop the work by force made the completion of the project seemingly impossible. Here again, it is inspiring to read about how much they depended upon God for His help in their time of trouble. Yet, relying on God's promise to protect them, they still realized that, they themselves, must put forth every effort available to them. So their response to opposition was to pray, watch and work.

The psalmist reminds us that our salvation is of the Lord, that when the enemy of our souls resists us, God will be our strength. Jesus tells us, "*without Me ye can do nothing.*" The Apostle writes, "*I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me.*" God, in Christ, has broken down the wall of sin between us and His righteousness. With His help, we as "fellow-builders with God" can build a wall between ourselves and Satan, then help complete the new Temple, which is the Church of Christ. And it is still needful that we also pray, watch, work and wait.

Call on the Lord, His help is sure and nigh.
Your loins be girt with truth and all uprightness,
And as a wall around you shine His brightness.

Z.H. 115:2

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Aug. 24 – 30

- M. *Opposition by Ridicule. Nehemiah 4:1-6
- T. *Opposition by Anger. Nehemiah 4:7-14
- W. *Opposition Through Discouragement. Nehemiah 4:15-23
- T. Opposition Through Rejection. Matthew 10:16-28
- F. Opposition Through Persecution. John 15:18-27
- S. Opposition Through Conspiracy. Acts 16:16-24
- S. Conquerors Amid Opposition. Romans 8:31-39

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