

## **Nehemiah.**

(The books of Ezra and Nehemiah in the Hebrew manuscripts appeared as one book. Ezra, an exile, building the house of God under Darius, the king of Persia, and Nehemiah, an exile also, the walls of Jerusalem under Artaxerxes, king of Persia.)

It may be that the building of the walls represent a **Type of the upbuilding of the divine kingdom of in the earth (as soon as Jesus started His ministry He said *Repent, the Kingdom of God is near*)** and it may **typify the defenses of the children of Israel's weaknesses**; because God is never weak. It may, in fasting and prayer, **be a Type of the state of mind which should precede all great spiritual enterprises**; Nehemiah's sacrifice of a fine position for the good of the cause may **Typify the sacrificial service always need when a great work is to be accomplished like Jesus giving His life and His resurrection from the dead.** The night inspection of the City may **Typify an essential element in all successful work**; the enlistment of all classes may **Typify the importance of thorough organization.**

There are hindrances in spiritual work which can be overcome.

- a) Ridicule is overcome by confidence in God (He said it and I believe it).
- b) Wrath and contempt is overcome by prayer and hard work.
- c) Conspiracy is overcome by watchfulness and prayer.
- d) Discouragement of friends is overcome by steadfast courage.
- e) Selfish greed is overcome by rebuke and self-sacrificing example.

Once the Law was exposed and the confession of the Priests and Levites and the signing of the covenant was exercised, the call for the people to dwell in Jerusalem after the dedication of the wall meant social and religious reforms and that was hard to take. (Some notes taken from Thompson Chain Reference Bible, by permission.)

## **Nehemiah 1.**

Read the chapter. Nehemiah had visitors from Jerusalem and Judah and was told about the walls of Jerusalem being in a state of the walls broken down and the gates burned with fire and that the remnant of the captivity there were in great affliction and reproach. He mourned, fasted and prayed to the God of Heaven. He confessed the children of Israel's sins *both I and my father's house have sinned.*

## **Nehemiah 2.**

Read the chapter. Nehemiah appears before King Artaxerxes with a sad countenance. He enquired whether Nehemiah was sick. *Let the king live forever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lies waste and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?* So the king wanted to know what Nehemiah wants to do about it. So he prayed to the God of Heaven. *If it please the king, and if your servant has found favour in your sight, that you would send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.*

It please the king and queen to send him and Nehemiah gave him a time. Boldly, Nehemiah said to the king *If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; And a letter unto Asaph (yes, the same Asaph that was a priest and a minstrel who wrote many psalms in the House of the Lord in Jerusalem, now an exile) the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into.* The king did so

according to the hand of the good God on him.

The king also supplied the horsemen, captains of the army with the letters that were given to the government. Sanballat, the Horonite and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, the enemy of Israel found out Nehemiah came for the welfare of the children of Israel. Nehemiah told no one what God had told him what to do.

After three days Nehemiah got up in the middle of the night, took a few men with him, and on his horse, inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and burned. He returned without telling any rulers, Jews, priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rest that did the work. Then he told them that they would no more be a reproach. He told them how the Hand of the Lord was upon him and how the king 's words helped him. *And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.*

*Sanballat, the Horonite, 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 you do? Will you rebel against the king? 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 you have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.*

### **Nehemiah 3.**

Read the chapter. All the names and the order of them is listed that built the wall of Jerusalem:

--Eliashib, the high priest with his brethren the priests built the sheep gate, the sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the towers of Hananeel.

--Men of Jericho next to Eliashib; next to them Zaccur the son of Imri.

--Sons of Hassenaah built the fish gate, who also laid the beams and set up the doors and locks and bars of it.

--Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz was next to them; and next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel; then Zadok, the son of Baana, repaired.

--The Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.

--Jehoiada, the son of Paseah, and Meshulam the son of Besodeiah, repaired the old gate; they laid the beams, set up the doors, and locks, and bars as well.

--Melatiah, the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, unto the throne of the governor of this side the river, repaired.

--Uzziel, the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths repaired; Hananiah, the son of one of the apothecaries, repaired and they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall.

--Rephaiah, the son of Hur, repaired, and he was the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem was next to them; and next to them repaired Jedaiah the son of Harumaph, against his house. And next to him repaired Hattush, the son of Hashabniah.

--Malchijah, the son of Harim and Hashub the son of Pahath-moab, repaired the other piece, and the tower of the furnaces. Next to him repaired Shallum the son of Halohesh the ruler of the half part of

Jerusalem, he and his daughters.

--Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the valley gate; they built it, set up the doors, the locks, the bars, and a thousand cubits on the wall unto the dung gate.

--Malchiah, the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Bethhaelcerem repaired the dung gate; he built it, set the doors up, the locks and the bars.

--Shallum the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah repaired the gate of the fountain. He built it, covered it, set up the doors, locks and bars, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, unto the stairs that go down from the city of David.

--Nehemiah, the son of Azbuk, the ruler of half part of Bethzur, repaired the place over against the sepulchres of David, and to the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty.

--Levites, Rehum, the son of Bani repaired next to him; then Hashabiah, the ruler of half part of Keilah was next to him.

--Ezer, the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, repaired another piece over against the going up to the armoury at the turning of the wall.

--Baruch, the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece from the turning of of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

--The priests, the men of the plain were next to them; Benjamin and Hashub repaired over against the house; Azariah the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah repaired by his house.

--Binnui, the son of Henadad repaired another piece, from the house of Azariah unto the turning of the wall even unto the corner.

--Palal the son of Uzai over against the turning of the wall and the tower which lies out from the king's high house; that was by the court of the prison; after him Pedaiah the son of Parosh repaired.

--Moreover the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel, unto the place over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that lies out. After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, against the great tower even unto the wall of Ophel.

-- Priests repaired the horse gate, every one over against his house; after them Zadok the son of Immer over against his house; after him repaired also Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the east gate; after him repaired Hananiah, the son fo Shelemiah and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, another piece; after him Meshullam the son of Berechiah over against his chamber was repaired; after him repaired Malchiah, the goldsmith's son unto the place of the Nethinims and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner. From there to the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.

#### **Nehemiah 4.**

Read the chapter. Sanballat heard about the wall and was very wroth so he started to mock the Jews. He went to his brethren and the army of Samaria. Tobiah joined him to mock them.

Nehemiah prayed *Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head,*

*and give them for a prey in the land of captivity: and cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before You: for they have provoked You to anger before the builders.*

So they continued to build and they had a mind to work.

Sanballat, Tobiah, Arabians, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth.

But Nehemiah would continue to pray to *our God* and set a watch against them day and night because of them. They built and had swords, spears and bows.

Nehemiah spoke to the nobles and to the rulers, and the rest of the people: *Be not afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and our daughters, your wives, and your houses.*

Then the enemy knew that the builders knew of them so half of them worked and built and the other half were with spears, shields and bows and Habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. Also some were building with one hand and holding a weapon in another hand.

Nehemiah also told them that since the space between them is so vast, a trumpet must be blown where the trouble is and God will be with them to fight for them.

Nehemiah also asked every one with his servant to lodge within Jerusalem that in the night they were guards, as well as labour during the day.

### **Nehemiah 5.**

Read the chapter. The people complained to Nehemiah about the debt that the Jewish rulers and nobles put on them as usury. Their land was mortgaged and there was no reprieve during the famine. Nehemiah rebuked the usurers. *Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive yards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that you exact of them. Then said they, We will restore them, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as you say. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.*

The men did according to the promise.

Nehemiah became the Governor of Judah, but he did not take any wages as other governors did because he feared the Lord. He fed 150 Jews and rulers, beside those that came from the heathen that were surrounding Jerusalem. The King of Persia had supplied all of Nehemiah's needs.

### **Nehemiah 6.**

Read the chapter. When the enemies Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem heard that the walls were built, but the doors were not upon the gates, they sent a letter wanting to meet Nehemiah by mischief. Nehemiah in great confidence sent them a letter in reply *I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, while I leave it, and come down to you?* Four times the letters came and Nehemiah answered them the same way. Then Sanballat sent his servant with an open letter. Again Nehemiah wrote back to tell him that the letter was a lie. Shemaiah wanted Nehemiah to go inside the temple of the Lord God and shut himself in so that they not kill Nehemiah but Nehemiah would not. Sanballat and Tobiah had hired Shemaiah to prophesy that Nehemiah would be killed.

The wall was finished in 52 days. The enemy realized that the God of Israel was with the people of Jerusalem and they were wrought.

Then Tobiah sent letters to Nehemiah to put him in fear.