



was "Hallelujah" when I went through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and returned. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I had not yet told the Jews, priests, nobles, officials, or the rest of those who would be doing the work.

So I said to them, "You see, we are in Jerusalem because its gates have been built, let's rebuild Jerusalem's wall; we will no longer be a disgrace, then how the gracious God had been on me." The king had said to me, "They said, 'Let's start, and their hands were set to do this good work. When Sanballat the Moor, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about it, he mocked and despised me. 'What is this you're doing, rebelling against the king?' I gave them this reply, 'The heavens is the one who will give us success.' We, his ser-



Book of Nehemiah

“Don’t waste your life.

You don’t have to know a lot of things for your life to make a lasting difference in this world.”

John Piper

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

**Don't Waste
Your Life!**

Book of Nehemiah

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So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned, let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls, we will no longer be a disgrace, then how the gracious God had been on me, the king had said to me, 'They said, "Let's start rebuilding, and their hands were strengthened to do this good work. When Sanballat the Horian, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about this, he mocked and despised us. "What is this you're doing, rebelling against the king? I gave them this reply, "The heavens is the one who will give us success. We, his servants, are building, but you have no right or historic claim in Jerusalem."

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“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my **only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”**

Acts 20:24

Book of Nehemiah

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Jehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered the gate between the two walls, which was not built, and I went on to the wall of the Ammonite official, who had heard about my mission and despised it. He said, "Is this you're doing, rebelling against the king?" I gave them this reply, "The heavens is the one who has granted us success. We, his servants, are building the wall, but you have no claim in Jerusalem."

Let us consider our part in this mission. God has always purposed to set a people apart, not for separation, but for the sacred mission of reaching in to the world.

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

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So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned, let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls, we will no longer be a disgrace, then how the gracious God had been on me, the king had said to me, 'They said, "Let's start rebuilding," and their hands were strengthened to do this good work. When Sanballat the Horan, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about this, he mocked and despised. "What is this you're doing, rebelling against the king?" I gave them this reply, "The heavens is the one who will give us success. We, his servants, are building, but you have no right or historic claim in Jerusalem."

Nehemiah 3 & 4

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by a wall that was not yet built and inspected the wall. I returned. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done. I told the king about the situation of the wall and those who would be doing the work. So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned, let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls, we will no longer be a disgrace. Then how the gracious God had been on me, the king had said to me, 'Let's start building.' Their hands were strengthened for his good work. When Sanballat the Horian, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about this, he mocked and despised. 'What is this you're doing, rebelling against the king?' I gave them this reply, 'The heavens is the one who will give us success. We, his servants, are building, but you have no historic claim in Jerusalem.'

It's a call to come together in the face of opposition, to support one another in the work, and to keep our eyes fixed not on the enormity of the task, but on the greatness of our God.

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Book of Nehemiah

They replied, “Let **us** start **rebuilding.**” So they began **this good work.**

Nehemiah 2:18

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was "hurry." I went on through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and returned. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I had not yet told the Jews, priests, nobles, officials, or the rest of those who would be doing the work.

So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned, let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls, we will no longer be a disgrace, then how the gracious God had been on me, the king had said to me, 'They said, "Let's start building, and their hands were strengthened to do this good work. When Sanballat the Horonathite, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about this, he mocked and despised. "What is this you're doing? You're rebelling against the king." I gave them this reply, "The success of the heavens is the one who will give us success. We, his servants, are building, but you have no right or historic claim in Jerusalem."

“Let us.”

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There is more of His Kingdom to come, more of His fullness to experience, more of His grace to give, and more of His power to receive.

There's vibrant, gospel work for us to do in Cincinnati.

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As we ponder the question of
how, let us anchor ourselves in
the truth of **Who.**

Book of Nehemiah



Book of Nehemiah

“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with **all** their **heart**.”

Nehemiah 4:6

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

“Nehemiah faced a great challenge and had great faith in a great God, but he would have accomplished very little had their not been great dedication on the part of the people who helped him rebuild the wall.”

Warren Wiersbe

Book of Nehemiah

Chapter 3:

38 individual workers

43 different groups

7 times the word “built” is used

38 time the word “repair” used

repair: *to make strong and firm*

Priests and high priests (3:1, 22, 28)

Perfume makers (3:8)

Goldsmiths (3:12, 31-32)

Merchants (3:31)

Rulers and officers (3:9, 12, 15-17)

Temple servants (3:26)

Daughters (3:12)

Levites (3:17)

Tekoites (3:5, 27)

Book of Nehemiah

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So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned, let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls, we will no longer be a disgrace. Then they told me how the gracious God had been on me from the beginning, as the king had said to me. They said, "Let's start working, and their hands were strengthened to do this good work. When Sanballat the Horian, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about this, he mocked and despised us. "What is this you're doing? You're rebelling against the king," he said. I gave them this reply, "The heavens is the one who will give us success. We, his servants, are building, but you have no right or historic claim in Jerusalem."

**Every person,
every member,
together
accomplishing the mission.**

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

was "hanging" down from the top of the wall through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and returned. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I had not yet told the Jews, priests, nobles, officials, or the rest of those who would be doing the work.

So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned, let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls and we will no longer be a disgrace to them, how the gracious God had been on me, for the king had said to me, 'Let's start rebuilding and their hands were set to do this good work.' When Sanballat the Horan, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about this, he mocked and despised me. 'What is this you're doing against the king's service?' I answered them this reply, 'My God has chosen me to do this work. We, his servants, are rebuilding, but you have no historic claim in Jerusalem.'

What role and effort will you play in rebuilding?

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

“All these are the work of **one** and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. Just as a **body**, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form **one** body, so it is with Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12:11-12

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Book of Nehemiah

“The cross was not just to save isolated individuals, and so perpetuate their loneliness, but to create a **new community whose members would belong to Jesus Christ, love one another and eagerly serve the world.”**

John Stott

Book of Nehemiah

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s **people** and also members of his **household**, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief **cornerstone**.

Book of Nehemiah

In him the whole building is **joined together** and **rises** to become a **holy temple** in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a **dwelling** in which God lives by his Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:19-22

Book of Nehemiah



Book of Nehemiah

**The time is too short for
less than full engagement in
Christ's Great Commission.**

Book of Nehemiah

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”

Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity.

Book of Nehemiah

Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.

So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart, as plunder in a land of captivity.

Nehemiah 4:1-6

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

“The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people.”

G.K. Chesterton

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing. I had not told the Jews, priests, or the rest of those who were building the work.

So I said to them, "You see we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, its gates have been burned, let's rebuild Jerusalem's walls and we will no longer be a disgrace. Then they told me how the gracious God had been on me and how the king had said to me, 'Let's start rebuilding.' So they said, 'Let's start rebuilding.' Then their hands were strengthened to do this good work. When Sanballat the Hittite, the Ammonite official, the Arab heard about this, he mocked and despised us. 'What is this you're doing?' he said. 'Rebelling against the king?' I gave them this reply, 'The heavens is the one who will give us success. We are building, but you have no claim in Jerusalem.'

**ridicule (4:1-6),
plots of war (4:7-9)
discouragement (v. 10)
fear (4:11-23).**

Book of Nehemiah



Book of Nehemiah

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

Book of Nehemiah

But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall."

Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work."

Book of Nehemiah

Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

Nehemiah 4:7-14

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

In order to stay on mission, we must remain vigilant, aware of challenges, fueled by prayer, and united in our pursuit.

When our gaze drifts from the 'Who'—from our great and awesome God—our 'hows' seem insurmountable.

Book of Nehemiah



Book of Nehemiah

was found. I went on through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and returned. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I had not yet told the Jews, priests, nobles, officials, or the rest of those who would be doing the work.

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Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

Jesus:

I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it.

Book of Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

“The Church’s mightiest influence is felt when she is different from the world in which she lives.”

A.W. Tozer

Book of Nehemiah



Book of Nehemiah

**The church is God's plan A
to reach the world.**

There is no plan B.

Book of Nehemiah



Book of Nehemiah

What walls in your life and in our church is God calling you to rebuild? And what step will you take this to ensure that, like Nehemiah and his people, your life's work contributes to a lasting difference for God's kingdom?

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