



Notes

If you have questions during the week, please drop us an e-mail at jim@calvaryroswell.com or phil@calvaryroswell.com



Thru the Scriptures 2006-08



Part of the "Broad Wall" – excavated in 1969

Nehemiah 1-6

April 12th-18th, 2007

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,
 and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction,
 for instruction in righteousness,
 that the man of God may be complete,
 thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Ti 3:16-17)

Nehemiah-

Nehemiah is a gem of a book in the spiritual lessons which it teaches us. It tells how, under the new leadership of Nehemiah, the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt by the returned Remnant, and how the people themselves were reinstructed in the Law which God had given to their nation, long before, through Moses. This rebuilding of the city wall is like a graphic object-lesson illustrating those truths which lie at the heart of all true service for God; and he who will give heed to the lessons here vividly pictured will be a wise and successful builder in spiritual things.

—J. Sidlow Baxter, *Explore the Book.*

Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)

http://preceptaustin.org/nehemiah_commentaries.htm

Sermon Links:

“The Two Guards, Praying and Watching” by Charles Spurgeon

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/GUARDSPW.TXT>

“The Broad Wall” by Charles Spurgeon

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/3281.HTM>

“Nehemiah: Rebuilding the Walls” by Ray C. Stedman

<http://www.raystedman.org/adventure/0216.html>

The Book of Nehemiah



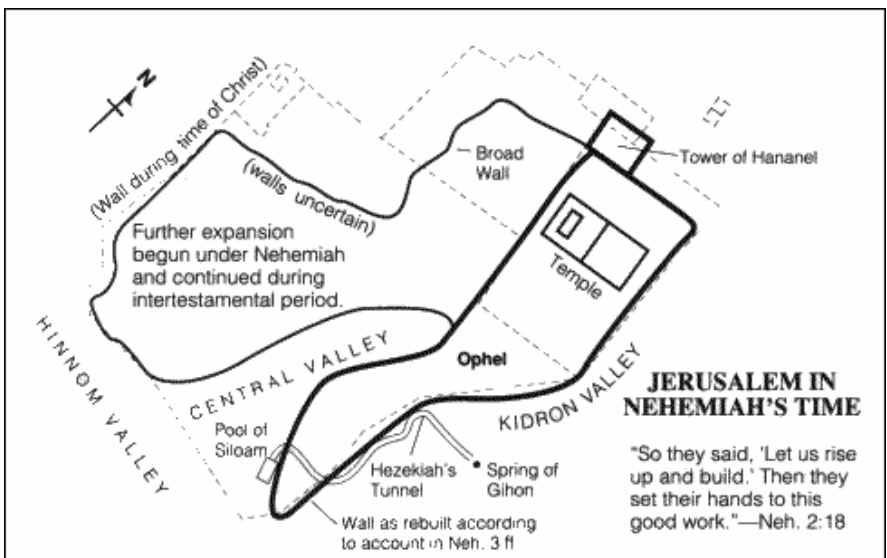
Author: Ezra? Although the author is not named in the book, because Ezra and Nehemiah were treated as one book in the Hebrew text, and because the two books show certain similarities in style and outlook, many believe that Ezra and Nehemiah were originally compiled by the same person, probably Ezra—although he was obviously recording some of Nehemiah's thoughts and words—perhaps his journal. Neh 1:1



Time: The events of this book actually took place during the third return from the Babylonian Exile, which took place in 444 b.c. Nehemiah served twice as governor of Judah. His first time as governor spanned twelve years (5:14), and ended when he returned to Babylon (13:6). He then returned to Jerusalem “after certain days.” If the king was still Artaxerxes I, as seems likely, then Nehemiah’s second governorship began prior to 424 b.c., when the king died.



Theme: There are many themes and things that can be focused on in Nehemiah. It is the end of the historical books of the Old Testament. It also is a great picture for us of what godly leadership looks like. But the main theme for us seems to be ‘Doing a great work for God’ - and how to do it.



Daily Bible Study

Friday, April 13, 2007

Passage for today: **Nehemiah 2**

Questions to Ponder

1. What steps do we see Nehemiah take in this chapter toward beginning the work that the Lord had put in his heart to do? What fears does Nehemiah face in taking these steps to starting? As Nehemiah moved forward in faith through all the steps of faith laid out before him, how did the Lord assist him? What lessons can we learn from this?
2. In verses 19-20 we see Nehemiah's first open encounter with opposition. What might we learn from this encounter concerning how our adversary seeks to hinder us from doing the work God has called us to today? How does Nehemiah respond? Any applications?
3. Today, how has the Lord opened doors for you concerning doing the work He's called you to do? Are you prayerfully considering all that needs to be done in doing the job rightly? Explain.

Daily Bible Study

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Passage for today: **Nehemiah 6**

Questions to Ponder

1. What are the different schemes that Nehemiah's enemies used in this chapter to personally attack Nehemiah? What was their objective in performing these maneuvers? How did Nehemiah respond to their attacks and what lessons might we learn from his responses?
2. In verses 17-19 we see that there were some from within Nehemiah's own ranks who were corresponding with, pledging themselves to, and making reports for the enemy. What do you suppose would cause someone do such things? How hurtful and infuriating do you think this must have been for Nehemiah to discover? Any lessons?
3. Verse 16 says that when the wall was completed, the enemy became disheartened because they perceived that "*this work was done by our God.*" Today, could you say that the enemy is disheartened by the work that God is accomplishing through you? Explain.

RELIGION AND RIDICULE

From *Our Daily Walk*

By F.B. Meyer

"When Sanballat . . . and Tobiah . . . and Geshem . . . heard it, they laughed us to scorn and despised us, and said what is this thing that ye do? Then answered I them, The God of Heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build. So built we the wall; for the people had a mind to work." -- Nehemiah 2:19-20; Nehemiah 4:6.

THE BUILDING of the ruined walls of Jerusalem, as the record shows, was undertaken in troublous times. Some of the petty rulers in the neighbourhood, exulted in the low estate of the city, because it left room for the exercise of their authority, and they viewed these renewed activities with chagrin. They plotted for the overthrow of the work, and had to be met by incessant watchfulness.

If you are endeavouring to do God's work in the world, to clear away the rubbish of sin, to rebuild the walls that are broken down, and to seek the welfare of God's people, do not be surprised if your steps are beset with scorn and ridicule, by the secret or open malice of Sanballat and Tobiah. For some it is easier to face bitter opposition than to bear mockery and ridicule. If only these scornful and carping tongues were silenced, we could make more headway, but such persecution drives us back on God, makes Him a living fact in life, and opens the door to the manifestation of the saving health of His right hand (Neh4:4, Neh4:9, Neh4:20). How good it is, at such times, to cease from man, and to remember the Lord who is the great and terrible One (Neh1:5; Isa51:12-13). Be quite sure that you are on His plan, doing His work in His way; then go forward in His Name, and he will make all the mountains a way.

The lesson for us all is the threefold aspect of the Christian life. There is our up-look into God's face--"I prayed to the God of Heaven." We must never forget to pray, for more things are wrought by prayer than we realize. Second, there is our up-look against our foes and the foes of God--"we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night." We must watch as well as pray. Lastly, there is our dawn-look towards the work entrusted to us, at which we must labour with unslacking devotion, in fellowship with our Lord (1Co3:9). Let each inquire: "Am I inside the city amongst its builders, or outside amongst its detractors and foes?"

PRAYER

O God, teach us day by day what Thou wouldst have us to do, and give us grace and power to fulfil the same. May we never from love of ease, decline the path which Thou pointest out, nor, for fear of shame, turn way from it. AMEN.

Spiritual Message

From *Explore the Book*.

By J. Sidlow Baxter

As we watch the strong, earnest, godly hero, Nehemiah, resolutely leading the rebuilding in the first part of the book, then resolutely resisting compromise and laxity and intrigue in the second part of the book, we find the spiritual message of it all coming home to us with great forces, Let us heed its voice to us. There is no opportunity without opposition. There is no "open door" set before us without there being many "adversaries" to obstruct our entering it (1 Cor. 16:9). Whenever the saints say, "Let us arise and build," the enemy says, "Let us arise and oppose." There is no triumph without trouble. There is no victory without vigilance. There is a cross in the way to every crown that is worth wearing.

Lessons and analogies are everywhere in this book. There are the walls of a city of God to be built in every individual human heart. There are the walls of a city of God to be built among which are involved in all such building, if it is to be successful building in the true sense. And we must add that Nehemiah himself is a really first-rank character-study. He stands out conspicuously as a man of prayer, a man of faith, a man of courage, a man of action. Look up the verses and incidents which indicate these qualities. They are an inspiration to read and reflect on. The late Rev. Samuel Chadwick, beloved by all sound Methodists, once used the following words, or words very like them, in a prayer at a service which he was conducting in Manchester: "O Lord, make us intensely spiritual, but keep up perfectly natural and thoroughly practical." As we recall that prayer we cannot but think how Nehemiah and Samuel Chadwick eminently fulfilled the terms of that prayer, and both were singularly owned of God as spiritual builders and soldiers. May God raise up a numerous succession to them among the needy churches of our day!

So the wall was finished.—Nehemiah. 6.15

From Life Applications from Every Chapter of the Bible

by G. C. Morgan

The significant word in the statement is the word "so," as it calls us to reconsideration of how the dangerous and difficult work was accomplished. Inclusively and exhaustively, we may at once say, the work was of God. That wall was the out-ward and visible symbol of the inclusion and guarding of the Remnant, until the Messiah should come, and the Faith should appear. From now until then, this remnant was to be kept in ward. The Law was the custodian to bring them to Christ. The wall was the material expression of that isolation and security. When we turn from that consideration of the building of the wall by the will and through the overruling of God, to the human agencies, we find that the wall was built through the patriotism and high devotion of one man; and through the fact that he was able, by his influence and leadership, to weld the people into a unity of heart and purpose and endeavour which carried the sacred work to completion. The efforts of this man and the people were characterized by caution and courage, and passionate persistence against all opposing forces. Perhaps this latter quality is the most out-standing. By all means the enemies of the work sought to prevent its carrying out. Having begun in contempt, and proceeded through conspiracy, they turned to subtlety. Against every method, Nehemiah and his helpers were proof. Nothing turned them aside until the wall was finished. This strength against opposition was the outcome of a clear sense of the greatness of their task. Thus God's walls are ever built, God's work is always done. He leads and guides and compels circumstances to aid His workers; and they respond in agreement with His purpose, and in resolute refusal to allow anything from without or within to hinder them.