

BECOMING A REBUILDER

There are many difficulties and shortcomings that we can see around us. How can we take these problems and rebuild them into something good? The Book of Nehemiah gives us many of the keys we need.

Nehemiah was used by God to rebuild his city and people so they would be prepared for the coming of Christ. In our day we need to also become rebuilders to prepare our lives, our families, our communities, and our churches for the 2nd Coming of Christ.

STEP # 1: NEHEMIAH RECEIVED A BURDEN

verses 1-4 Nehemiah learned of the distress and reproach of God's people.

- We must seek to know the condition of our life, family, and of the people of God!
Sometimes we prefer to ignore but then they only grow worse
- Prov.27:23-24 Be diligent to know their condition- or they may not last!

verses 5-11 Nehemiah wept and prayed

- When we see the problems around us, we need to pray!
- Ask God to forgive the sins that caused the problems
- Ask the Lord to restore His people, and use YOU to help rebuild!

STEP # 2: NEHEMIAH GAINED THE NEEDED AUTHORITY

Neh. 1:11d Nehemiah had developed a close relationship to the king, he was his cupbearer.

- His work was to bring joy to the king (wine brings a natural joy, Ps.104:15, Eph.5:18). Nehemiah knew how important joy is, Neh.8:10. This should be our desire & ministry also, to bring our King joy, Jn.4:23.
- The king's cupbearer held a position of great trust. He was to protect the king, (from being poisoned), and often became one of the king's counselors, because he spent much of his time being close to the king, Gen.41:9-14.

Neh. 2:1-3 Nehemiah expressed his sadness and his burden to the king. It was an insult to the king for one of his close servants to express sadness, or any attitude that could show displeasure to the king. A cupbearer could poison his king, so a king would be very careful about the cupbearer's attitudes toward him. Expressing sadness would be punished!

Neh.2:4-9 Because Nehemiah had a relationship with the King, and he had a godly burden for his people, Nehemiah was able to turn the heart of the King to favor his nation & Jerusalem, Neh.2:4-6. He was given authority to go and rebuild Jerusalem, Neh.2:7-9.

STEP # 3 NEHEMIAH OVERCAME THE OPPOSITION AGAINST THE REBUILDING

Neh.4:1-3 Mocking and Reproach: 'You will never change,' 'Your feeble attempts will do no good.'

Neh.4:7-8 Attack threatened: for us, perhaps sickness or demonic attack. Defend yourself, Neh.4:17-18, Eph.6:10-13.

Neh.5:1-4 Financial hindrances: learn to tithe (Mal.8-10) and be a good example (Neh.5:8 & 14-15).

Neh.6:1-4 Compromise: Nehemiah ignored it, v.3. Honor God and He will honor you, 1 Sam.2:30

STEP # 4 NEHEMIAH REBUILT THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM

Neh.2:17 Walls can bring natural and spiritual protection, Is.26:1. We must rebuild the walls for:

- Our own life, Prov.25:28
- Our families, Job.1:10, 1:4-5, Song of Sol.8:8-9
- Our church, Zech.2:4-5 (Jerusalem is a type of the Church, Gal.4:26)

Our walls, or spiritual defenses, are broken down because of:

- Negligence or laziness, Prov.24:30-34
- An unguarded heart, Prov.25:28

- Sin, Ps.51:1-2 & 18
- Foolishness, Prov. 14:1
- The attack of Satan, Job 1:12-19

Neh.6:15 Nehemiah rebuilt the walls in only 52 days. The Lord will also do a quick work in our days to defeat the enemy and complete His victorious Church, Mt.16:18

STEP # 5 NEHEMIAH REBUILT THE GATES OF JERUSALEM

The city of Jerusalem is a type of the Church, Gal.4:26. The 10 gates of Jerusalem that Nehemiah rebuilt reveal 10 steps that we must also accomplish, to restore the Church. Ten is the number that speaks of trials and testing (Dan.1:12, Num.14:22, Rev.2:10), and these 10 gates that Nehemiah rebuilt in troublous times show us what we must restore to become the victorious, glorious Church.

GATE #1 THE SHEEP GATE, NEH.3:1. Spiritual meaning: RESTORE THE SHEEP, John 10:1-9

GATE # 2 THE FISH GATE, NEH.3:3. Spiritual meaning: EVANGELIZE THE LOST, Mt.4:19

GATE # 3 THE OLD GATE, NEH.3:6. Spiritual meaning, RESTORE THE OLD:

- A. Jeremiah 6:16 Restore the old church standards of holiness
- B. Joel 2:25 Restore the old backsliders

GATE # 4 THE VALLEY GATE, NEH.3:13. STRENGTHEN THE DISCOURGED AND WEAK.

We must lead God's people out of the valleys into the City of God, out of valleys such as:

- A. The Valley of Achor (Trouble), Josh.7:25-26
- B. The Valley of Baca (Weeping), Ps.84:6

GATE # 5 THE DUNG GATE, NEH.3:13,14. REMOVE THE UNCLEANNES:

- A. Remove uncleanness from the Church, 2 Cor.7:1
- B. Remove the uncleanness of the old nature from our life, Phil.3:8

GATE # 6 THE FOUNTAIN GATE, NEH.3:15. Spiritual meaning: CLEANSING & REFRESHING
Zech.13:1, Rev.7:17

GATE # 7 THE WATER GATE, NEH.3:26. Spiritual meaning: RESTORING THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD, Neh. 8:1-3, Eph.5:26

GATE # 8 THE HORSE GATE, NEH.3:28. Spiritual meaning: THE OVERCOMERS ARISE, Job 39:19-25 describes the horse as strong and fearless in battle. It speaks of the overcomers, just as Christ and all the overcomers with Him shall return on white horses, Rev.19:11-14. We are told that Judah will be God's goodly horse in the battle, Zech.10:3. We can also read how Mordecai became an overcomer when he was set upon a horse, Est.6:10-13. We need to rebuild the horse gate for the overcomers to arise in the Church! Then the enemies of God can be overcome, just as the evil Queen Athaliah was killed at the horse gate, 2 Chron.23:13.

GATE # 9 THE EAST GATE, NEH.3:29. Spiritual meaning: REVIVAL! The east gate is reserved for the Lord, Ez.44:1-2. The Lord will return in power and glory through the east gate, Ez.43:1-4. The east gate faces the rising sun, and will greet Christ the sun of righteousness when He arises with healing & victory, Mal.4:2-3. The water of life will also come out of the temple from the east gate, to bring the water of life to everything that it touches, as it causes many trees to flourish and a multitude of fish to be gathered in, Ez.47:1-12. When the Lord visits His people and brings revival, the river of revival power will flow out of the Church and cause the Christians to become trees of righteousness, with healing for the nations; as the unbelievers will be caught in multitudes by the fishers of men!

GATE # 10 THE INSPECTION OR RECRUITING GATE, NEH.3:31. This was where the army soldiers were gathered and inspected as they marched out to war. Spiritual meaning: THE ARMY OF GOD IS PREPARED FOR WAR. This is the final result when the people of God are restored, Ezek.37:10.