

Neh 11 – **In This Way . . . – Neh 6:15-19**  
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We come to **quite a FINALE** this morning

We are going to see the wall **FINISHED** today  
& we'd probably expect a **huge celebration**

& there **IS** a celebration coming  
actually – it's a **GREAT REVIVAL**

But today – we want to stop & '**Review**' – to remind ourselves  
of what it **took** – to Finish the Wall

**BEFORE** the **REVIVAL** could come

**Let's Pray** & we'll get started

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We need to **start** this morning  
by **talking about** the word "**SO**"

It's a **small** (& pretty complex) little word  
& it's **used** in many different ways

But **in one** of its uses - it means; **IN THIS MANNER** (*in this WAY*)

It's **used to tie** what has **gone before** it  
to **the conclusion** that **follows**

**I use it** this way a lot when I **teach**  
*So . . . because of all this . . . then, **THIS** occurs*

& **THAT** is how our **text starts** today

**Neh 6:15(A) – ESV**

***So the wall was finished . . .***

***So . . . in this way . . . the wall was finished***

In seems a bit **Anti-Climactic**, doesn't it  
***so the wall was finished***

But I believe it's one of the **MOST IMPORTANT lessons** we've learned so far in Neh

***IN THIS WAY the Wall of Testimony was finished***

Today's lesson – is about  
**Perseverance – Persistence – Resolve - Determination**

***IN THIS WAY the Wall of Testimony was finished***

**How often** have we **wanted** to just **QUIT**  
in the **middle** of building the **Wall of Testimony** in our lives

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**How often** have we wanted to **QUIT SERVING** God  
because **somebody** hurt our **feelings**

**How often** have we wanted to **QUIT** our **MARRIAGE**  
because it **seems** like it's just **too much work**

**How often** have we wanted to **QUIT** our **SOBRIETY**  
because **the Lure** of our **Addiction** is so strong

**How often** have we wanted to **QUIT** ??

**Even tho** God's Word tells us;  
**IN THIS WAY** the Wall of Testimony is finished

In **WHAT WAY** Nehemiah ??

In **WHAT WAY** was the Wall of Testimony finished ??

What was that **PATH** ?

What was the **PROCESS** ?

What was the **ROAD TAKEN** to finish the Wall ?

**THAT'S** a very **IMPORTANT Question**  
& a very **IMPORTANT Lesson**

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So **let's Look** at The **Path** Traveled – The **Road** Taken  
For Nehemiah **to get to** – the **FINISHED** Wall of Testimony

Because that little word **SO** – means **IN THIS WAY**

So let's **“Walk, in the WAY”** that Nehemiah took  
to **Finish** the Wall of Testimony

In **Ch 1** – God **Pierced** Nehemiah's **HEART**  
with a **Great Burden** for His **people**

**GOD** placed this Burden on Nehemiah's **heart**  
for the **people** of God – who had returned to Jerusalem

& **GOD** drove Nehemiah into **Mourning, Fasting, & Praying**  
- carrying the burden **GOD** gave him, back to **God**

**& it's very important to understand**

this was **NO** “**program**” Nehemiah “**put in place**”

this was **NO** “**formula to build a big church**” that Nehemiah bought  
at the last Church Growth Conference

God **PEIRCED** Nehemiah's **heart** with this Burden –  
**THAT'S** what **started** it

& **THAT** is the **NUMBER ONE Reason**  
the *Wall of Testimony* was **COMPLETED**

Because **GOD** *Started it* - **GOD** would *FINISH it*

Just **glance down** at the end of **Neh 6:16**  
*referring to Nehemiah's enemies*

**Neh 6:16(B) – NLT**

***16 . . . for they perceived that this work had been accomplished  
with the help of our God.***

Pls – listen carefully – **DO** what God has *Called* you to do  
But **ONLY DO** what God has *Called* you to do

**Your Testimony** for God - - **MUST** be *Initiated by GOD*  
If God **DIDN'T** start it – you probably **WON'T** finish it

We must **KNOW**, (beyond a *Shadow of a Doubt*)  
**what** God has called us to

& **THEN** – Because we **KNOW** it's from God  
We must be **ready** - to "**See it Thru**" to the **END**

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Next – in **Ch 2** – Nehemiah  
**Relied** on God for **Miraculous Provision** to begin the work

God opened *The Door of Opportunity* for Nehemiah  
& **THEN** – Nehemiah had to "**Step Thru It**"

Nehemiah **asked the King** for an incredible amount of **PROVISION**  
**ALL** of which he received  
& **then** Nehemiah had to actually - **GO**  
He had to "**Step Out**" – in Faith

He had to "**Release**" the Life he had **Formally KNOWN**  
& he had to **DIVE** into **Uncharted Waters**

### **& THEN - -**

After Nehemiah **KNEW** it was God's **Work**  
After Nehemiah **KNEW** he had God's **Provision**  
After **MUCH Prayer & MUCH Preparation**  
After **800 mi's** & probably **3 Months** of Hard **Travel**

**The first thing** that **happened** when **Nehemiah** rolled into town  
is he was **met** **SANBALLAT** & **TOBIAH**

& they had Big **Name Badges** on  
that said **ENEMY**

**Nehemiah** just gets **TO THE EDGE** of the work

& **these guys** walk up to him & say:  
***"Hi, we're THE ENEMY! Welcome to town"***

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& **then** – after meeting the **Enemy**  
After **Evaluating & Planning**,  
& after **Inspecting** the condition of the work before him

Nehemiah **Calls the People** to the Task  
He **Rallies the People** to Serve God – & **They all Agree**

But the **ENEMY** *Doesn't*

The Enemy **immediately** tries to **intimidate** Nehemiah

But **Nehemiah** responds with **CONFIDENCE**

because he **KNOWS** it was **GOD** who had *called him* to the work

& so - at the end of **Ch 2 – V.20** – Nehemiah **says** to the Enemy

**Neh 2:20 – NLT**

***20 . . . “The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build . . .”***

& **THAT** is the *confidence & determination* that comes from **KNOWING** that

God has **CALLED** you to the work- &  
God is **WITH YOU** in the work

& we also see - in this VS – that **Great**  
**“God’s Part / Our Part”** truth

***“The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we will arise and build . . .”***

God **WILL** make it *happen* - & we **MUST** *arise & build*

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**NEXT** – in **Neh Ch 3** – the work **really begins** -

The **Wall of Testimony** really begins to Be Built

& we looked at **FIVE Different types of people**

who **ALL** had to work in **UNITY** - for the work to begin

1) The **Leaders** – *who had to be first in the trenches*

2) People from **Surrounding** areas – *called in to help*

- 3) Craftsmen & Businessmen – *who brought skills & money*
- 4) The 'Every Person' – *the “church” in general*
- 5) Those who built around Their Own Home – *most important*  
& it took everyone working together – in UNITY  
to get the Wall of Testimony Started - & Built

This was a phenomenal task  
& it was accomplished in a miraculous time

It was a Testimony that took BOTH  
The POWER of God - & the UNITY of the People

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In fact – JUST HOW Miraculous  
WAS the building of the Wall of Testimony ??

I'm GLAD you asked

because I've been saving this little bit of Information  
until just the right time

With God's POWER & the People's UNITY  
*In spite of serious obstacles*

Let's read (finally) ALL of Neh 6:15

Neh 6:15 – NLT

*15 So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun.*

Just FIFTY-TWO days – Are you KIDDING ???

FIFTY-TWO Days – & ALL this Occurred  
in FIFTY-TWO Days

WITHOUT Facebook, Twitter, Email, Cellphones, Texting  
Without ANY of that - in 52 Days!!

THAT – my friends – is a MIRACLE !!

**& IN THIS WAY – the Wall was Finished !!**

In this Incredible, Supernatural Way – **the Wall was Finished**

Had it been EASY ??

Had it been an UPHILL BATTLE all the way ??

Did it require UNITY among the People of God ??

Was it WORTH IT ??

**A phenomenal Testimony for God**  
**Done** in a *miraculously* **Short Time**  
**Against** *incredible* **Odds**

**ALL** pointing – to the **POWER** of God  
**ALL** done – to the **GLORY** of God

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& **by the way** – *isn't it interesting* that the **NLT** says;  
this occurred **on OCT 2**

that **implies** some pretty **PRECISE Dating**, doesn't it?

**IN the footnote – the NLT says**

Hebrew: ***on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar.*** This day was October 2, 445 b.c.

Doesn't it just **BLOW** your **mind**  
how absolutely **Precise** & **Accurate** God's Word is ?



**& IN THIS WAY – the Wall was Finished !!**  
**On Oct 2, 445 bc**

**& WHAT was the RESPONSE – In the ENEMY Camp  
to the Wall of Testimony being finished ??**

**Neh 6:16 – NLT**

***16 When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.***

**Nehemiah - & the People of God**

**STOOD together in the Battle**

**KEPT building the Wall**

**STRENGTHENED one another**

**REFUSED to QUIT until the work was FINISHED**

**& the enemy (most of them)  
became Frightened & Humiliated**

**when they REALIZED this work had been done  
in the POWER of GOD**

**Man – Isn't that what YOU & I want  
in building OUR Testimony for God ??**

**Don't you want to PROVE to the Enemy**

**that God is FOR YOU,**

**that God is WITH YOU, &**

**that God will SEE YOU THRU ??**

**Isn't that what you & I want – for OUR Testimony ??**

Then there's **ONE THING** that we **MUST DO**

We **MUST STAY** at **the TASK** !!!

We must **STAND** - & continue to **STAND**  
in **order to see** - the *Glory of the Lord*

We must be found

**STANDING, SERVING, RELYING** on God

& **GOD** Himself will *see us thru* - & **God** will get the **GLORY**

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So the people of God had **STICK WITH** the Task

But **is that ALL** they had **to do**? - *Just keep working?*

No – I'm **afraid not**

**Not only** did they have to **STICK WITH** the **Task**

They **had** to **do it**

in the **FACE** of **CONSTANT OPPOSITION**

& in **Ch 4** – Nehemiah's Enemies

**REALLY** turned up the **HEAT**

**Neh 4:1 – NLT**

***1 Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews,***

The Enemy **began** by **MOCKING** God's People

**Then they became furious**

& made **plans to fight** against God's People

& throw **them into confusion** - in **Neh 4:8**

Then they promised to swoop down & kill them in Neh 4:11

& Then - they spread fear into God's People  
by telling them they'd come from ALL Directions  
& Attack them all at once

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In the Face – of Constant Opposition from the enemy  
*SO, the wall was Finished*

*IN THIS WAY, the wall was Finished*

In Fact - we counted SEVEN different ways (total)  
that Nehemiah RESPONDED to the Enemy

In CH 4 - First Nehemiah had Everyone PRAY (*always best start*)  
Then he set up GUARDS day & night, to protect the city  
Then he encouraged the People of God to Stand & Fight

he said in Neh 4:14 – NLT

*14 . . . “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”*

DON’T be Afraid of the Enemy

REMEMBER the Lord

& FIGHT – for your brothers, sons, daughters, wives, & homes

STAND against the Enemy - & CONTINUE to STAND  
on BEHALF of those God has Entrusted to you

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& then he had **HALF** the men work on the Wall of Testimony  
& the other **HALF** stand guard against the **ENEMY**

Then he had **even those** Building the Wall  
**Build** with ONE hand - & **Hold a SWORD** in the other

& **One Thing** for sure - we've **learned** from Nehemiah is

Any Lasting Testimony that is Built for God  
Will be built - **in the face** of **Constant Opposition**

& that **INCLUDES** Building a Testimony of a **Godly Marriage**  
& Building a Testimony of a **Godly Family**

***IN THIS WAY – The Wall is Finished***

If you're thinking about **QUITTING** what God has **called you to**  
because it's getting **HARD**

***Man, GET OVER IT !!***

The **ONLY WAY** the Enemy **EVER WINS** in our lives  
is **IF WE QUIT** !!!

Jesus Christ has already **WON the Victory**

God has already **INSURED the Outcome**

Our ONLY Job is to **RUN the RACE** – TO THE VERY END !!

**AMEN ???**

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**Not only** did the Enemy mount a huge attack in **CH 4**

But in **CH 5** Nehemiah had to deal with his **OWN PEOPLE**  
who were **taking advantage** of *One Another*

& *in that CH* – we also **got to see** Nehemiah's **OWN INTEGRITY**  
Because of his **Reverence**, & **Respect**, & **Awe** of God

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& then – in the **1<sup>st</sup> half of CH 6** – The Enemy was **BACK**  
with an **ALL OUT** / **NO HOLDS BARRED** *Barrage of attacks*

& *These Attacks* - **came** at Nehemiah **PERSONALLY**

**3 Different Attacks** – **3 Different Schemes** – **Back to Back**

**ALL designed** to take Nehemiah **OUT** !  
& **thereby** – *to take out the work of God*

And Nehemiah **WITHSTOOD** Every Attack  
& Stayed **ON THE JOB** to *finish the work* God had called him to

**IN THIS MANNER** – *The Wall was Finished*  
**IN THIS WAY** – *The Wall was Finished*

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& Now – as we come to the **last half of CH 6**  
We have some **GOOD news** - & some **BAD news**

The **GOOD NEWS is** – When your Testimony reaches a **MILESTONE**  
**SOME** of your enemies will be **QUIETED**

The **BAD NEWS** is – **No matter what Milestones**  
your Testimony **reaches**

**SOME** of your enemies will **NEVER** be **QUIETED**

We've already seen **the GOOD News** - in **Neh 6:16**

**Neh 6:16 – NLT**

***16 When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.***

Maybe you **just Committed** your **Life** to Christ  
& you just **started honoring** & **obeying** God

& **maybe** you have **people** in your life saying  
***“Oh, it’s OK, I’m sure it’s just a fad, it’ll wear off”***

**I had people** saying **things** like that to **me** too  
when I **started** following Jesus **over 30 years** ago

But **guess what** – They **don’t say** that anymore !!

**As you** allow **Jesus Christ** to **Radically Transform** your life

**As you** begin to **consistently LIVE for God**

**MANY** of your Critics will be **silenced**

they will eventually say – ***Wow, I guess that Jesus thing is REAL  
because it has definitely changed their Life***

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**HOWEVER** – not **ALL** of your Critics will **go that way**

**Some** of your **Enemies** will be like **TOBIAH**

Who was **not interested** in *Evidence*  
that **God** was **at work** in **Nehemiah's** life - & *the people's* lives

**TOBIAH** will remain a **constant problem**  
**ALL thru-out** the book of Nehemiah

& if **YOU** have **someone like him** in your life  
then . . . I'm **really sorry**

**TOBIAH** was a Jew  
*At some level* he claimed to **Worship** the **God** of Israel

However – **TOBIAH** would be a **CONSTANT Source**  
of **Opposition**, **Conflict**, & **Difficulty** - *thru-out the Entire Book*

For 12 years **TOBIAH** Opposed *Nehemiah*  
& the *work of God* - - **FROM THE INSIDE**

Which is **the WORST** – of **the WORST**

The **Sad Moral** of that story is  
**NOT everyone** in Church – is **ON** God's **TEAM**

& tho we hate to **ADMIT** it  
We need to be **AWARE** of it

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**Let's read** about **Tobiah** - in **Neh 6:17-18**

**Neh 6:17-18 - NLT**

***17 During those fifty-two days*** (the entire time), ***many letters went back and forth between Tobiah and the nobles*** (leaders) ***of Judah.***

***18 For many in Judah had sworn allegiance to him because his father-in-law was Shecaniah son of Arah*** (a Levite, & keeper of the East Gate), ***and his son Jehohanan was married to the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah*** (built two sections of the wall & may also have been a Gatekeeper).

**Tobiah** had worked very hard to get on the "**Inside**" with the intention of **Creating Conflict**

**He was tied** (By Marriage) to **people** who were actually **trying to HELP** Build the Wall

He had established **Sworn Allegiance** with many in Judah

He was **related by Marriage** to a **Levite** & **Gate-Keeper** (Shecaniah)

He was **related by Marriage** to a family that **built 2 sec's** of the wall

**In my experience** – in the church,  
**THESE** are the **most dangerous** of **ALL** people

Because they're **always working** some **Angle**  
to **benefit** their own **Agenda**

We have got to be **AWARE**, & **ALERT**  
for these **kind** of people in the church

They have **no desire** to be Part of **God's Plan**  
& they **work very hard** to make **YOU** Part of **Their Plan**

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& **V.19** is a perfect example of how they work

**Neh 6:19 – NLT**

***19 They*** (the people w/ allegiance to Tobiah) ***kept telling me about Tobiah's good deeds, and then they told him everything I said. And Tobiah kept sending threatening letters to intimidate me.***

The people **Tobiah** had “***gotten to***” were being **used** by him to continually **MESS** with **Nehemiah**

They would **tell Nehemiah**  
all these “**glowing**” things about **Tobiah**

& **then** whatever **Nehemiah** said  
they would **run back** & tell ***Tobiah***

& then **Tobiah** would **TWIST** that Information  
& use it for his **SLANDER** campaign (*1<sup>st</sup> half of Ch 6*)

**AND** – he was **continually** sending Nehemiah **Threatening Letters**  
to try to **intimidate** him

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And, *You know what ? ?*

**IN THIS WAY – The Wall Was Finished**

**THIS** is the **path** – That **Nehemiah**, & the People of God, **walked**  
in order to **COMPLETE** the **Wall of Testimony**

**IN THIS WAY – The Wall Was Finished**

**But Pls** – Don't be **Discouraged** - - - Be **Encouraged**

Starting in **CH 8** - We are going to see **JOY** in *the People* of God  
Like Israel **had not seen** in **HUNDREDS** of Years

There is **incredible JOY**  
in **Building** the *Wall of Testimony* **God's way**

But we must constantly **LOOK PAST** the Difficulty  
that **comes** with doing anything significant for God

& we must **STAY ENCOURAGED**

**(for David - let me quote) Jos 1:9 – NKJ**

***9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.***

*The Lord our God* is **WITH US** - & that's what  
**brings** us **JOY** – **AND** the **STRENGTH**, to finish the Wall

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**Whatever** the **difficulty** that makes us - want to **QUIT**  
**whatever** the **reason** we give - to **not go on**

**We can know**, for Certain – **Jesus Christ**  
has **experienced** it 1,000 times **MORE**

We'll **never walk** the road **Jesus** travelled  
in order to Finish **His** work

We'll **never have** to **persevere**  
thru the **Fire** that **He** experienced *for US*

We closed last wk's Msg with **Heb Ch 12**  
& it (again) is a **PERFECT** Reminder **HERE**

### **Heb 12:1-4 – ESV**

***1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,***

***2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising (disregarding) the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.***

***3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.***

***4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.***

### **IN THIS WAY**

The Wall of Testimony is **FINISHED !!**

### **Let's Pray**