

# THE FREEDOM TO REBUILD AND RECLAIM

## *“A Time to Reclaim and Rebuild”*

(Nehemiah 2:11-20)

*“So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. 12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. 13 I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. 14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King’s Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. 15 Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work. 17 Then I said to them, ‘You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision.’ 18 And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, ‘Let us rise up and build.’ So they strengthened their hands for the good work. 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, ‘What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?’ 20 Then I replied to them, ‘The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.’”*

### ❖ A Time to Reclaim

- Reclaim Our Identity as the People of God
  - Am I a child of God or am I a child of happenstance (coincidence) and fate (fatalism)?

- Do I believe in and trust Christ (*faith*) or is it man and what he can do for me (*humanism*)?
- As children born of God, Jesus shares with us:

- All the Spiritual Resources that Belong to Him - John 16:15 says,

*"All that belongs to the Father is mine...the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you" (John 16:15)*

- His Friendship - John 15:15 says,

*"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15)*

- His Love - John 15:9 says,

*"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love" (John 15:9)*

- His Joy - John 15:11 says,

*"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11)*

- His Glory - John 17:22 says,

*"I have given them the glory that you [Father] gave me" (John 17:22)*

- His Risen Life - *Colossians 3:1-4* says,

*"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God...When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:1-4)*

- His Inheritance - *Romans 8:17* says,

*"If we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory" (Romans 8:17)*

- His Eternal Reign - *Revelation 3:21* says,

*"To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne" (Rev. 3:21)*

- **Reclaim Our Place in the Plan of God**

- Resist Complacency (*status quo* or pleased with unproductive situations) or Inaction

- Take Initiative and Be Proactive

- God Created You to TAKE ACTION

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God*

*prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)*

- Turn Aspiration into Action
- Turn Someday into this Day

*“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” (James 4:17)*

- ***Reclaim Our Heritage in the Providence of God***

- Heritage Defined
- Heritage is Found in the Reclamation of the Promises of God

- ❖ **A Time to Rebuild**

*“Open the gates, that the righteous nation may enter, the one that remains faithful.” (Isaiah 26:2)*

*“Lift up your heads, ye gates; and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors and the King of Glory shall come in.” (Psalms 24:7)*

- **Preparation: Three Kinds of Preparation Are Necessary**

- Head Preparation – The Development of a Sure Purpose
  - The gate of revelation dispels ignorance and opens the door to the mind of God.

- The gate of faith dispels doubt and opens the door to the miracles of God.
  
- Heart Preparation – The Development of A Burning Passion – (2:11)
  - Study the Situation
    - ✓ Recognition – Day one; you truly recognize the problem before you.
    - ✓ Resignation – Resigned to the fact that you can't solve the problem by yourself.
    - ✓ Resurrection – God brings resurrection and makes you ready. You, then become a gate.

- See the Significance

Nehemiah *"wept over the ruins in the night."*

- Hand Preparation – The Development of A Sound Plan (vv. 13-20)

*"He viewed the wall."*

- Avoiding Three Enemies

*"But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant and an Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, 'what is this thing that ye do? Will ye rebel against the king?'" (Nehemiah 2:19)*

- ✓ Sanballat – The Representative of Satan
- ✓ Tobiah – The Representative of the Flesh
- ✓ Geshem – The Representative of the World

- Acknowledging Four Things

*"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 2:20)*

- ✓ It is Jehovah God Who will Prosper Us
- ✓ We are His Servants
- ✓ We Will Arise and Build
- ✓ The Enemy has No Portion, Right or Memorial in Me (Jerusalem)

- Acquiring Five ingredients for Success!

- ✓ A Noble Purpose – A purpose that's larger than you.
- ✓ A Willing People – Though they can't accomplish it, they stand ready.
- ✓ A Burning Passion – The fire of God must be kindled in them.
- ✓ A Clear Plan – More important that it be clear than good. People will follow you through mistakes.

- ✓ A Tenacious Persistence – Praise the successes and point all failures in the direction of success.