

That's Crazy Week 5 09/28/25

600 YEARS BEFORE JESUS, ISRAEL IS CONQUERED

BASICALLY, IT WAS A BAD TIME FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

"VISION IS BORN IN THE SOUL OF A MAN OR WOMAN WHO IS CONSUMED WITH THE TENSION BETWEEN WHAT IS AND WHAT COULD BE."

ANYONE WHO IS EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED—FRUSTRATED, BROKENHEARTED, MAYBE EVEN ANGRY—ABOUT THE WAY THINGS ARE IN LIGHT OF THE WAY THEY BELIEVE THINGS COULD BE, IS A CANDIDATE FOR A VISION." ANDY STANLEY

"EVERYBODY ENDS UP SOMEWHERE IN LIFE; FEW PEOPLE END UP SOMEWHERE ON PURPOSE"

"DREAMERS DREAM ABOUT THINGS BEING DIFFERENT. VISIONARIES ENVISION THEMSELVES MAKING A DIFFERENCE."

"DREAMERS THINK ABOUT HOW NICE IT WOULD BE FOR SOMETHING TO BE DONE. VISIONARIES LOOK FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETHING."

VISIONEERING IS THE COURSE ONE FOLLOWS TO MAKE DREAMS A REALITY

I was in Susa the citadel, and Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." Nehemiah 1:-1-3 (NIV)

WHY WERE THE WALLS & GATES SUCH A BIG DEAL? WALLS MEANT SAFETY AND SECURITY, NOT JUST FOR THEM, BUT FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME

As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:4 (NIV)

WHAT BREAKS YOUR HEART?

Now I was cupbearer to the king. Nehemiah 2:1 (NIV)

BECAUSE OF THE CONSTANT FEAR OF PLOTS AND POISONING, A PERSON HAD TO BE REGARDED AS THOROUGHLY TRUSTWORTHY TO HOLD THE POSITION OF CUPBEARER. HIS CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KING OFTEN GAVE HIM A POSITION OF GREAT INFLUENCE.

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Nehemiah 2:1-2 (NIV)

OPPORTUNITY APART FROM PREPARATION RESULTS IN MISSED OPPORTUNITY

And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. Nehemiah 2:8 (NIV)

WHY WOULD A FOREIGN KING GIVE MONEY AND SOLIDERS TO A CONQUERED PEOPLE SO THEY COULD REBUILD THEIR WALLS?

If you persist in staying silent at a time like this, help and deliverance will arrive for the Jews from someplace else; but you and your family will be wiped out. Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this.” Esther 4:14 (MSG)

GOD IS USING YOUR CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES TO POSITION AND PREPARE YOU

THE AVERAGE AGE IN MISSION CONTROL IN 1969 WAS 27

But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel. Nehemiah 2:10

Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters. Nehemiah 3:11-12 (NIV)

VISIONCASTERS RARELY BRING NEW INFORMATION TO THE TABLE. WHAT THEY BRING IS AN IMPASSIONED CONCERN ABOUT AN EXISTING PROBLEM; THEY BRING FRESH EYES.

I (Nehemiah) was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Some time later I asked his permission and came back to Jerusalem. Here I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's household goods out of the room. Nehemiah 13: 6-8 (NIV)

AND JUST TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY...

One of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite. Nehemiah 13:28

Remember me with favor, my God. Nehemiah 13:31(NIV)

DESPITE NEHEMIAH'S "FAILURE" WE KNOW SOME STILL CHOSE TO FOLLOW GOD
BECAUSE A POOR TEENAGE GIRL 400+ YEARS LATER RESPONDED TO GOD LIKE THIS:

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Luke 1:38
(NIV)

"NEHEMIAH'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL REFORMS AMONG THE PEOPLE DON'T ADDRESS
THE CORE ISSUES OF THEIR HEART." THE BIBLE PROJECT

"WE CAN ONLY CONNECT TO SALVATION WHEN WE CAN SAY I'VE GOT NOTHING" TIME
KELLER

FINAL THOUGHT: WHAT BREAKS YOUR HEART?