

Hurricane Christianity Series

A Time To Rebuild! Nehemiah 1-2

3 kinds of people in the world:

Make things happen.. watch things happen..no idea what's happening!

This story takes place in **445BC in Shushan**...150 miles east of Babylon..750 miles from Jerusalem

Nehemiah means "**God is my Comforter**"

Nehemiah was a builder...he **had a vision** for Gods city

Nehemiah **set a record** for rebuilding Jerusalem's wall: 52 days (desolate for 100 years!)

Nehemiah was **the stepson of Queen Esther**...cupbearer??

Nehemiah was convinced it was **time to rebuild!**

- **Ecc 3:1-3** - *"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; 3 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up;*
- **YOU??**
- *Material; Relational; Spiritual??*

#1 - DESTRUCTION

10 Tribes: Captive from 722BC - **ASSYRIA**

2 Tribes: Captive from 605 BC - **BABYLON**

Nat. Return: Cyrus decree 539 BC - **PERSIA**

But since their return to the land almost a hundred years earlier, the wall of Jerusalem was broken down, and the burned remains of the city gates lie desolate on the ground.

Here at **CALVARY CHAPEL**, we have seen this principle lived out, before our very eyes...

QUESTION: What is it that in **YOUR** life that has been broken down? What has been destroyed in your life?

- *Material; Professional; Relational; Spiritual..??*

#2 - COMPASSION

Nehemiah showed he **CARED** about God's people! He took time to pray for others needs, and how he could be used in meeting those needs.

- **John 13:34-35**
- **1 Cor 13**

LARGE doors always swing on **SMALL** hinges!

- *David w his small sling and stone.*
- *Mary w her small frame and age.*
- *Paul w his small pen and paper.*
- *JESUS w his small human body...Cross!*

The Lord will give you the opportunity to do **SMALL** things, with **LARGE** love... and he will impact those around you!!

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- *Minerva...*

QUESTION: Are you walking in **LOVE** towards those around **YOU**? Are you showing **COMPASSION**, in small practical ways to the people in your life right now?

#3 - CONNECTION

The Lord was propositioning Nehemiah with amazing **CONNECTIONS** to powerful and influential people, who God would use to help him succeed in his mission of REBUILDING the city wall.

- *Joseph: Potiphar, Pharoah*
- *Daniel: Darius the king*
- *Paul: Military, Pol officials, Caesar*

Prov 21:1 NKJV - "*The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the 1rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.*"

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QUESTION: Who is the Lord **CONNECTING** you to, so that thru that relationship, God's Kingdom can grow? Who is the Lord bringing across your path, as a Divine **CONNECTION** to glorify Christ?

#4 - PROVISION

The Lord arranged for supernatural **PROVISION** to come to Nehemiah, so that the rebuilding effort could be properly funded, well supplied, and effective with manpower.

Where God **GUIDES**, He always **PROVIDES**; what God **ORDAINS**, He always **SUSTAINS!**

- **Phil** 4:19
- **Matt** 7:7-8
- **Eph** 3:20

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In your current situation, can you see the hand of GOD **PROVIDING** for your family?
Though you may have lacks, can you thank GOD for all that you **DO HAVE?** (Ps.23:1,5)

#5 - OPPOSITION

Because Nehemiah was engaged in a work of GOD, the enemy began to blatantly OPPOSE it. Satan used certain misguided and ignorant people, to OPPOSE the work of GOD and to hinder it, although Nehemiah was simply trying to serve and help them.

- John 10:10
- 1 Pet 5:8
- Eph 6:10

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How has the enemy tried to **OPPOSE** you moving forward in your efforts to rebuild? How has the enemy tried to **STOP** you/hinder you from being used of the Lord to help others in need?

- *Doubt? Fear? Discouragement?....*

- **Josh 1:9**

- **Neh 2:20**

Closing Illustration:

- El Meson...conversation w Sandy...House destroyed...Cross remains!