

Subject: “**Building for God**”
(**Victoriously**)

Scripture Reading: **Nehemiah (various chapters)**

I will assign **Scripture references** within the outline.

Introduction:

Whenever God wants to get a work done, He lays hold of a “willing man.”

The “walls of Jerusalem” had been ruined, a small remnant had returned, and there was much work that needed to be done!

Allow me to “outline” the early chapters of Nehemiah:

Chapter 1: Nehemiah “prays” for the work (cf. 1:1 & 2:1)

Nehemiah 1:1 (KJV)

¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,

Nehemiah 2:1 (KJV)

¹ And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, *that wine was* before him: and I took up the wine, and gave *it* unto the king. Now I had not been *beforetime* sad in his presence.

Chapter 2: Nehemiah “prepares” for the work.

Chapter 3: Nehemiah “prosper” in the work.

Chapter 4-7: Nehemiah and the “people” face the enemy.

The “enemy” used: ridicule, force, discouragement, fear, selfishness, guile, slander, and threats!

*Tonight, we are finishing our study in Nehemiah (part 4) with a sermon of my own (not the Drennan Leadership Book).

Sermon Question: “What Does it Take to Build/Re-Build Victoriously?”

I. **Realizing the Need—It takes a “Burden.”**

Nehemiah 1:2-4 (KJV)

² That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and *certain* men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

³ And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

⁴ And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

There must be a NEED and that NEED must be “realized!”

II. **Rallying to the Cause—It takes a “Brotherhood.”**

Nehemiah 2:11-20 (KJV)

¹¹ So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

¹² And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I *any* man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither *was there any* beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.

¹³ And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.

¹⁴ Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but *there was* no place for the beast *that was* under me to pass.

¹⁵ Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and *so* returned.

¹⁶ And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I

as yet told *it* to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

¹⁷ Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lieth* waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

¹⁸ Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for *this* good *work*.

¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the 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?

²⁰ 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 ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

Notice 4 things here:

1. **Nehemiah's Reconnaissance** (vv. 11-16).
2. **Nehemiah's Request** (v. 17).
3. **The Men's Response** (v. 18)
4. **Nehemiah's Rebuke** to the Enemy (V. 20)

Let us notice something else...

III. **Resisting Oppressive Forces—It takes a “Boldness.”**

Nehemiah 4:9 (KJV)

⁹ Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

Nehemiah 4:18-23 (KJV)

¹⁸ For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and *so* builded. And he that sounded the trumpet *was* by me.

¹⁹ And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of

the people, The work *is* great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

²⁰ In what place *therefore* ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

²¹ So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

²² Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

²³ So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, *saving that* every one put them off for washing.

Nehemiah 6:1-14 (KJV)

¹ Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and *that* there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)

² That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in *some one of* the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

³ And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

⁴ Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.

⁵ Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;

⁶ Wherein *was* written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith *it, that* thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words.

⁷ And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, *There is* a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

⁸ Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart.

⁹ For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, *O God*, strengthen my hands.

¹⁰ Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who *was* shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.

¹¹ And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who *is there*, that, *being* as I *am*, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.

¹² And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

¹³ Therefore *was* he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and *that* they might have *matter* for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

¹⁴ My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

⁹ Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

3. **He Resisted their Plea to “Come Down” (6:3)**

Nehemiah 6:3 (KJV)

³ And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

Cf: I Peter 5:5-11

1 Peter 5:5-11 (KJV)

⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

¹¹ To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Notice 3 things here:

1. **He Resisted their Ridicule (4:20)**

Nehemiah 4:20 (KJV)

²⁰ In what place *therefore* ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

2. **He Watched for their Attacks (4:9)**

Nehemiah 4:9 (KJV)

IV. **Relying upon the Power of Prayer—It takes a “Belief.”**

Nehemiah 1:5-11 (KJV)

⁵ And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

⁶Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

⁷We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

⁸Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, *If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:*

⁹But *if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.*

¹⁰Now these *are* thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

¹¹O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

Nehemiah 4:4-5 (KJV)

⁴Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity:

⁵And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked *thee* to anger before the builders.

Nehemiah 4:9 (KJV)

⁹Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

Nehemiah 6:9 (KJV)

⁹For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be

weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

Nehemiah 6:14 (KJV)

¹⁴My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

Now, one last thing we must do/be:

V. Rejoicing in Triumph—It brings a “Blissfulness.”

Nehemiah 6:15-16 (KJV)

¹⁵So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth *day of the month* Elul, in fifty and two days.

¹⁶And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard *thereof*, and all the heathen that *were* about us saw *these things*, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

Conclusion:

Let me show you in conclusion what they did that we must do if we are to “*Build for God—Victoriously*”:

1. **A Mind to Work (4:6).**
2. **A Heart to Pray (4:9).**
3. **An Eye to Watch (4:9; 4: 21-23).**
4. **An Ear to Hear (4:18-20).**

“You cannot escape the ‘responsibility’ of ‘tomorrow’ by evading it TODAY.” –Abraham Lincoln

Closing:

Allow me to take a minute and clear up a possible
“*misunderstanding*” from last Sunday night...

Thank you!

Invitation: “*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*” (2 or 3 verses)

Bruce Beach:

➤ WHBC-p.m. Dalton, Ga 2/19/23