

Welcome to the New America
6.26.22

Nehemiah 1: ³ They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

⁴ When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven

Why are we here?

-We live in a nation where truth has been watered down in many churches

-We live in a nation of acceptable murder

-We live in a nation of many immoral leaders

-We live in a nation where many, including national leaders have defied God's plan for order

-We live in a nation where many, if not most, have suppressed truth.

-We live in a nation that is quickly becoming more hostile to believers

-We live in a nation where Christian parents are failing their kids

Lack of commitment to a local church

Heb 10:25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Lack of personal training in all things spiritual at home

Prov 22:6 Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

Lack of protection from the enemy

-We live in a nation that like the rest of the world is experiencing end times events

2 Timothy 3:1-5

You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. ² For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. ³ They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. ⁴ They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. ⁵ They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

What do we do now in the New America?

Be informed of how first century believers lived.

John 18:18 "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. ¹⁹ The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

Philippians 3:20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

Be kind in the tension

Col 4:6 Let your conversation be gracious and attractive^a so that you will have the right response for everyone.

Be prayerful

1 Timothy 2:2 Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.

Proverbs 25:5 Remove the wicked from the king's court,
and his reign will be made secure by justice.

Be aware of the daily dangers

1 Peter 5:8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Be assertive regarding personal rights and protections

Luke 18:3 A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.'

Acts 25:10-11 But Paul replied, "No! This is the official Roman court, so I ought to be tried right here. You know very well I am not guilty of harming the Jews. ¹¹ If I have done something worthy of death, I don't refuse to die. But if I am innocent, no one has a right to turn me over to these men to kill me. I appeal to Caesar!"

Luke 22:36 "But now," he said, "take your money and a traveler's bag. And if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one! ³⁷ For the time has come for this prophecy about me to be fulfilled: 'He was counted among the rebels.'^[a] Yes, everything written about me by the prophets will come true

Be ready

To defend our faith

Jude 3 Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.

To present the gospel

1 Peter 3:15-16 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.^[a] Keep your conscience clear. Then if

people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ

Be thankful for hope!

2 Peter 3:13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

Close:

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"When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven" Nehemiah