

Let's Rebuild!

(Hope is never lost)

5.5.24

Nehemiah 2:18b They said, "Let's start rebuilding," and their hands were strengthened¹⁸ to do this good work.

I. A quick snapshot of Nehemiah

1:1-3 During the month of Chislev in the twentieth year, when I was in the fortress city of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men from Judah, and I questioned them about Jerusalem and the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile. They said to me, "The remnant in the province, who survived the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem's wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned." ...

He was broken hearted

1: ⁴ When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of the heavens.

He took a risk with the King

2:2 so the king said to me, "Why do you look so sad, when you aren't sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart."

I was overwhelmed with fear ³ and replied to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should I¹⁹ not be sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

He had many enemies

He completed the wall

6:15¹⁵ The wall was completed in fifty-two days, on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard this, all the surrounding nations were intimidated and lost their confidence,²⁰ for they realized that this task had been accomplished by our God.

II. What can learn

--God can restore our mess!

1: ⁸ Please remember what you commanded your servant Moses: "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples. ⁹ But if you return to me and carefully observe my commands, even though your exiles were banished to the farthest horizon,¹⁰ I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I chose to have my name dwell."

Phil 4:13 ¹³ I am able to do all things through him¹⁴ who strengthens me.

--Restoration begins with admitting our need for restoration

Confession

1:6-7 ⁶ let your eyes be open and your ears be attentive to hear your servant's prayer that I now pray to you day and night for your servants, the Israelites. I confess the sins¹¹ we have committed against you. Both I and my father's family have sinned. ⁷ We have acted corruptly toward you and have not kept the commands, statutes, and ordinances you gave your servant Moses.

I John 1:9 ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

--Restoration must be driven by a desire to let God change our lives.

2:10 ¹⁰ When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard that someone had come to pursue the prosperity of the Israelites, they were greatly displeased.

Matt 5:11-12 ¹¹ “You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. ¹² Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

I Peter 5:8 ⁸ Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

Eph 6:17 ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God.

--Restoration must be saturated by prayer

1: ⁶ let your eyes be open and your ears be attentive to hear your servant’s prayer that I now pray to you day and night for your servants, the Israelites.

Luke 18:7 ⁷ Will not God grant justice to his elect who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay helping them?^[a]

--Restoration must be done in community.

^{2:11} After I arrived in Jerusalem and had been there three days, ¹² I got up at night and took a few men with me.

Nehemiah 2:18b They said, “Let’s start rebuilding,” and their hands were strengthened^[a] to do this good work.

“Satan watcheth for those vessels that sail without a convoy.”

A Puritan Golden Treasury

****We need life cheerleaders**

Hebrews 10: And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

****We need life instruction/direction**

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,^[a] singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

****We need accountability**

Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit,^[a] watching out for yourselves so that you also won't be tempted. ² Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Close:

"Let's start rebuilding"