

the RESTORATION MAN

A series in the Old Testament
book of Nehemiah

What is the series about?

Nehemiah is a man in the Old Testament book of the Bible who is responsible for looking after King Artaxerxes - particularly serving Him wine. While doing this job he finds out that the temple walls in his hometown of Jerusalem have been destroyed and he leads the project of rebuilding them. Nehemiah's restoring work was but a shadow of the greater and final restoring work that Jesus did through his life, death, resurrection and ascension.

Listen to the audio

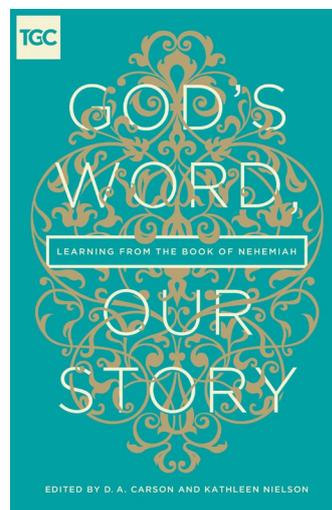
On the King's Norwich app or at:
kingsnorwich.com/nehemiah

Check out the blog

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Recommended Reading

God's Word, Our Story
D.A. Carson



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Title: What's so good about Walls?

Speaker: Marcus Tutt (All Sites) Bible Ref: Nehemiah 1

Overview

Nehemiah was a restoration man, but Jesus is the restoration man, rebuilding the kingdom of God, and the people of God, his church. Nehemiah, cup bearer to the Persian King Artaxerxes, was upset to hear that the walls of Jerusalem lay in ruin. Verse 3 gives us some insight into his strong reaction: i) Walls are defensive "in great trouble", ii) Walls are glorious "disgrace" (*Is 54:11-12; Rev 21:10-21*) and iii) Walls have doors which allow access "it's gates burned." Jesus is our glorious fortress, protecting us from sin, Satan, death and ultimately God's wrath (*Rev 6:16*). He is the door (*John 10:9*) giving access into God's presence and family. Rebuilding walls can be about putting in place Godly structures, habits and patterns of thinking that bring security and maturity to our lives. Restoring "gates" can be about making sure we are open, reaching out and receiving others into our lives pointing them to Jesus.

Questions to help your group understand the truth preached

On Sundays we hear God's word preached and as we listen well we trust that God is changing us in the moment. Use these questions to further explore the truth that was taught.

1. How do we know Nehemiah was really upset by the news?
2. Why was Nehemiah so upset?
3. What did he do in response?

Questions to help your group apply the truth preached

When applied, God's Word will enable us to love God and to love others. These questions will help your group apply the truth understood in a way that leads to transformed lives.

1. How can we rebuild walls and gates around God's truth (*i.e. so that we resist temptation, lies, and deception, so that God's word is seen as glorious, and so others can receive and understand it better?*)
2. How can we rebuild walls and gates around our behaviour? (*i.e. increasingly say no to unrighteousness, live lives that glorify God so that others see the difference, and invite others to be part of our lives and get to know Jesus*)
3. How can we rebuild walls and gates around our families and our friendships? (*i.e. build strong marriages that reflect God's glory, provide appropriate protection for our children while equipping them to be salt and light in the world, build strong friendships with those in the church family, open our friendships and families to others...*)

Questions to help your group dig deeper

Having understood the truth preached, and explored how it can be applied to your lives why not dig a little deeper and ask your group the following questions:

4. Why can/should walls be glorious?
5. How is Jesus our glorious fortress and our door?
6. What are some of the objections that your friends have against the gospel and how can we help them get past them?