

## The Book of NEHEMIAH

### Chapter 6

### “The Leader and Spiritual Warfare!”

#### I) DUTY! (v1-9)

**(v1-3) Nehemiah was a man of “duty.”** He was following the orders of his Commander-in-Chief, that is God. God called him to this work and Nehemiah was committed in heart, mind, soul and body. He would not be moved! He was committed to the calling of his commission. As Nehemiah had a “great work” so we have a “great commission!” Jesus, the Son of God, our Commander-in-Chief said in **Matt 28:18-20** - *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Paul tells us *“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* (**2 Cor 5:20-21**)

**(v4-7) The enemy of our soul is relentless.** His propaganda against the Christian faith is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. He is the Tokyo Rose of WWII or the Al-Jazeera of terror. So too, Nehemiah was harassed some five times, verbally and in writing. But a man of duty will not be **distracted**, he is discerning and determined to finish his course. **Discerning** because he knows and understands his enemy, Paul writes the following about our spiritual warfare, - *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (strategies) of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.* (**Eph 6:10-13**) **How is the enemy trying to destroy your walk with God? Is your faith fragile (doubting God)? Have you become worldly or immoral? Have you allowed your priorities to slip? Have your disciplines dissolved? Nehemiah is also determined,** the wall must be finished, the hill must be taken, the enemy must be defeated, or else victory will vanish! **J. Oswald Sanders** reflects the following, “When France fell to the German armies and Britain was left alone in the fight, the British cabinet met in their chambers with a sense of deep gloom. When Churchill entered, he looked around at the disconsolate ministers, then said, “Gentlemen, I find this rather inspiring.” Small wonder that he was able to galvanize a nation into effective counterattack.”

**(v8-9) The enemy of your soul is a liar.** He is the father of lies. Expect lies to be spoken about you and your Christian faith. The enemy will always try to intimidate you. Fear is not of **faith!** The Holy Spirit encourages us in **Phil 4:1** - *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Think about Nehemiah's bullet prayer in verse 10, *“Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.”* Your hands are for **worship**, raised in surrender and adoration to the King of kings and Lord of lords and clasp together in earnest **prayer**. Your hands are for **loving**, healing the hurting, helping the needy. Your hands are for the **work** of His Kingdom, building and battling! *“O' Lord, strengthen our hands.”*

#### II) HONOR! (v10-14)

**(v10-12)** Shemaiah wanted to lure Nehemiah into the Holy Place in the temple for refuge from a murder plot. To enter and shut himself in the Holy Place would have been a desecration of the house of God and would have caused people to question his reverence for God. Shemaiah was the son of a priest who was an intimate friend of Nehemiah. This plan would give them grounds to raise an evil report against Nehemiah, who was not a priest and had no right to go into the Holy Place (cf. 6:13). It could also make the people question his courage (v. 11).

**(v14)** Nehemiah, a man of honorable conduct would not dishonor his leadership position by retreating from the battlefield. He recognizes deceivers and their deceptions because he knows the truth and has faith in God. He will not allow religious or secular people to dissuade, nor disavow the plan of God.

> **Observe 4 warnings from the New Testament – (1) Jesus warns us regarding false prophets – Counterfeits - Matt 7:15-16 - “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. (2) Imposters - Matthew 24:4-5 - And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. (3) Peter speaks of false prophets and teachers - 2 Peter 2:1-3 – But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. (4) Jude tells us to contend for the Faith - Jude 3-4 - Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**(v13)** Satan wants us to sin in another temple, the temple of the **Holy Spirit** (2 Corin. 6:11-7:1).

### **III) COUNTRY! (v15-19)**

**(v15-16) The wall was amazingly finished in 52 days!** The peoples worship and work proved that the plan and project was of **God**.

**(v17-19) The nobles (political leaders) lacked backbone. They tried to please everybody (political correctness), but they forgot to please God. Matt 16:26-27 -** *For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. Mark 8:38 -Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

> **Proclaim the gospel in spite of opposition - Acts 5:27-32-** *And the high priest asked them, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."* The Church is divided - **False (Laodicea) & True (Philadelphia) - Revelation 3:7-22 -** "Keep His Word & don't deny His name!" Let's **"Go4God!"**