

## The Book of NEHEMIAH

### Chapters 3 & 4

#### *“Building & Battling”*

#### Chapter 3- “Arise & Build”

(v1-4) Nehemiah influenced Eliashib the high priest with his brethren and they built the Sheep Gate & the Tower of the Hundred and consecrated them. Then others *caught* the vision, answered the *call* and *committed* themselves to the work.

> **Two Keys for Kingdom building – Key #1 – INDIVIDUAL INSPIRATION - Heb 13:20-21-** *Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

- **Key #2 – CHURCH TEAMWORK - Heb 10:23-25-** *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

(v5) **“The nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of the LORD”-** Always realize that amongst the people there will be lazy sluggards. Don’t let them hinder your attitude with anger and bitterness, keep whistling while you work! Stay focused & God will reward you! In Col 3:23-25- *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.*

R.E. Thompson suggests these tests of our attitudes to people as an indication of our capacity for leadership:

- Do other people’s failures annoy us or challenge us? Yes or No
- Do we use people or cultivate people? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do we direct people or develop people? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do we criticize or encourage? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do we shun the problem person or seek him out? \_\_\_\_\_

(v6-32) **A good example breeds followers.** A prominent businessman once said, “If I had to name the one most important quality of a top manager, I would say, *personal integrity*—sincere in promise, faithful in discharge of duty, upright in finances, loyal in service, honest in speech.” J. Oswald Sanders in his classic book entitled *Spiritual Leadership* writes, “Only the disciplined person will rise to his highest powers. He is able to lead because he has conquered himself. A leader is a person who has first submitted willingly and learned to obey a discipline imposed from without, but who then imposed on himself a much more rigorous discipline from within. Those who rebel against authority and scorn self-discipline seldom qualify for leadership of a high order. They shirk the rigors and sacrifices it demands and reject the divine disciplines that are involved. The lazy and disorganized never rise to true leadership.” (Poem by George Liddel- Give Me a Man of God)

#### Chapter 4- “Build & Battle”

(v1-3) **The enemy will always mock God’s work through you (Sanballat & Tobiah); remember the words of our Lord Jesus- Matt 5:11-12-** *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”* Chuck Swindoll writes about life’s critics, “Critics constantly look at situations from a human point of view . . . They don’t stop to think that they may be criticizing God’s project . . . People who look at life from the human point of view have problems with projects that require giant steps of faith. We as Christians need to say to ourselves, “Am I really looking to God for vision, for growth, and for direction, or am I sitting back and saying, ‘Oh, let’s just maintain?’” We who would seek God’s best for our lives must learn to keep our eyes open and our attitudes positive—not lacking in discernment, but positive. Progress should not stop because a few are critical of the plan. Remember that!”

(v4-5) **Believers will always pray-** James 5:16-18- *The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

(v6) **“for the people had a mind to work”-** Let’s have a mind to work- **Philippians 2:1-8**

(v7-8) **The enemy conspires to create confusion-** 2 Cor 10:4-5- *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

(v9) **Set a watch! - #1- Watch against sin & temptation-** Mt. 26:41; Acts 20:31; 1 Cor. 16:13; Col. 4:2; 1 Peter 5:8.

#2- **Watch for the Second Coming of Christ-** Mt. 25:13; Luke 12:37; 1Thess. 5:5-6; Rev. 3:11; 16:15.

(v10-12) **Observe your enemy’s secret weapons - “discouragement” (v10); “fear” (v11); “anxiety” (v12).**

(v13-14) **We need - “encouragement” (v13); “faith” (v14a); “peace” (v14b)**

(v15-23) **“God will fight for us”- God fought for Moses against the Egyptians! Because he prayed!**

**God fought for Joshua in the promise land! Because he prayed!**

**God fought for David against Goliath! Because he prayed!**

**God fought for Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego at the fiery furnace! Because they prayed!**

**God fought for Daniel at the lion’s den! Because he prayed!**

**God will fight for Nehemiah! Because he prayed!**

**God fought for us at the cross of Christ! Because Christ prayed “not my will, but thy will**

*be done.”* Are we willing to get on our knees and fight like a man of God? Let’s finish well like Paul, who said, *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.* (2 Tim 4:7-8)