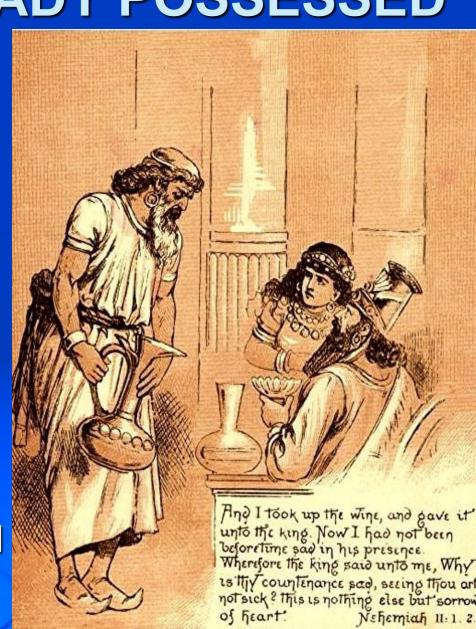
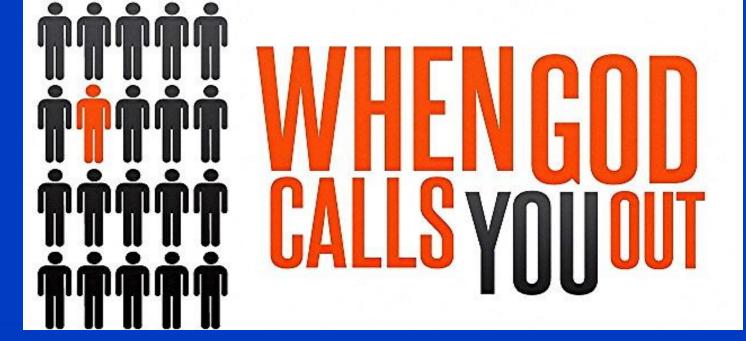


- A politician and government leader, sent to revive Judah's economy and institute safety and security
- Ezra a pious religious reformer, sent to re-establish the Law of Moses and revive Torah-based morality among the Jews
- Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem was the key, and they had lain in rubble for 175 years!
- When Nehemiah was in the Persian capital and learned about the sad state of Jerusalem he became obsessed with the desire to go there and do something about it

GOD USED THE ABILITIES THAT NEHEMIAH ALREADY POSSESSED

- The king wanted to help Nehemiah with his problem
- Nehemiah given safe passage, made governor of Judah
- Nehemiah's life in government prepared him for the task God gave him
- The Lord simply redirected those abilities and efforts to His purposes





- Be alert when God "calls" and say YES!
- "Who, me??!!" "How will this change things for me?"
- Nehemiah probably wrestled with those doubts, but God's invisible hand kept drawing him along
- God is the perfect judge of our qualifications for the task, but we see ourselves in our worldview
- Be WILLING. Be SINCERE. Door WILL open for you



I will Bless those who Bless you & CUISE those who CUISE you. It will be through you, shall be Blessed! **Genesis 12:3**

SANVALAT AND TOVIYAH

- On his journey Nehemiah encounters **Sanvalat** and **Toviyah**
- They were unhappy because: "..someone had come to promote the welfare of.....Israel"
- Genesis 12:3
- How can a "Believer" claim salvation in Jesus the Jew, but care nothing for His people, Israel?
- Or worse.....support Israel's enemies !!

YESTERDAY AND TODAY



- Sanvalat was ruler of Samaria
- Toviyah a ruler of Ammon
 - Elephantine Papyri proves existence of **Sanvalat**
- No reason given for their hatred of Israel
- The hatred of Israel is a spiritual battle
- Israel desperately needs a 21st century Nehemiah!
- Nehemiah wasn't surprised by the hostile attitudes of Sanvalat and Toviyah

- Rebuilding the walls only part of the plan
- By invigorating the economy Judah would gain more political clout
- Nehemiah went to inspect at night, likely on a mule or donkey
- They were sure-footed and made little noise compared to a horse

NEHEMIAH INSPECTS THE WALL AT NIGHT



JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF NEHEMIAH (C. 444-420? B.C.)

leusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 s.c. Upon their return from exile in 536 s.c., the lews, under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Iteshus, first restored the altar and then laid the foundation of the temple. Twenty years later, in 516 s.c., the temple was rebuilt. This time period is referred to as the Second Temple period. Later on, and under very difficult circumstances, Nehemish restored the dity wall. This is described in great detail in ch. 3. There is ample archaeological evidence, both positive and negative, to show that only the Eastern Hill of Jerusalem was fortified at that time and that the eastern wall of the dity was built higher up the slope than the previous wall, so that the dity was smaller than that of Solomon.

The Temple and the altar were rebuilt soon after the return The Valley Gate (2:13, 15; 3:13), the remains from exile. The dimensions of the temple, given as 60 cubits Sheep Gate of which were excavated in 1924, was part of (90 feet/27 m) high and wide (Ezra 6:3), probably refer to the western city wall. The other gates and the (hidden from view) those of the porch. (For a cutaway illustration of the temple, Tower of the Ovens, mentioned in chs. 3 and 12, see p. 813.) are unattested to in the archaeological record, Tower of but are placed in the drawing in the order in the Hundred which Nehemiah records them. The Temple Mount was The Western Hill was not occupied at this time. However, Tower of restored by Nehemiah as part of Gate of the Guard the ruins of the Broad Wall (3:8; 12:38), the Middle Gate Hananel the fortification of Jerusalem. (cf. Jer. 39:3), and the destroyed houses remained part of Corner Tower the landscape of Jerusalem. This area was not rebuilt until Fish Gate Remains of the the middle of the second century a.c. **Gate of Yeshanah** The Broad Wall Middle Gate (Old Gate) Muster Gate Gate of (hidden from view) **Ephraim** the Ophel The Buttress The Great Projecting Tower (3:25–27) was tentatively identified by Charles Warren in 1867. Hinnom Valley **DUNG GATE SPRING GATE** Remains of ancient walls used to support agricultural terraces. amon spring, probably because it was no longer accessible after the Babylonians had The central section of the eastern city wall destroyed its protective towers. was built higher up the hill than the wall that preceded it. The two points where the new The stairs that go wall diverted from its original course were **Dung Gate** down from the city each called "the buttress" (3:19, 24, 25). of David (3:15) King's Garden (3:15) The Fountain Gate (2:14; 3:15;

12:37) was located in the southern part of the eastern wall, presumably close to

the Siloam Pool.

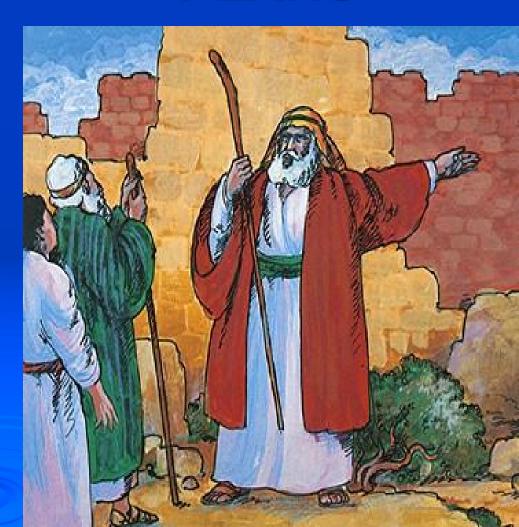
The Tower of Hananel, the Tower of the Hundred, the

which also served as the northern city wall in this area.

Sheep Gate, the Gate of the Guard, and the Corner Tower added strength to the northern wall of the Temple Mount.

- At first Nehemiah kept his plans secret
- Sometime after his tour of the wall he called the Jews together
- He persuaded from 3 viewpoints:
- > 1) The Practical
 Community was
 vulnerable
- 2) The Cultural Community was in a social state of Shame
- > 3) The Spiritual This plan is God's plan

NEHEMIAH REVEALS HIS PLANS



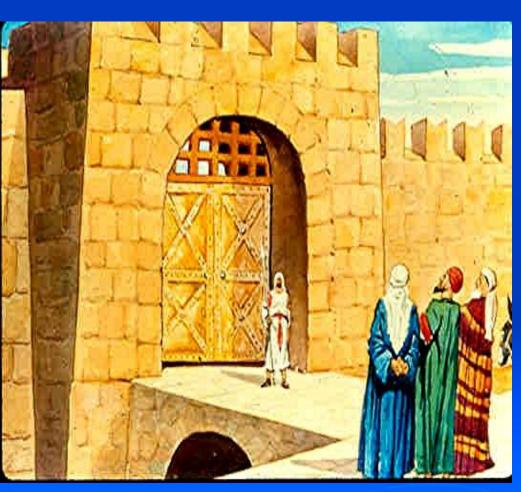


THE PROBLEM WITH WALLS

- In modern terms, the rulers of the West Bank, Jordan, and Arabia come against Nehemiah's plans to protect Jerusalem with a wall
- Same issue today
- Walls work. Western nations don't WANT the walls, because it will relieve the pressure on Israel to give up land



"..You have no share in Jerusalem !!"



- Nehemiah responds to the 3 rulers' accusations with the truth
- None have a share, or the right, or a history, or a claim to Jerusalem
- Jerusalem does NOT appear in the Koran!
- God gave this land to Abraham and his descendants
- The 2-State solution is a satanic political doctrine to divest Israel of its land