

NEVER GIVE UP



NEHEMIAH = PERSISTENCE

- He had to get the King to allow him to leave
- Take a long journey to Judah
- Gain the co-operation of the Jews
- Face several hostile gentile rulers
- Deal with Jewish laborers who rose up against injustice
- Nehemiah didn't expect God to supernaturally fix everything
- He had to get his hands dirty



NEHEMIAH = GENEROUS

- Nehemiah served for 12 years 445 – 433 B.C.
- As Governor he had the right to collect taxes for himself, but did not
- Previous Governors taxed the people highly
- Governorship had been vacant for a while
- Nehemiah was wealthy in his own right





For such a
TIME
as **THIS!**

...you
have
been
created

- Nehemiah's tunnel vision allowed him to rebuild the wall quickly, but it also caused him to overlook the plight of the poor Jews
- It is **FLAWS** that often make people heroes, and will also bring them down
- An unlikely intersection of time, space, circumstance and opportunity must happen for greatness to emerge
- It means we likely won't have opportunity after opportunity to serve God in a meaningful way if we refuse when He calls us
- The Lord wants to use us just as we are.....we only need to say yes



When we fear God we
will be forever ruined

**FEAR GOD &
KEEP HIS
COMMANDS.**

Ecclesiastes 12:13

NEHEMIAH FEARS GOD

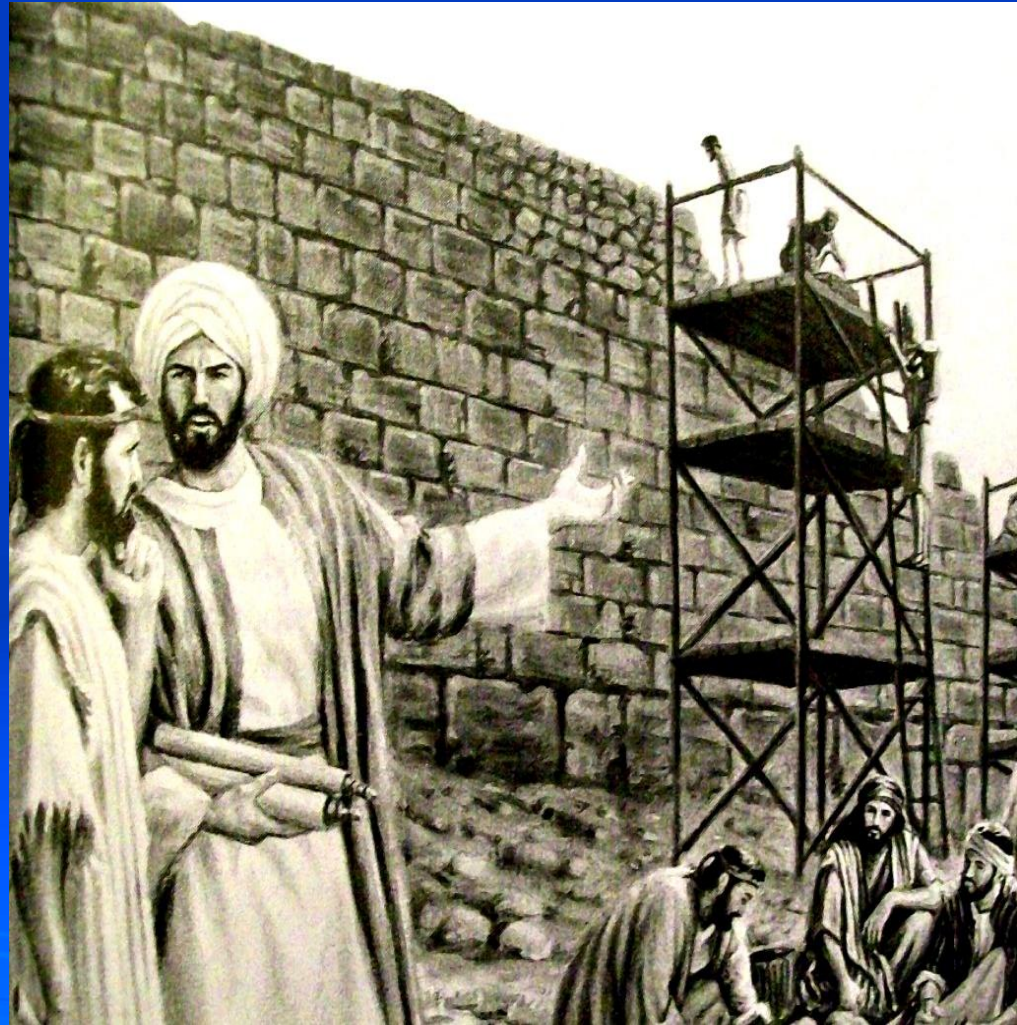


- Nehemiah bought no land
- He did all that he did because “he feared God”
- Christians like to say that God will not harm us
- This doesn't conform to Scripture
- We should not be in terror of God!
- The end result is the goal, but the process matters to the Lord!



NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 6: NEW TACTICS OF THE ENEMY

- Chapters 4 & 5 detour away from wall building
- Last vs. of chapter 3 connects with 1st vs. of chapter 6
- Wall was built, but only to half-height, and the gates were still not hung
- Probably around 15 ft.
- Bible narratives often have “main story”, then a pause explains another aspect, and then a return to the main story



BAD NEWS FOR JUDAH'S ENEMIES

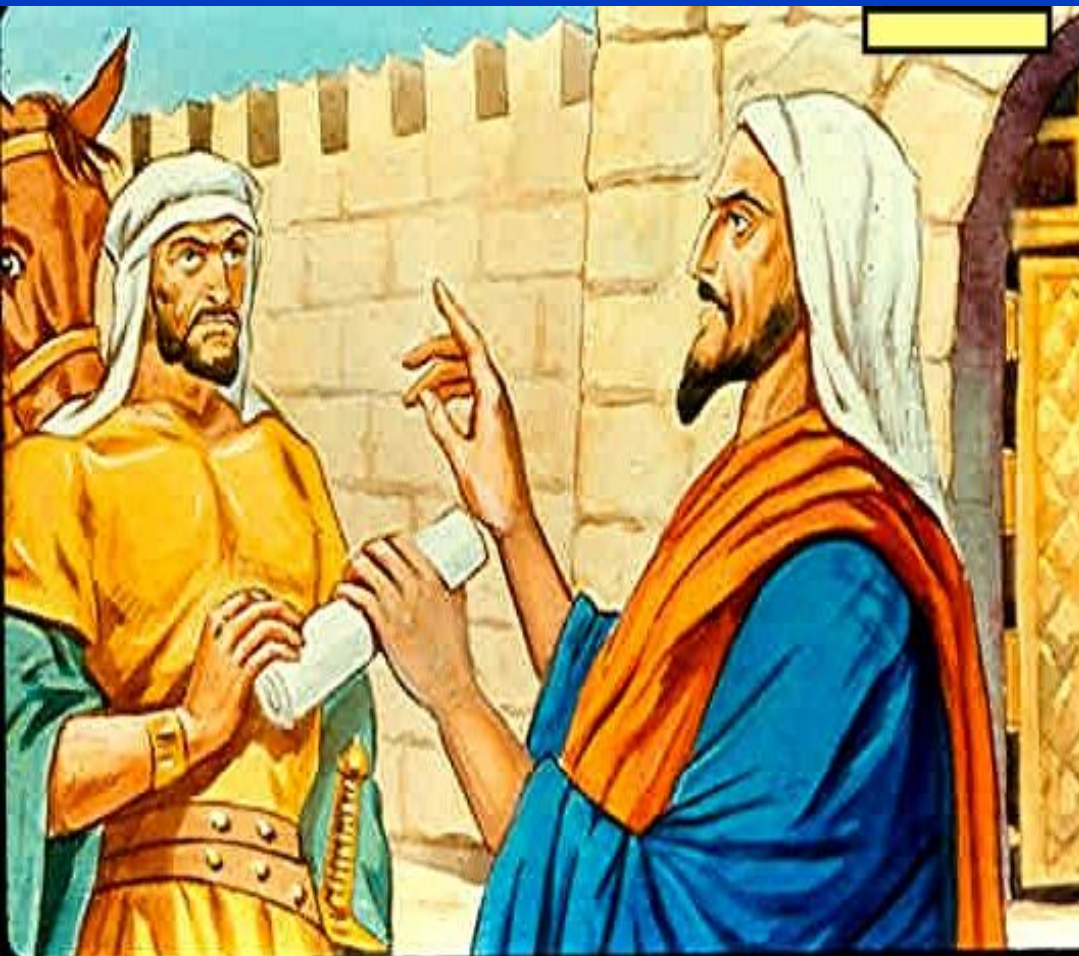
ON VALLEY

JERUSALEM

- The enemies lost round 1, but were ready for round 2
- Without Nehemiah's leadership the results would have been failure
- Sanvallat offers a meeting
- Purpose certainly was to assassinate Nehemiah
- Ono Valley was a long way from Jerusalem
- Why not meet in Jerusalem if their motives were actually reconciliation?



SAME MESSAGE SENT TO NEHEMIAH 4 TIMES



- Nehemiah responded that he was too busy to come to the meeting
- A new letter with a different message was sent
- The goal was to start a rumor of Jewish rebellion against Artaxerxes
- Sanvallat threatened to tell the King about the accusations unless Nehemiah agreed to a meeting
- Might Artaxerxes believe Sanvallat? It is possible considering all the rebellions that were occurring in the Empire

SHEMAIAH, THE FALSE PROPHET

- Scare tactics being used to draw Nehemiah away from his mission
- “*..now strengthen my hands..*” is a Hebrew expression and a short impulsive prayer
- Vs.10 *Shemaiah* suggests that he and Nehemiah meet at the Temple and hide inside
- Against the Law of Moses for a layman to go inside the Temple



NEHEMIAH WOULD NOT ABANDON SHIP

- Nothing is known of *Shemaiah*
- Nehemiah says that a “man like me” can’t run
- The mark of courageous, good leadership
- Also that a “man like me” can’t hide in the Temple
- The mark of obedience to God’s Torah



Israel Bans Jews From Temple Mount



GOD DOES NOT CONTRADICT HIMSELF

- It is against God's Laws to:
- 1) Give up land to Palestinians (or anyone)
- 2) Allow Islam to control the holy Temple Mount
- 3) To divide Jerusalem
- It is tempting to go against God's Laws if we think it will bring peace, prosperity, and consensus
- It takes courage to believe God and do it His way, and STAND!