

## Operation: REBUILD



**Scripture:** [Nehemiah 2: 18-20](#)

*18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.*

*19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?*

*20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.*

### Introduction:

Nehemiah was a Jew born and raised in a country that was not his own. His ancestors had been captured by the country of Persia several generations earlier. The Persian King, Artaxerxes, liked Nehemiah and gave him all he needed to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, the capital of Nehemiah's home country.

His War Hero status is awarded him because of his Vision, his Stand against the enemies of God, as well as for his Accomplishment.

### Nehemiah's Vision:

**NEHEMIAH LIVED IN THE RIGHT TIME IN HISTORY AND AT THE RIGHT LOCATION GEOGRAPHICALLY TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK GOD HAD PLANNED FOR HIM.**

Throughout the Word of God, and yes, even today, we can see God's positioning of people, including YOU, where you can be of the best service to Him; to be all that He has planned for you.

And just like Nehemiah you will make choices. You can choose to either do right or not.

If you are walking in the light of God's Word, then you will be able to see His plan. If you are not, then you will miss the very best God has for you.

For example:

- Do you obey your folks right away? Or do you have to be told several times?
- Do you follow the rules of your house *[like maybe taking your plate to the sink after meals]*? Or do you have to be reminded EVERY TIME?

**Ignoring instructions on purpose is called sin. And this kind of behavior will not see blessing!**

**NEHEMIAH WAS AN OBEDIENT SERVANT OF JESUS, SO HE WAS CHOSEN TO DO THIS VERY IMPORTANT JOB THAT GOD HAD DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR NEHEMIAH TO DO.**

Nehemiah was working in the palace at Shushan for the King as his cupbearer. He most likely had never seen Jerusalem as he was born a Jew in captivity in Persia [modern day Iran]. One of his fellow Jews has news from Jerusalem, their capital back in Israel.

The news is not good. The people are discouraged in Jerusalem. The city wall is broken down and the gates have been burned. It must have looked like a war scene after a heavy shelling.

Nehemiah began to pray and fast about the situation back in Jerusalem.

The unsaved, non-Christian King saw how distressed Nehemiah was over his homeland's war ravaged condition.

This heathen king opened the treasury of his kingdom to pay for the rebuilding of this Jewish city, Jerusalem. This was a direct result of intense prayer and fasting. Never underestimate God's power! Additionally the king made Nehemiah the governor of the province giving him the authority to rebuild the city.

Do you want God to bless your life? Do you want God to bless your ministry [your job God has given you to do]?

Then you need to pray for God's blessing.

Because Nehemiah prayed and asked God for help, then he gets the authority from the King, the supplies, the funding, and an escort back to Jerusalem to begin Operation Rebuild.

### **Nehemiah's Stand:**

But you would think that all will go perfectly now. God had already answered prayer with funding and permission to rebuild.

**BUT AS IS MORE OFTEN THE CASE THAN NOT, THERE WILL BE AN ENEMY WAITING TO STEAL YOUR JOY AND DEFEAT YOUR PURPOSE.**

As soon as Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem, Sanballat and his friends show up to mock and cause lots of trouble.

Even as Nehemiah organizes the people in Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, trouble begins. These enemies show up to hinder the work.

At first they came to harass Nehemiah. They laughed at him and the workers; told them that a little animal could knock over the wall they were building. *Nehemiah 4:1-3*

When making fun of Nehemiah and the wall rebuilders didn't work, then they stepped up the pressure. Sanballat and his friends were just bullies.

Pretty soon, things got really bad. Sanballat and his bullies sent people to attack the builders while they were working. But this did not stop Nehemiah and his workers. They were in Jerusalem to do a job that God had asked him to do. He was there to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.

*Nehemiah 4:17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.*

**NOW NEHEMIAH AND HIS CREW MUST WORK WITH A SHOVEL IN ONE HAND AND A SWORD IN THE OTHER.**

**[I illustrate here with a big sword in one hand and a shovel in the other.]**

This is not an easy thing to do.

**SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BUILD AND BATTLE AT THE SAME TIME.**

## **Nehemiah's Accomplishment:**

For the next several chapters it is one harassment and one lie after another thrown at Nehemiah. You can just imagine what a challenge he faced rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem, keeping the people that were working safe as well as encouraged.

There were protests. There were materials disappearing in the night from the job site. There were folks finding their personal property raided in the night.

Lies were being spread about Nehemiah. He was accused by Sanballat of trying to become King of Jerusalem instead of just the Governor of the Province as appointed by the King of Persia. This would have been treason and punishable by death.

All of this mean spirited undermining was going on but Nehemiah stuck to the task at hand. You see it was not about Nehemiah at all; but rather about restoring the City of Jerusalem, God's city for His chosen people.

**THIS REBUILD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH PERSONAL POWER. THAT WAS SANBALLAT'S MISTAKE IN HIS STRATEGY TO DEFEAT NEHEMIAH. THAT IS ALSO THE MISTAKE OF THE ENEMY TODAY.**

Whenever you are bullied for loving Jesus, just remember that Jesus wins every time!

*Nehemiah 4:6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.*

## **Conclusion:**

Nehemiah got the job done. He persevered. In the end the City of Jerusalem was restored and again became the center of worship.

God has a job for everyone.

- Will you be able to see the job God has for you?
- Will you be able to stand?
- Will you stick with the job God has given you?

## **Activity:**

You will need:

- Paper Plates
- Toothpicks
- BIG Marshmallows

Before the students begin set up your plate, toothpicks and marshmallows so they can watch you. Briefly talk about how God gave an obedient servant, Nehemiah, a job to do. He had to rebuild the broken down wall that surrounded the City of Jerusalem. While he was rebuilding the bullies came to call him names, laugh at him, and try to stop him. But Nehemiah just kept right on building; even when they had to put a shovel in one hand to work and a weapon in the other hand.

Show the students how to rebuild the walls. And watch them go. 😊.

You can encourage them to join each of their creations into one long wall or even a big square one. This can just get bigger and bigger and come out in all kinds of shapes. Have fun.