

REBUILDING YOUR SPIRITUAL WALLS

Nehemiah 1:1-11

INTRODUCTION: When we think of the book of Nehemiah we think of a man and his leadership in rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem. Those walls would protect the people who lived in the city of Jerusalem from their many enemies. Others accused Nehemiah of other reasons for rebuilding the walls: Nehemiah 6:6-7. Nehemiah's real reason for rebuilding Jerusalem's walls was not just protection but it was for revival of the children of Israel. The real need of people then and today is revival; not just the meeting of physical needs. The Bible tells us that God's reason for creating mankind was so they could have a personal relationship with Him.

2 Thessalonians 3:10: Man's greatest need is not physical, it is spiritual, it is his or her personal walk with their God.

I. NEHEMIAH PERCEIVED THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE!

Nehemiah 1:2-3: The people of Israel used to walk with God and were held in high esteem by all those around them. But now the people of Israel had rejected their God and were in great trouble and disgrace. If we focus only on the rebuilding of the walls we miss the true motivation here; it was to rekindle their relationship with God; it was to stir their hearts and motivate and challenge the people to draw near to their God. Proverbs 25:28. Jerusalem was the center of God's dealings with His people and will be again someday: Revelation 21:2. God gives us eternal life through our faith in Jesus Christ so we can have fellowship with Him for all eternity! It is not primarily about the benefits of being a Christian now, it is about our relationship with our God both now and for all eternity. What is the spiritual condition of those who God has placed under your direction?

II. NEHEMIAH PLEADED WITH HIS GOD!

Once Nehemiah knew the physical and spiritual needs of his people was: Nehemiah 1:4-5. Nehemiah perceived that his people's physical needs stemmed from their spiritual needs so he went to his Lord! Nehemiah confessed the spiritual condition of the children of Israel and prayed for spiritual revival. Isaiah 59:1-2. Before Nehemiah did any work, he went to his God! Nehemiah pleaded with his God to revive His people. Nehemiah 1:4. Are you pleading with God for revival not only for yourself, but also for those God has placed in your sphere of influence? James 5:16.

III. NEHEMIAH PERSEVERED IN PRAYER!

Nehemiah didn't just make a plea, he persevered with his pleading! Nehemiah prayed day and night for his people! Nehemiah 1:6. Remember, there is a difference between persistent prayer and a wish. There is a difference between a fervent prayer and a dream.

IV. NEHEMIAH MADE A PERSONAL CONFESSION OF SIN!

No spiritual leader can lead his people until he is first clean and holy in the sight of his God. Nehemiah 1:7; James 5:16. How can sinful people be made holy in the sight of their God? 1 John 1:9. If we long to make a difference for our God we must keep our hearts holy in God's sight.

V. NEHEMIAH HAD A PROPER APPROACH TO REVIVAL!

Nehemiah reminded God of His promises found in His Word! Nehemiah 1:8-9. Nehemiah did not make a plan for revival; he followed God's plan for revival! There must be a leaving of sin. Every revival in the Bible took place because the Word of the Lord was delivered and obeyed: 2 Chronicles 7:14; Matthew 6:33.