

## NEHEMIAH: ARISE AND BUILD! By Terri Hill

God's intention is to restore that which has been lost and to repair that which has been broken down. The Lord Jesus Christ has a team of "builders" (like Ezra and Nehemiah), whom He has recruited; Nehemiah 2:5. The essentials of restoration are:

1. To **declare** God's Message and **teach** God's Word; Matthew 28:19-20.
2. To bring the people unto Jesus, to **worship** in spirit and in truth; John 4:23-24.
3. To lead the people into **prayer** and **intercession**; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
4. Separation **from the world** and separation **unto God**; 2 Corinthians 6:16-17.
5. To **strengthen** the "interior" of His people, and **build up** their inner "fortification"; to bring them unto the measure (full stature, maturity) of Christ; Ephesians 4:11-13.

### God's Grace Equipped Nehemiah The Cupbearer For His Assignment:

1. He had come daily into the presence of the king (was intimate with him); Neh. 2:1.
2. Nehemiah daily "tasted" the king's "wine" (outpoured Spirit); Acts 2:13, and then filled the king's "cup"; Matthew 20:22; 1 Corinthians 10:16.
3. Nehemiah WAS what he DID: his was a "poured out" life (a drink offering).
4. Nehemiah left his position, and the security of palace life to "build", repair and restore that which was broken as a result of sin and judgment; Nehemiah 1:3; Matthew 16:18.
5. As it was true in the time of Nehemiah, the king (Jesus Christ) has given us:
  - a. A space of time to fulfill our assignment; Nehemiah 2:6; John 9:4.
  - b. Letters of authority (the Word of God); Nehemiah 2:7; Esther 8:10; Luke 9:1-2.
  - c. Necessary supplies and resources; Nehemiah 2:8; 2 Peter 1:3; Philippians 4:19.
  - d. Armed troops (angelic protection and assistance); Nehemiah 2:9; Psalm 91:11.
6. These are features of Nehemiah's character, necessary elements for God's "builders":
  - a. **Compassion** – love and compassion is the foundation upon which God's work begins; divine compassion is different from "human sympathy"; Matthew 9:36.
  - b. **Confidence** – confidence arises from fervent prayer, from hearing the Lord's voice and knowing the authority that we have been given through Jesus Christ; Philippians 1:6.
  - c. **Courage** – courage is revealed where persecution, danger, intimidation, and betrayal are present; it manifests in the face of adversity; Joshua 1:6-7.; 1 Chron. 22:6, 11-19.
  - d. **Cooperation** – with the leadership of the Holy Spirit and with others to carry out God's will, in unity among the brethren; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:2.
7. Nehemiah remained focused and overcame opposition from "within and without":
  - a. Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem and others conspired against God's people. The wicked "from without" have consulted together, and formed an alliance; Ps. 83:1-5; Daniel 6:7. They devise "traps", utilize intimidation, mockery, infiltration, slander; 2 Cor. 2:11.
  - b. Enemies "from within" are weariness, discouragement, "debris", fear, greed.
  - c. Shemaiah the hireling, and Noadiah, the false prophetess, tried their strategy but failed; Nehemiah 6:10-14; John 10:12-13; Ezekiel 13:17; John 10:12-13.
8. Nehemiah fulfilled his role by observing these biblical principles, **Nehemiah 4:13-23**:
  - a. He set the people in their proper places (order); 1 Chronicles 6:32; Titus 1:5.
  - b. He encouraged the people with vision; Proverbs 29:18; Acts 10:11-35; 26:19.
  - c. He inspired the people to become involved; Luke 19:13; Matthew 4:18-22.
  - d. He utilized strategy, armed the people, set a watch; 2 Kings 11:5-7; Eph. 6:10-17.
  - e. The "trumpet" (voice of God, Word of the Lord) was near him; Is. 58:1; 1 Cor. 14:8.

