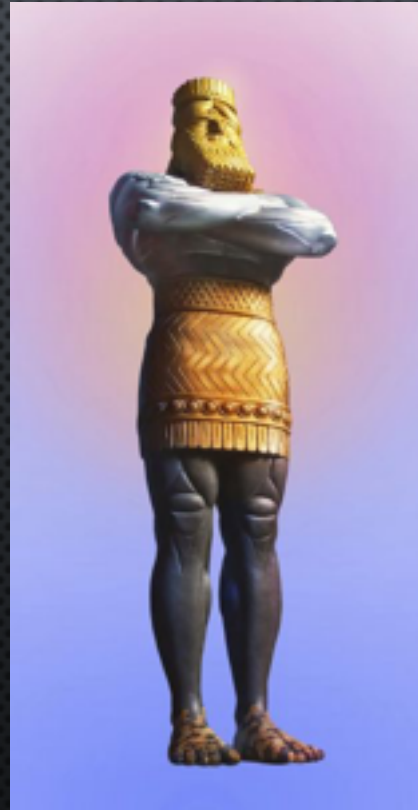


NEHEMIAH THE  
DECISIVE

NEHEMIAH SIGNIFIES “CONSOLATION FROM GOD”  
NEHEMIAH WAS THE SON OF HACHALIAH, OF THE TRIBE OF  
JUDAH, ONE OF THE PROMINENT HEBREW FAMILIES OF THE  
BABYONIAN CAPTIVITY. **NEHEMIAH 1:1**



# Who Was Nehemiah?

Nehemiah occupied a confidential position with Artaxerxes, the Persian king, somewhat similar to the office held by Mordecai under King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) the father of Artaxerxes. His official title does not give the proper conception of the dignity of his position. In those days, kings needed to be continually guarded against poisons, which could be easily mingled without detection with their liquid refreshments. Consequently, the cupbearer was one whose loyalty was esteemed irreproachable. They became confidants of royalty and court advisors, really occupying the position of Minister of State. **R3662:2**

# Nehemiah Was Very Interested In Israel

"That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire." **Nehemiah 1:2-3**

# Nehemiah Was Very Interested In Israel

What a devastating report from his own brother Hanani (Nehemiah 7:2) who went to Jerusalem with Ezra. From his reaction we see his love for his people. He had never seen or been to Jerusalem. All he knew about its former glory was from accounts by his parents and others of the captivity. He was distressed to hear of the devastation and degradation of Jerusalem which caused him to weep. It is an evidence of his great faith in the God of his fathers that by habit turned to prayer.

# Nehemiah Reverenced God

"And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:" **Nehemiah 1:4-5**

"Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;" **Deuteronomy 7:9**



# Nehemiah Reverenced God

"Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned." **Nehemiah 1:6**



He was decisive with prayer and asking for forgiveness

"We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses. Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:" **Nehemiah 1:7-8**

"But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there. Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of **this man**. For I was the king's cupbearer. " **Nehemiah 1:9-11**



## Nehemiah Invoked God's Promises

"And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee." **Deuteronomy 30:1-3**

# Nehemiah Invoked God's Promises

"The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry." **Psalms 34:15**

"O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer." **Nehemiah 1:11**

## **Nehemiah is patient and God answers his prayer**

"And said unto the king, Let the king live forever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchers, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire? Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven." **Nehemiah 2:3-4**

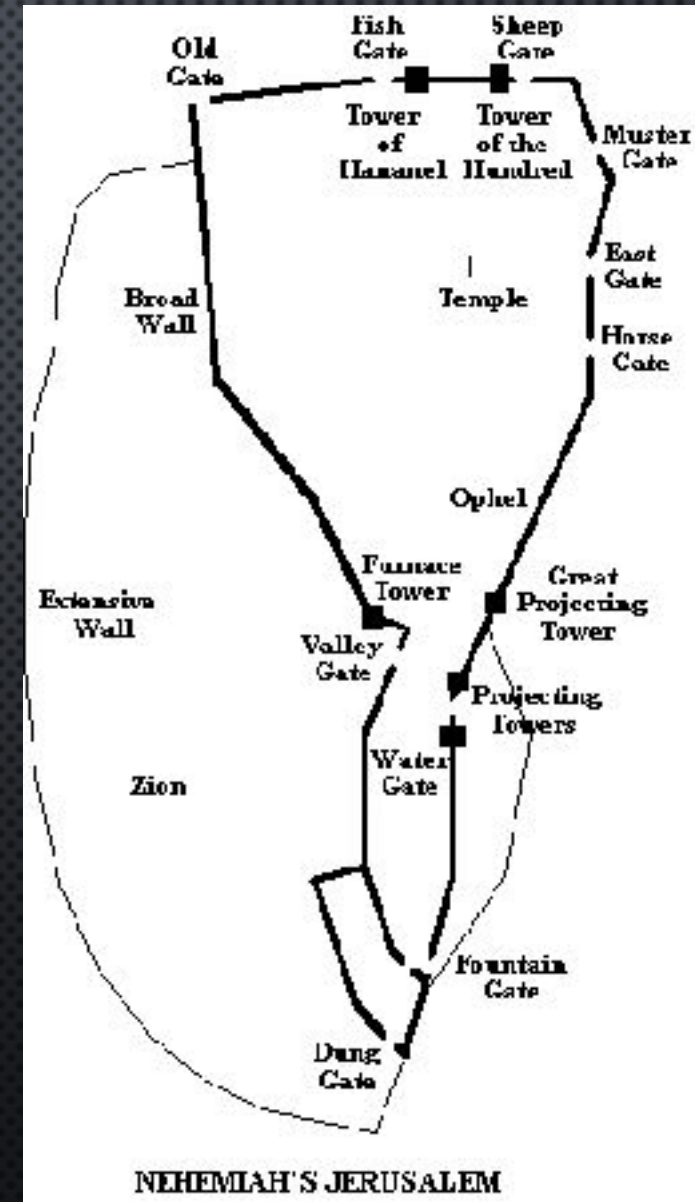
" And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favor in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchers, that I may build it. And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. " **Nehemiah 2:5-6**



# Nehemiah's courage is rewarded

"Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me." **Nehemiah 2:7-8**

# Nehemiah Receives A Leave Of Absence



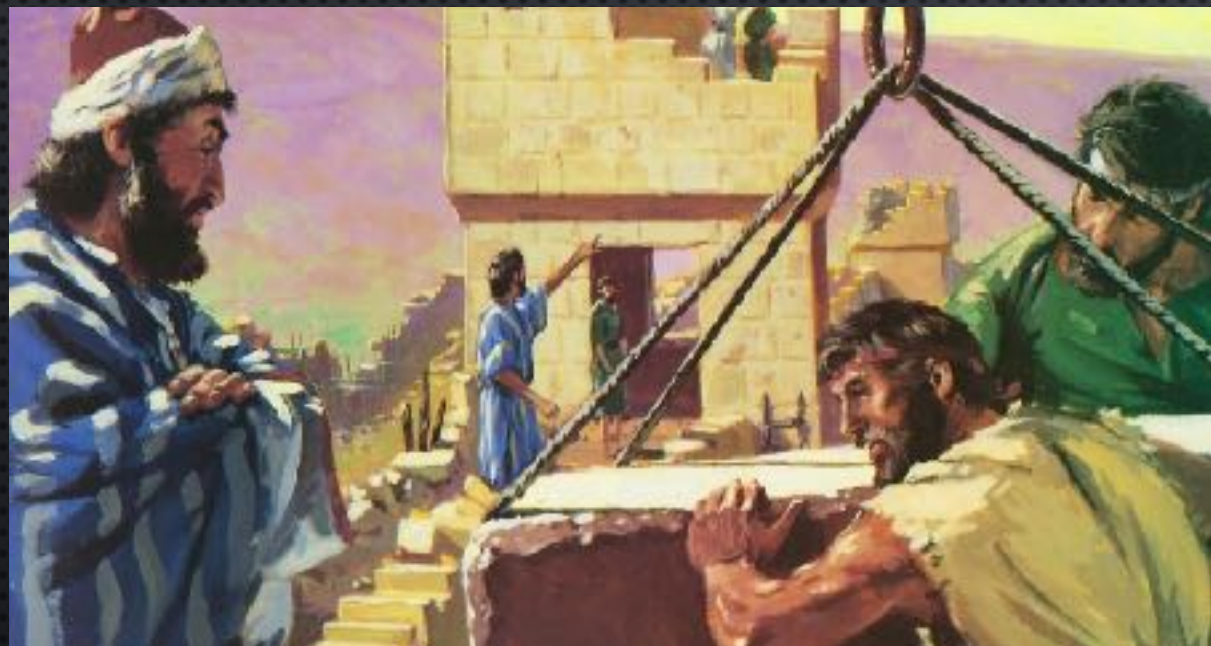


"Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work"

**Nehemiah 2:17-18**



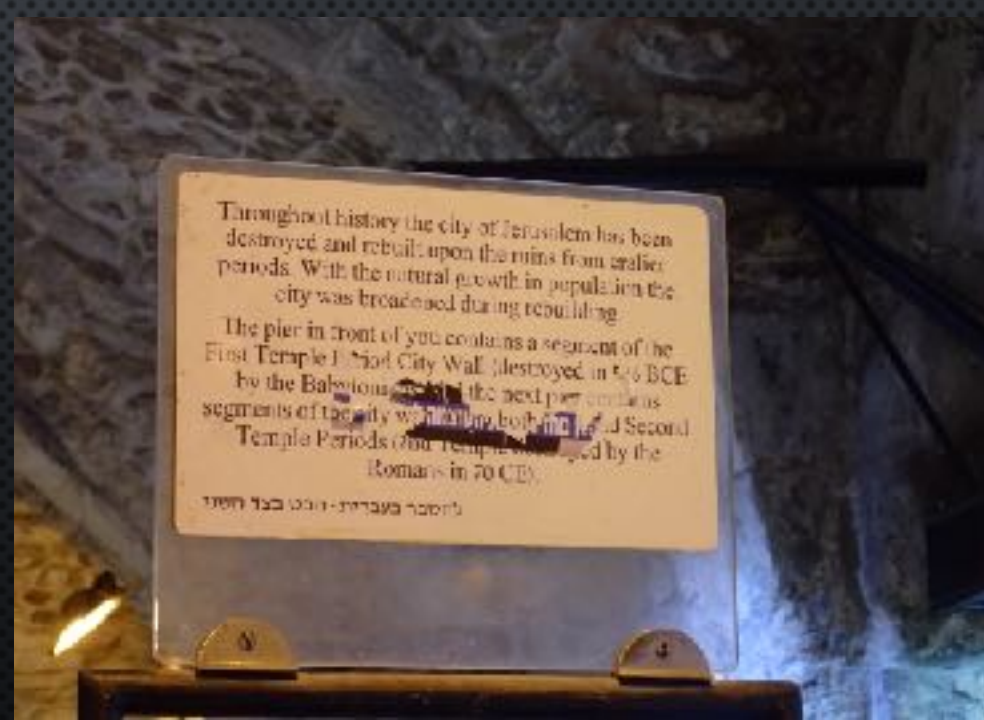
Nehemiah Leads By Example

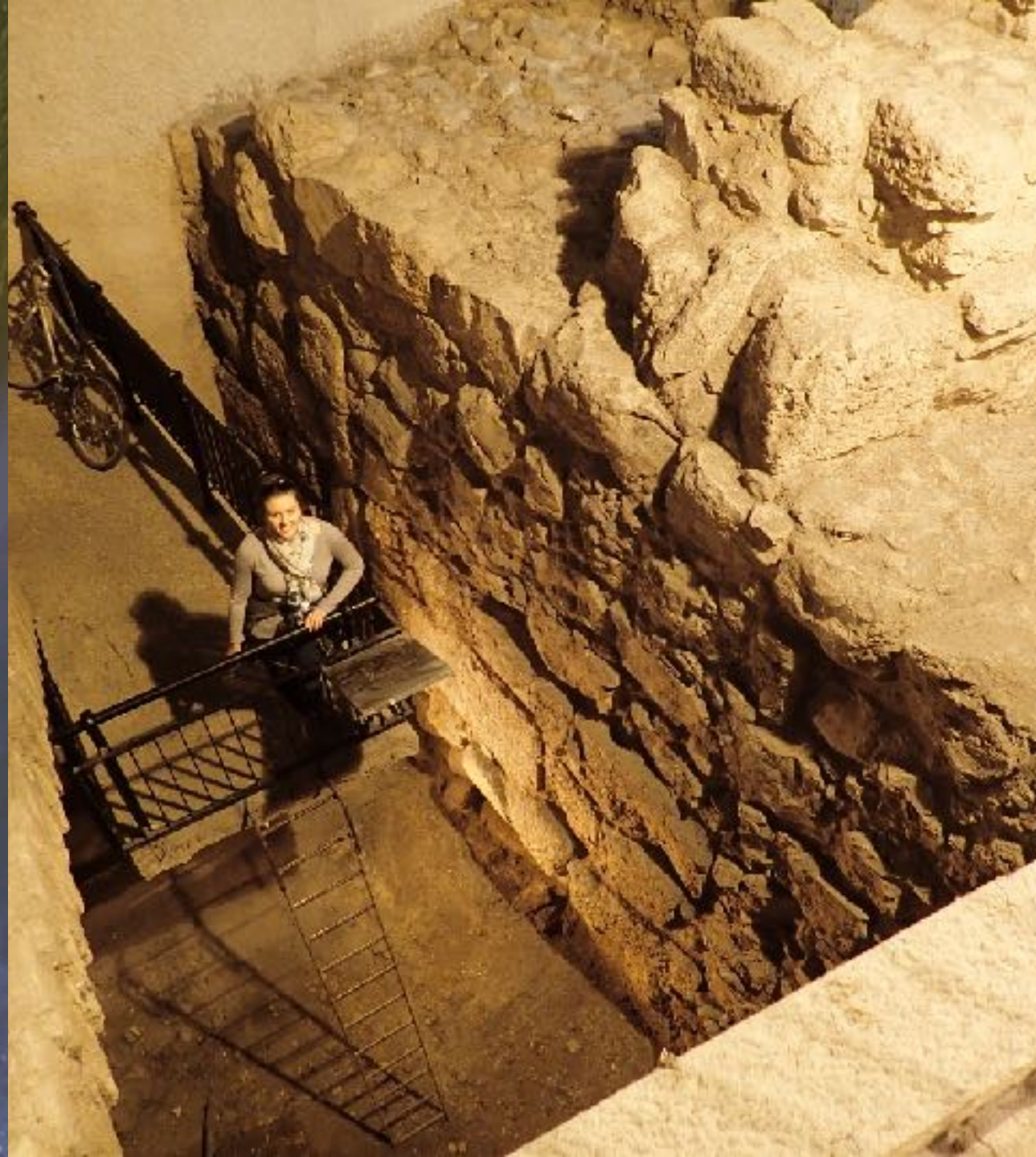






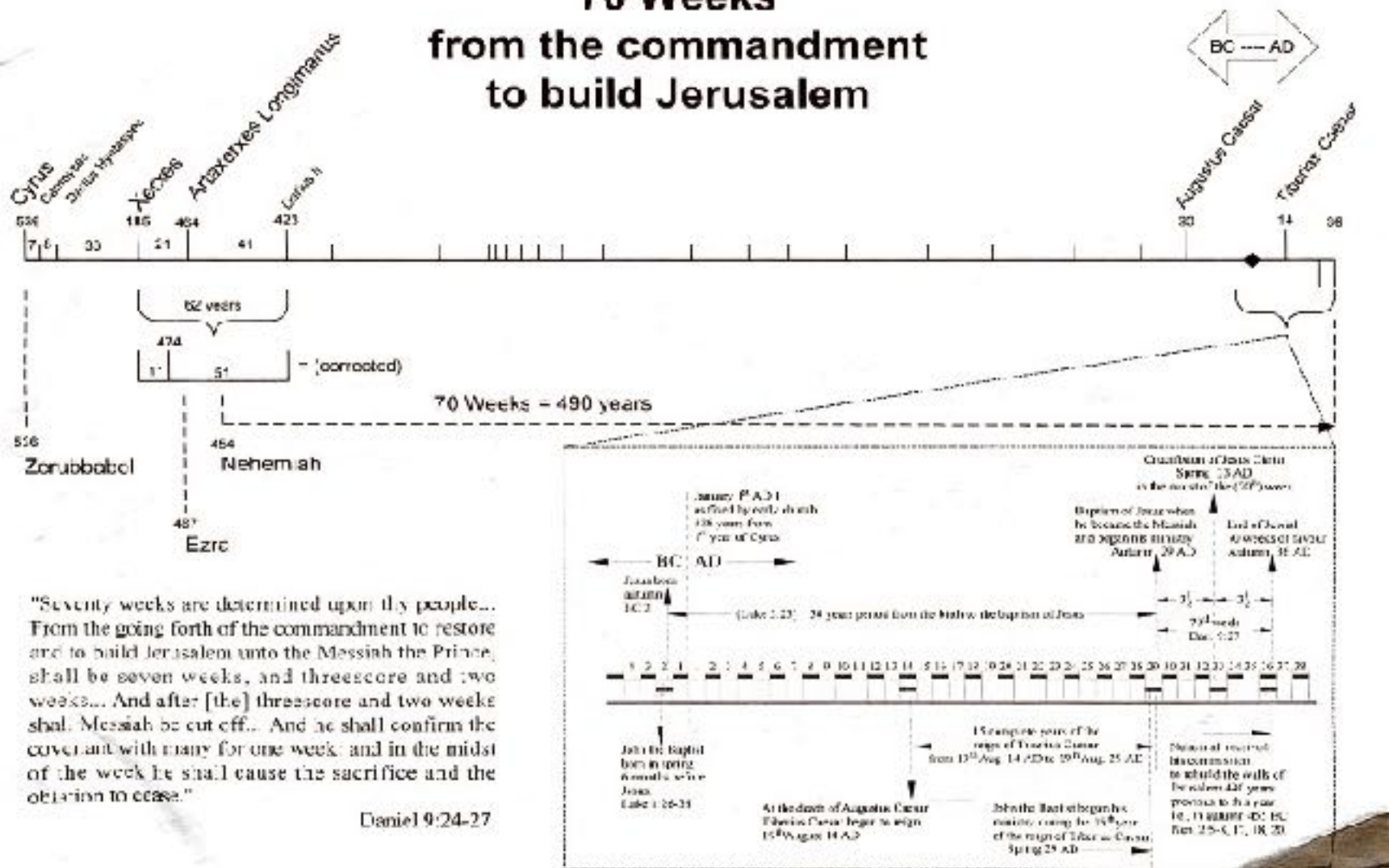
DESPITE TRIALS, THE WORK CONTINUED





70 X 7 = 490

# 70 Weeks from the commandment to build Jerusalem



"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people... From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks... And after [the] threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off... And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease."

Daniel 9:24-27

What is the lesson of the rebuilding of the Walls?



Walls of Sin and Unrighteousness

But what about the rebuilding of Nehemiah's wall?

"Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise." **Isaiah 60:18**



Truth and Righteousness!

But what about the rebuilding of Nehemiah's wall?



Truth and Righteousness

"In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:" **Isaiah 26:1-4**

## Expanding the lesson: In the World but not of it.

“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” **John 17:16**

"Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do." **Ezra 10:11-12**

"But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect," **Hebrews 12:22-23**

“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things.” **Acts 20:29,30**



Expanding the lesson: In the World but not of it.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." **2 Timothy 4:3-4**

"Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem." **Psalms 51:18**

## Expanding the lesson: In the World but not of it.

During the Gospel age, the Kingdom of Christ has existed **[B81]** only in its incipient stage, in its humiliation, without power or privilege of reigning – without the crown, possessing only the scepter of promise: unrecognized by the world, and subject to the "powers that be" – the Gentile kingdoms. And the heirs of the heavenly kingdom must so continue, until the time appointed for them to reign together with Christ. During the time of trouble, closing this age, they will be exalted to power, but their "**reign**" of righteousness over the world could not precede A.D. 1915 – when the Times of the Gentiles have expired. Therefore it is the duty of the Church to await patiently the appointed time for its triumph and glorious reign: to keep separate from the kingdoms of this world as strangers, pilgrims and foreigners; and, as heirs of the Kingdom to come, to let their hopes and ambitions center in it. Christians should recognize the true character of these kingdoms, and, while they keep separate from them, should render to them due respect and obedience, because God has permitted them to rule. As Paul teaches, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers; for there is no power but of God." **Romans**

**13:1**

# Rebuilding Spiritual Walls

There are walls between us and the world. We are separated from the world by walls of thought and action. Our thoughts are not their thoughts neither are their ways our ways. Let us keep the walls of separation from the world in good repair. As we are exhorted in 2 Corinthians 6:17: "Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord." As Nehemiah earnestly prayed for the welfare of Jerusalem and of fleshly Israel, our earnest prayers should be in the interests of Zion, for spiritual food: "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." In harmony with this, our resolution is: "Daily will I remember, at the Throne of Heavenly Grace, the general interests of the harvest work, and particularly the share which I myself am privileged to enjoy in that work, and the dear colaborers everywhere." (Morning Resolve)

We should, as Nehemiah was, become personally and emotionally involved, thinking of our part in the Lord's work. We have a work of development in ourselves; we also build up one another in the most holy faith; and we witness to the world, as we have opportunity. As Nehemiah cited and claimed God's promises to Israel, we should claim and lay hold upon all the "exceeding great and precious promises, that by these we might be partakers of the divine nature."-2 Peter 1:4

There is a tendency to disturb the walls of Jerusalem again. Some feel they can improve the walls by substituting new stones for the old ones, by changing the contour, chipping off a little here, and adding a little there. Such feel they know more about how it should be than the original architect and the faithful restorer. This is a danger to themselves and others.

Then there is another meaning to a city with broken-down walls. A personal application **Proverbs 25:28**: “He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls.” The “spirit” referred to here is the spirit or disposition of mind, the thoughts of the mind that control our actions. We must rule our thoughts. We must keep out anything unprofitable to us as new creatures. Our warfare is in the mind. The new creature is developed in the mind. The new creature must use our fleshly mind as its instrument, making it a captive of the new will, the mind of Christ. **2 Corinthians 10:5** “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God; and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

This is not something which is easily accomplished. The building of stone walls is not easy. It takes energy, stamina and trust in God.

## Rebuilding Spiritual Walls

Those who come into the truth have their spiritual “walls” in varying stages of disrepair. Some of us have more work to do than others. But as we learn to exercise self-control, first in little things, and then, persistently and progressively conform our thoughts and words and deeds to the perfect standard, we will gain in strength of character. Of course our flesh will never be brought under complete control, but the will to constantly fight to do so, must be there. The spirit must be ruled. Such a development of character is highly prized by the Lord. As we read in Proverbs 16:32: “He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city.”

## Blessings for Us and the World

"Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength." **Nehemiah 8:10**

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." **2 Peter 3:13**

"The LORD is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness." **Isaiah 33:5**

# Answers to Prayer May Be Delayed

Nehemiah's patience, faith and sincerity was proved by four months of prayer. God heard his prayers, but favorable circumstances were being shaped. A special banquet at which the queen was present and the king was in a great mood. In the meantime Nehemiah's long, self-imposed, ordeal had altered his appearance so that the king noticed it and made a sympathetic inquiry. God set the timing for Nehemiah's best interests. This applies to us as well. The Lord often keeps us waiting for our best interests. Maybe it is a test of our patience, sincerity and faith, perhaps it is a shaping of circumstances, so that the outcome may be the more glorious. Let us be persistent in our prayers for the right things as Nehemiah was, remembering the precious promise of Romans 8:28 that "all things work together for good to them that love God; to them who are the called according to his purpose."

# Answers to Prayer May Be Delayed

When we think things are going the worst, they may really be going the best. When the king asked why he was sad, Nehemiah says: "Then was I very sore afraid." He thought he might die, although it was really the beginning of the answer to his prayer. "When in doubt, pray." Another saying: "When your knees are knocking, kneel on them." At the time of his greatest fear, Nehemiah prayed. "So I prayed to the God of Heaven." It was a silent prayer, a prayer of the heart. This time his prayer was answered immediately. When everything seems to be going wrong, there may actually be a coming blessing. Nehemiah had prayed: "Grant thy servant mercy in the sight of this man." He got the help he sought. As in Hebrews 4:16, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."



We may get more than we asked for.

"In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" **1 Kings 3:5,9**

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," **Ephesians 3:20**

We may get more than we asked for.

"...prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." **Malachi 3:10 Partial**

"And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." **2 Kings 6:17**

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." **Psalms 34:7**

## Remember the lessons of Nehemiah the Decisive

"Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof." **Nehemiah 13:14**

"O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!" **Job 14:13**

"And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy." **Nehemiah 13:22**

"Remember me, O my God, for good." **Nehemiah 13:31 Partial**

# Remember the lessons of Nehemiah the Decisive

So when the Lord opens up some service to you, how do you respond?

Are you instant in prayer and looking for the Lord's guidance and wisdom from above?

Have you put in the ground work so you are ready and prepared to do your own part to the best of your ability with the Lord's help?

Are you ready to trust and obey, looking for his will, not yours to be done?

Are you building the walls of truth and righteousness in your life so the world does not have an influence?

Are you building the walls close to home in your daily life?

Are we working together to defend the truth, rebuilding the walls of Zion?

Remember the example of the Decisiveness of Nehemiah!

"And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength." **Nehemiah 8:9-10**

