

Rebuilding The Broken Walls

Wednesday Evening Series Led By Pastor Dan Betzer
Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Brief review from previous week - Nehemiah 1 and 2

Chapter 3 of Nehemiah informs the reader that Jewish residents of Jerusalem began to rebuild in their own immediate area

Neh. 3:1-3

Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel. [2] And next unto him builded the men of Jericho. And next to them builded Zaccur the son of Imri. [3] But the fish gate did the sons of Hassenaah build, who also laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.

“Different people were allocated a certain section of wall to repair so that the wall was going up all the way around the city at the same time.” (McGee)

One of the lessons gained by us in this passage is that we cannot begin to rebuild someone else’s walls until our own home, our own lives, are clean, sanctified and strong. Jesus indicated this to us as well: Matthew 7:3-5 [The Message] **It’s easy to see a smudge on your neighbor’s face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. [4] Do you have the nerve to say, ‘Let me wash your face for you,’ when your own face is distorted by contempt? [5] It’s this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor.**

This passage of Nehemiah also reminds us that the whole structure of life must be strong, that there must be “balance” – not strong here and weak there, but strong all-round. That’s why it is so good to take inventory of our lives to see how we measure up to the Word. King David cried out to God: Psalms 139:23-24 **Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: [24] And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

THE STRIKE OF THE ENEMY

The challenge of building strong spiritual, moral and financial goals in life is tough enough in itself. But then - here comes the attack of the enemy (Satan or one of his evil buddies) to deter us from our purpose. This is what happened to Nehemiah.

Neh. 4:1-3

But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. [2] And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? [3] Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

Listen - that mocking tone and those haunting questions had probably already rampaged through the minds of Nehemiah and his people. They also must have wondered if they could finish this Herculean task, a challenge that most sane people thought impossible.

Here is the point: When Satan attacks you, he hits you in the area of your vulnerability! He and his minions are smart enough to know not to waste their time attacking your strengths. Just as God knows your strengths and weaknesses, and - hopefully - you know them, **SO DOES THE ENEMY!**

Listen to the jibes of the enemy directed toward faithful Nehemiah and his laborers:

- ✓ Who ever told you that you poor fellows could rebuild the walls?
- ✓ Why, your structure is so weak that a slight fox could run over the top of it and cause it to collapse!

Isn't this what the enemy does to us? Using mockery and sarcasm, Sanballat and his buddies hurled invectives at the faithful workers, hoping to make them stop working!

HOW DID NEHEMIAH HANDLE THIS OPPOSITION?

He prayed! Neh. 4:4-5

Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity: [5] And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked

1 **thee to anger before the builders.**

2
3 SO DID GOD ANSWER THE PRAYERS OF NEHEMIAH? OBVIOUSLY!

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

7
8 God enabled Nehemiah and the workers to do the work; but note: GOD DID NOT BUILD
9 THE WALLS FOR THEM! Could He have done so? Of course! But did He? No!
10 God expects us to do everything we can with the minds and abilities He has created within
11 us.

12
13 When mockery and sarcasm did not affect the work of these godly people, Sanballot and
14 the enemy got angry!

15
16 Neh. 4:6-9

17 **So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for**
18 **the people had a mind to work.**

19 [7] Now it came about when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the
20 Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the
21 breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. [8] And all of them conspired
22 together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it. [9] But
23 we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and
24 night.

25
26

Yes, Nehemiah prayed, but he also DID SOMETHING. As one preacher pointed out: <i>“Nehemiah could have uttered a pious platitude. He could have said, ‘We are trusting the Lord. We won’t do anything.’ That is the easy way out. That is what many people are doing today. They say they are trusting the Lord, but what are they doing about it? If you really trust the Lord, you will be doing something. Nehemiah knew that the enemy was plotting to come against him, so he set a watch. This is what God expected him to do!”</i> J. Vernon McGee

27
28 Many “alleged” Pentecostal churches say they are “praying” for the salvation of the world,
29 but they are doing anything about it. Fully 40% of all Assemblies of God churches never
30 gave a dime to missions last year. Think of that! Yet they claim to be “Pentecostal”
31 which MEANS “harvest.” My friend Reinhard Bonnke said to me one day, “Dan,
32 church people can pray 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and nothing will happen
33 until they DO something about the lostness of humanity.” Amen to that! Nehemiah’s
34 challenge was daunting and the opposition was fierce. So he prayed. AND DID

1 SOMETHING!

2

3 Yes, Nehemiah did something indeed: Neh. 4:10-15

4 **Thus in Judah it was said,**

5 **"The strength of the burden bearers is failing,**

6 **Yet there is much rubbish;**

7 **And we ourselves are unable**

8 **To rebuild the wall."**

9 **[11] And our enemies said, "They will not know or see until we come among them,**
10 **kill them, and put a stop to the work." [12] And it came about when the Jews who**
11 **lived near them came and told us ten times, "They will come up against us from**
12 **every place where you may turn," [13] then I stationed men in the lowest parts of the**
13 **space behind the wall, the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families with**
14 **their swords, spears, and bows. [14] When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the**
15 **nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember**
16 **the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your**
17 **daughters, your wives, and your houses."**

18 **[15] And it happened when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that**
19 **God had frustrated their plan, then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his**
20 **work.**

21

22 Nehemiah put his people in a position to defend themselves and continue to build the wall.
23 And his words were those of ENCOURAGEMENT!

24

25 Remember that most of the workers were within a few yards of their homes. This made
26 them comfortable even while working on the walls because they were still close to their
27 families in case they were needed for defense purposes there.

28

29 Nehemiah was a genius! Note his strategy:

30

31 Neh. 4:16-17

32 **And it came about from that day on, that half of my servants carried on the work**
33 **while half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows, and the breastplates; and**
34 **the captains were behind the whole house of Judah. [17] Those who were rebuilding**
35 **the wall and those who carried burdens took their load with one hand doing the work**
36 **and the other holding a weapon.**

37

38 Get the picture: Many of these workers had a trowel (a tool used by masons) in one hand
39 and a sword in the other! The great Baptist pastor of yesteryear, Charles Haddon
40 Spurgeon (London), used to publish a magazine called *THE SWORD AND THE TROWEL*.

1 In rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah left nothing to chance. We note in this
2 chapter that he even instigated a form of communicating with workers at a distance:

3
4 Neh. 4:19-20

5 **And I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, "The work is great**
6 **and extensive, and we are separated on the wall far from one another. [20] "At**
7 **whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will**
8 **fight for us."**

9
10 My friend, in building strong spiritual walls for yourself and your family, you must stay in
11 communication with God and with other believers. I have sometimes had people say to
12 me, "I don't need the church." The Bible refutes that again and again. There is strength
13 in communicating with each other, and most certainly, in COMMUNICATING WITH
14 GOD.

15
16 One final note here about Nehemiah and his workers: they were NOT CLOCK
17 WATCHERS.

18
19 Neh. 4:2 **So we carried on the work with half of them holding spears from dawn**
20 **until the stars appeared.**

21
22 Rebuilding walls in your life - and MAINTAINING THEM - involves a whole lot of hard
23 work. The follower of Christ cannot allow passivity in his or her life. The old phrase,
24 "whatever will be will be," has no place in our lives.

25
26 So now I have taken a lesson-and-a-half to establish a Biblical foundation for this series.
27 Now let's begin to delve into specifics of walls that are broken down in churches and
28 society in general and how we can go about rebuilding them

29
30 .
31
32 **REBUILDING THE WALLS OF THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS**

33
34 In the late 1800's, followers of Christ in various places around the world almost
35 simultaneously began to explore deeper theological realities. Out of this seeking for God
36 came some strong scriptural renewal in these areas:

- 37
38 1. Jesus Christ was coming back to this earth.
39
40 2. Jesus Christ still healed the sick.

1 3. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit as evidenced throughout the Book of Acts.

2
3 These elements began to merge and grow among believers in various part of the world.
4 From it came the great Welsh Revival, starting in 1904) one of the most dramatic in terms
5 of its effect on the general population of that nation. This move of God triggered other
6 moves of God in other countries and came to America basically in the early 1900's.

7
8 It seems to me that what really drove these “pioneers” of revival was a craving for a
9 deeper walk with God. One of the primary streams on this emphasis on holiness and
10 righteous living came from John Wesley’s teaching on perfection and his brother Charles’
11 powerful hymns, such as:

12
13 *O for a heart to praise my God, a heart from sin set free,*
14 *A heart that always feels Thy blood so freely shed for me!*
15 *A heart resigned, submissive, meek, my great Redeemer’s throne;*
16 *Where only Christ is heard to speak and where Jesus reigns alone.*

17
18 And

19
20 *O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise,*
21 *The glories of my God and King, the triumph of His love.*
22 *He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free;*
23 *His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.*

24
25 More and more services ended, not with a cold or solemn “amen,” but with a challenge to
26 entire sanctification (being set apart for God’s purpose and pleasure). One Methodist
27 pastor, B. M. Adams, pled with his flock, “Make then this entire consecration and the Holy
28 Ghost will come upon you at this meeting, and fill you with a power you never had
29 before.” And then Adams quoted our dear Savior with this: “Ye shall receive power
30 after the Holy Ghost is com3e upon you and ye shall be witnesses”

31
32 Well, you cannot keep having altar calls like that and reminders of Christ’s gift to us all -
33 that of the Holy Spirit - and something drastic not happen.

34
35 In 1912, in a Bible School in Wichita, a student named Agnes Ozman was praying with
36 some other students, worshiping Jesus, when suddenly she began to speak in a language
37 that was not her own. Church historians report that Ozman spoke in a Chinese-sounding
38 language for the better part of three days. It was a spark that ignited a Pentecostal
39 firestorm from one end of this nation to the other.

1 William Seymour was a black pastor of a small church in Los Angeles. His church was
2 located on Azusa Street - an address that has precious memories to every Pentecostal who
3 knows the history. There was what we call an "outpouring" of what Agnes Ozman had
4 experienced in Wichita some time earlier and it began a movement west spiritually similar
5 to the gold rush out west materially. ***"Much was said at Azusa about the cleansing
6 blood, of unity, and the Second Coming (of Christ). The mission gained a reputation
7 as a place to come for healing and Seymour reported that healings occurred almost
8 every day. The worshipers took every opportunity to avow their opposition to Christian
9 Science, animal magnetism, Theosophy, spiritualism and hypnotism."***

10 THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD / EDITH L. BLUMHOFER / VOLUME 1 / PAGE 104 / GOSPEL PUBLISHING H.
11

12 Now....across the United States....hundreds of people were seeking God far and beyond
13 anything previous in their lifetimes. Many were receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit
14 - as revealed in:

15 Acts 2:1-4

16 **And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in
17 one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty
18 wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. [3] And there appeared unto
19 them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] And they were all
20 filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave
21 them utterance.**

22
23 In case after case, folks were asked to leave their churches, where the leadership
24 considered them mentally-unbalanced or just frankly led astray doctrinally. That left
25 thousands of folks without church homes and they began to search for someplace they
26 could feel at home and worship the Lord in their new deeply-found faith.

27
28
29 A printed call to meet was issued by *WORD AND WITNESS*, an early Pentecostal
periodical and read as such:

THIS CALL IS TO ALL THE CHURCHES OF GOD IN CHRIST, TO ALL
PENTECOSTAL OR APOSTOLIC FAITH ASSEMBLIES WHO DESIRE WITH
UNITED PURPOSE TO COOPERATE IN LOVE AND PEACE TO PUSH THE
INTERESTS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD EVERYWHERE. THIS IS, HOWEVER,
ONLY FOR SAINTS WHO BELIEVE IN THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY GHOST
WITH THE SIGNS FOLLOWING. — December 30, 1913

30
31 That, good friend, was the trigger that started the great Pentecostal movement in some
32 organized form.

1 *In the chilly early spring of 1914, a mixed group of workers and saints convened in the*
2 *old Grand Opera House on Central Avenue in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in response to*
3 *advertisements that had run in Pentecostal papers since December 1913. Primarily*
4 *from the Midwest but representing some seventeen states and Egypt and South Africa,*
5 *they arrived prepared to consider proposals to facilitate cooperation for extending their*
6 *movement.*

7
8 *From Thursday, April 2, through Sunday, April 5, they worshiped and prayed together.*
9 *On April 6, they organized themselves for business. Their mere attendance was an*
10 *acknowledgment that the Pentecostal movement had unleashed forces that made*
11 *cooperation advisable. Like participants in other revival movements, they nurtured the*
12 *hope of conserving and directing the revival's spiritual fervor into meaningful channels*
13 *while providing guidelines for eliminating excesses.*

14 THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD / BLUMHOFER / VOLUME 1/ PP 197-198 / GPH
15

16 It should be noted that it was not on peoples's mind generally to form any organization of
17 these believers. In fact, many were opposed to such a thing. However, after several days
18 of fasting and praying, these 300 believers felt that such a living organism should be
19 developed by the Holy Spirit through them. On April 6, 1914, the Assemblies of God
20 were formed for the following purpose:

21
22 **FIRST** - We come toether that we may get a better understanding of what God would have
23 us teach, that we may do away with so many divisions, both in doctrines and in various
24 names under which our Pentecostal people are working and incorporating. Let us come
25 together as in Acts 15 to study the Word, and pray with and for each other – unity our aim.
26

27 **SECOND** - Again we come together that we may know how to conserve the work, that we
28 may all build up and not tear down, both in home and foreign lands.
29

30 **THIRD** - We come together for another reason, that we may get a better understanding of
31 the needs of each foreign field and may know how to place our money in such a way that
32 on emission or missionary shall not suffer, while another not any more worthy, lives in
33 luxuries. Also that we may discourage wasting money on those who are running here and
34 there accomplishing nothing, and may concentrate our support on those who mean
35 business for our King.
36

37 **FOURTH** - Many of the saints have felt the need of chartering the churches of God in
38 Christ, putting them on a legal basis, and thus obeying the laws of the land as God says.
39 (See Romans 13) We confess we may have been slothful in business on this point, and
40 because of this many assemblies have already chartered under different names as a local
41 work, in both home and foreign lands. Why not charter under one Bible name (2 Thess.

1 2:14) thus eliminating another phase of division in Pentecostal work? For this purpose
2 also let us come together.

3
4 FIFTH - We may also have a proposition to lay before the body for a general Bible
5 Training School with a literary department for our people.

6
7 THESE ARE THE WALLS OF OUR ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FAITH. Sadly, as our
8 fellowship has grown from the original 300 to now over 67 million persons world-wide,
9 some of those walls have been allowed to slip - especially Wall # 3 which had to do with
10 missions around the world.

11
12 It is of note to me that one of the founders of the Assemblies of God and the originator of
the Pentecostal Magazine was Roswell J. Flower, a man to whom I became very well
acquainted and who was my History of the Assemblies of God teacher in Bible School.
So I gleaned this information "first-hand."

13
14 OUR SIXTEEN CARDINAL DOCTRINES IN THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

15
16 1. The Scriptures are divinely inspired - both Old and New Testaments.

17 2 Tim. 3:16-17

18 [16] All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for
19 reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be
20 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

21
22 2. There is one true God.

23 Deut. 6:4

24 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:

25
26 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

27 Acts 1:9

28 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud
29 received him out of their sight.

30 Acts 1:11

31 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same
32 Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have
33 seen him go into heaven.

34
35 4. The Fall of Man

36 Romans 5:12-19

37 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death

1 passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: [13] (For until the law sin was in the world:
2 but sin is not imputed when there is no law. [14] Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to
3 Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression,
4 who is the figure of him that was to come. [15] But not as the offence, so also is the free
5 gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the
6 gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. [16] And not
7 as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation,
8 but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. [17] For if by one man's offence
9 death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of
10 righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) [18] Therefore as by the offence of
11 one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the
12 free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. [19] For as by one man's
13 disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made
14 righteous.

15 16 5. The Salvation of Man

17 Romans 10:13-15

18 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. [14] How then shall
19 they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of
20 whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? [15] And how
21 shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them
22 that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

23 24 6. The Ordinances of the Church

25 A. Baptism in Water Matthew 28:19

26 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of
27 the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

28 B. Holy Communion 1 Cor. 11:26

29 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he
30 come.

31 32 7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

33 Acts 1:8

34 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be
35 witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the
36 uttermost part of the earth.

37 Acts 2:1-4

38 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one
39 place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and
40 it filled all the house where they were sitting. [3] And there appeared unto them cloven

1 tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] And they were all filled with the
2 Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

3 4 8. The Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

5 Acts 2:4

6 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as
7 the Spirit gave them utterance.

8 9 9. Sanctification

10 Hebrews 12:14

11 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

12 13 10. The Church and Its Mission

14 A. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world. Mark 16:15

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 B. To be a corporate body in which we may worship God. 1 Cor. 12:13

17 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles,
18 whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

19 C. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of believers being perfected in
20 the image of His Son Jesus. Ephes. 4:11-16

21 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some,
22 pastors and teachers; [12] For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for
23 the edifying of the body of Christ: [13] Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the
24 knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the
25 fulness of Christ: [14] That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and
26 carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness,
27 whereby they lie in wait to deceive; [15] But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into
28 him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: [16] From whom the whole body fitly
29 joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the
30 effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the
31 edifying of itself in love.

32 D. To be people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for the world. James
33 1:27

34 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and
35 widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

36
37 11. The Ministry (Similar to # 10 although more detailed as to the personnel involved.

38 39 12. Divine Healing

40 Isaiah 53:4-5

1 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him
2 stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. [5] But he was wounded for our transgressions, he
3 was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his
4 stripes we are healed.

5
6 13. The Blessed Hope of Christ's return. 1 Thes. 4:16-17

7 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the
8 archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we
9 which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the
10 Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

11
12 14. The Millennial Reign of Christ on this Earth. Rev. 19:11-14

13 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was
14 called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. [12] His eyes
15 were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written,
16 that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood:
17 and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the armies which were in heaven
18 followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

19
20 15. The Final Judgment. Rev. 21:8

21 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and
22 whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake
23 which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

24
25 16. The New Heavens and the New Earth. 2 Peter 3:13

26 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth,
27 wherein dwelleth righteousness.

28
29 **THESE ARE BASIC WALLS THAT MAY NOT BE DESTROYED, BUT MUST**
30 **CONSTANTLY BE RENEWED IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.**