

Nehemiah

March 12, 2023

Summary: Nehemiah: The Restorer of the Nation & Rebuilder of the Walls” (Neh 6:15)

Nehemiah sets before us an example of godly character and leadership. At the call of God he renounced his life of luxury and high position in the palace of Shushan for a life of toil, danger, hardship, and opposition from false brethren within and enemies without in the work of restoration. He was a man of faith, wisdom, courage, and perseverance; a man of prayer and energy, able to inspire others to work as well as work himself.

Christ Seen:

Christ is seen as the Governor of Judah in the spiritual restoration of Jerusalem.

Mt 2:6 and you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler who will Shepherd My people Israel

He left heaven's palaces

Psa 45:8 ... Out of ivory palaces stringed instruments have made You glad.

He is revealed as the Man of Prayer (Jn 17) and Work

Mt 16:18 “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Nehemiah was a type of Christ

1) Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the king (Neh 1:11-2:1) and was willing to die for the king in that role.

Jesus was willing to drink the cup the Father (Mt 26:39; Mk 14:36; Lk 22:42; Jn 18:11), and willingly He died for us.

Jn 10:17-18 “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.” (Jn 10:11, 15; Mt 26:53-56)

2) We see Nehemiah cleansing the Temple in Neh 13.

Jesus is the One who would enter the Temple and cleanse it (Mt 21:12).

3) Nehemiah initiated a renewal of the covenant (Neh 1:5; 9:38-10:39; 13:29),

Jesus would usher God’s people into a new covenant.

Mt 26:27-28 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. (Mk 14:24; Lk 22:20; 1Cor 11:25;)

4) Nehemiah wept over the condition of God’s people (Neh 1:4)

Jesus also wept over Jerusalem (Lk 19:41-42).

5) Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem (Neh 6:15).

Jesus also was a builder; He laid the foundation and is the cornerstone.

Eph 2:19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

6) Nehemiah called God's people to rise and build with him (Neh 2:18).
Jesus also calls His disciples to come, follow Him and build God's Kingdom
(Mt 4:19, 8:22; 9:9; 16:24; 19:21; Mk 2:14; Jn 1:43; 12:26; 21:22)

7) Nehemiah encounters opposition from Israel's enemies in rebuilding the wall.
Neh 4:1-3 Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. 2 He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?" 3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him and he said, "Even what they are building—if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!"
4:7-8 Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. 8 All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.

Jesus, from the beginning of his ministry, encountered resistance and plots from His enemies.
Jn 7:1 After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. (Jn 8:59; 10:30-33; 11:8; Mt 12:14; Lk 4:29)

8) There was an inflammatory statement made against Nehemiah's intentions to rebuild the wall
Neh 6:6-7 In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel; therefore you are rebuilding the wall. And you are to be their king, according to these reports. 7 "You have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, 'A king is in Judah!' And now it will be reported to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together."

There was also inflammatory statement made against Jesus,
"We have no king but Caesar" (Jn 19:15),

9) Jesus finished the work the Father gave him to do, and Nehemiah finished the wall (6:15).

Restoring the Gates

1. The Sheep Gate - speaks of salvation in Jesus (Jn 1:29, 36; 10:1-9).
2. The Fish Gate - speaks of evangelism (2Cor 5:17-21).
3. The Old Gate - speaks of our walk of faith (2Cor 5:7).
4. The Valley Gate - speaks of humility and resisting pride (Hab 2:4).
5. The Dung Gate - speaks of cleansing from sin through confession (1Jn 1:8-10; Jas 5:16).
6. The Fountain Gate - speaks of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18-19).
7. The Water Gate - speaks of the Word of God (Eph 5:26).
8. The Horse Gate - speaks of the soldier and spiritual warfare (Eph 6:10-12; 2Cor 10:3-5).
9. The East Gate - speaks of the believer's judgement at the return of Jesus Christ (1Cor 3:12-15)

Conclusion:

We can be encouraged by Nehemiah. While he was facing enemy opposition, he refused to succumb to their calls for him to quit. He refused to stop building: He said, I am doing a great work, I can't come down (Neh 6:1-9). We are also under constant enemy opposition. Our circumstances and those around us often call for us to quit. Be like Nehemiah. Speak to the face of the enemy and say, "I am doing a great work, I will not quit."