

# Nehemiah's Lesson

Week of Jan. 20 - 26, 2020

## Introduction

Nehemiah was living in Susa, the capital of the Persian kingdom (present day Iran). He served in the royal household and was appointed governor in the land of Judah. When he received word his people were in danger, God sent him to go and help them build a wall of protection. Many times throughout the scripture, Nehemiah is tested and in danger, and people attempt to persuade him that he is trying to do what cannot be done. And they were correct - it could not be done without the help of God. Nehemiah believed and trusted, and because of that, an amazing restoration of God's community of faith was realized, a promise fulfilled.

## Lesson Nehemiah 6:5-16

**5** Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter **6** in which was written:

"It is reported among the nations—and Geshem says it is true—that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king **7** and have even appointed prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: 'There is a king in Judah!' Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us meet together."

**8** I sent him this reply: "Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head."

**9** They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed."

But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands."

**10** One day I went to the house of Shemaiah, son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, "Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you—by night they are coming to kill you."

**11** But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!" **12** I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. **13** He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me.

**14** Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, my God, because of what they have done; remember also the prophet Noadiah and how she and the rest of the prophets have been trying to intimidate me. **15** So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days.

**16** When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

## Questions

1. God told Nehemiah to go help his people build a wall. And he did. Yet, in the process of trying to accomplish this, he was tempted several times and told to stop - by people that he trusted. When have you been tempted to doubt God's promise for your life?
2. How has God given you strength in the midst of doubters?
3. The passage above states this is the fifth time Nehemiah is told to divert from God's plan. How did he know or see these warnings were not from God? What does that say about his relationship with the Lord?

4. Vs. 9 states “ Now strengthen my hands..” Have you ever witnessed what must have been the Lord’s work?
5. The enemies recognized the impossibleness of the task - and witnessed the power of God! How we tend to forget, in the routine of our daily lives, the true greatness and POWER of our God. Where would you like to see God release His power in your life?
6. Nehemiah knew that God had made a promise to his people and had the faith to trust that God would deliver on His promise. How great we can know with certainty, that God will keep His promise. Have you even felt the sting of a promise not being kept?

## **Prayer**

Powerful Lord, you make all things possible in your greatness. You speak your word and it is so. How often we fall short! We doubt and listen to the world telling us that it can not be done; that we are not good enough; that we should care more about ourselves than others. Help us shut out these voices Lord. Nurture a relationship so deep with you that we can recognize your voice in the midst of false imitations. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.