

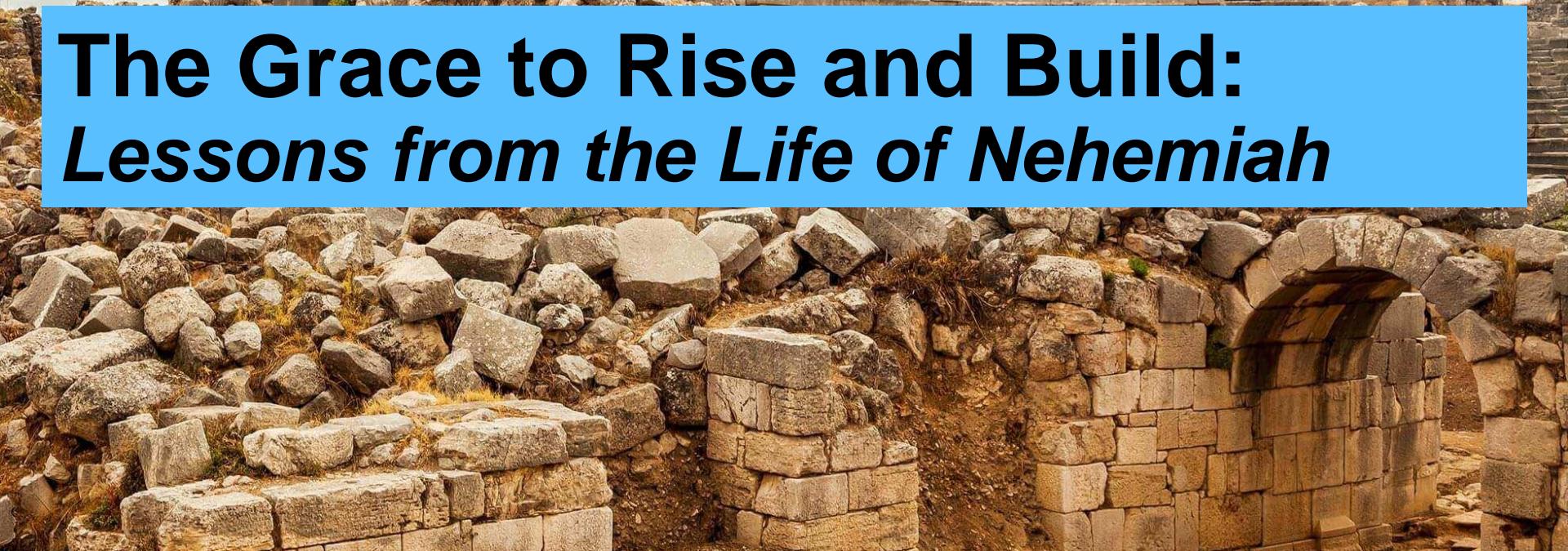


HOUSE OF GRACE FELLOWSHIP



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The Grace to Rise and Build: *Lessons from the Life of Nehemiah*







Nehemiah 1:11

“....I was cupbearer to the king.”



1. Grace Gives Us a Burden and Compassion

Nehemiah 1:3–4

“They said to me, ‘The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.’ So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”

Nehemiah was moved deeply,
not with indifference, but with
compassion stirred by grace.

Your burden is evidence of
God's grace at work in you.
Don't ignore it—embrace it.
Because often, the burden He
gives you is the very place He
calls you to build.

Nehemiah 1:11

Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.”



2. Grace Opens Doors of Favor

Nehemiah 2: 1-4

“In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.”

I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

Nehemiah 2:4-5

“The king said to me,

“What is it you want?”

*Then I prayed to the God of heaven,
and I answered the king, “If it pleases the
king and if your servant has found favor in
his sight, let him send me to the city in
Judah where my ancestors are buried so
that I can rebuild it.”*

Nehemiah 2:7-8

I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

Nehemiah prayed, asked boldly,
and received everything-
time, letters, and resources.

This wasn't luck.
**It was the hand of God's Grace
opening doors.**

Grace is God opening doors
that no man can shut. Grace
aligns people, resources, and
opportunities to fulfill His
purposes in your life.



3. Grace Strengthens Us in Opposition

Nehemiah 2:17-18

“Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

Nehemiah 2: 10

“When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.”

Nehemiah 2:19

*“But when **Sanballat** the Horonite,
Tobiah the Ammonite official and
Geshem the Arab heard about it,
they mocked and ridiculed us. “What
is this you are doing?” they asked.
“Are you rebelling against the king?”*

Nehemiah 2:20

*“I answered them by saying,
“The God of heaven will give us
success. We his servants will start
rebuilding, but as for you, you
have no share in Jerusalem or
any claim or historic right to it.”*

Nehemiah 4:1-3

*“When **Sanballat** heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”*

***Tobiah** the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”*

Nehemiah 4:4-6

⁴ Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. ⁵ Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. ⁶ So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

Nehemiah 4:7-9

But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry.⁸ They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

Nehemiah 4:11

“Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

Despite ridicule from Sanballat,
Tobiah, and Goshem, the work
continued.

Nehemiah 4:14

“Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

Nehemiah 4:15-18

“When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked.”

Grace gave them strength to persevere, pray, and keep building.

Nehemiah 4:6

“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

Nehemiah 6:1-4

“When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates—² Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: “Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.”

*But they were scheming to harm me; ³ And I sent messengers unto them, saying, **I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?** ⁴ Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.*

Nehemiah 6:5-7

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.”

Nehemiah 6:6-9

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.”

Nehemiah 6:10-13

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.

Nehemiah 13:4-5

⁴ Before this, Eliashib the priest had been put in charge of the storerooms of the house of our God. He was closely associated with Tobiah, ⁵ and he had provided him with a large room formerly used to store the grain offerings and incense and temple articles, and also the tithes of grain, new wine and olive oil prescribed for the Levites, musicians and gatekeepers, as well as the contributions for the priests.

Nehemiah 13:6-9

⁶ But while all this was going on, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Some time later I asked his permission ⁷ and came back to Jerusalem. Here I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. ⁸ I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's household goods out of the room. ⁹ I gave orders to purify the rooms, and then I put back into them the equipment of the house of God, with the grain offerings and the incense.



4. Grace Builds Community and Unity

Nehemiah 3:1–2

“Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built the Sheep Gate... Next to Eliashib the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur... built.”

Everyone had a part—priests,
goldsmiths, perfumers, families.

Nehemiah 6:15-16

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.**

Grace didn't just empower Nehemiah—it united the whole community to rise and build together.



5. Grace Leads to Revival and Restoration

Nehemiah 8:8–10

“So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading... And Nehemiah... said to all the people, ‘This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep.’ ... ‘Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

The Word brought conviction,
but also comfort through grace.

The people experienced not just
rebuilt walls, but **revived hearts.**

Nehemiah's life teaches us that every great work is born and sustained by **grace**:

1. Grace gives us a burden to care (Nehemiah 1:3–4).
2. Grace opens doors of favor (Nehemiah 2:4–8).
3. Grace strengthens us in opposition (Nehemiah 4:6; 6:9).
4. Grace builds community (Nehemiah 3:1–2).
5. Grace leads to revival (Nehemiah 8:8–10).



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