



Empowering People to Change the World

Arise and Build: A Kingdom Revolution

Steve Holt

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Nehemiah 1:1-11

Please pray for the pastors of our city. Tomorrow morning, at 8:00 a.m., we are praying together, in the first of four other locations, for a mighty revival in our city.

This Wednesday night, I've invited Pastor Todd Hudnall, and his wife Kelly to speak. Todd is the Pastor of Radiant Church.

The Road Declaration...

Introduction:

- We have recently studied through Haggai and the revival that he brought to Israel. Haggai took place during the construction of the Temple, under Zerubbabel, during the time of Cyrus.
- 60 years later, Ezra brought a revival to Israel, and that is covered in the book just before Nehemiah. Originally, this book was included with Ezra and entitled "Ezra Nehemiah."
- After 13 years, Nehemiah would come to work on the walls around Jerusalem, and he and Ezra will bring another mighty move of God.

The Temple has been rebuilt but not the walls around Jerusalem.

- For many of us here, we have started to build the Temple in our lives...we have placed our faith in Christ.
- But there are so many other areas of our lives: emotionally, mentally, and even spiritually, that are still in shambles.

- We have all the walls broken down in our lives: relationally, in our families, how we handle conflict, anger, envy, and lust, still rule our lives.
- The book of Nehemiah is going to give us healthy, and bold encouragement in rebuilding the walls of our lives.

Nehemiah is a cupbearer of Artaxerxes, who has been in power for about 20 years.

- A cupbearer was a very prestigious position because you tasted the food first to see if it was poisoned.
- Not many cupbearers had seniority!
- Understand the significance of this by understanding the intrigues of the Persian Court: Xerxes, the father of Artaxerxes, was killed in his own bedroom by a courtier.
- A popular way to conduct elections, 400 years BC, was to poison your opponent.
- So, the cupbearer must be someone whom the king really trusted.
- Ex. Everyone would just watch Nehemiah eat and see if he kind of keeled over...you never ate alone!
- It was the kind of job where you prayed you worked for a man who was well liked.
- The cupbearer was very close to the king...a close advisor to the king...he had access to the king.
 - But Nehemiah is also deep disciple of God.
 - This is the last of Jewish history, before Christ.

- Nehemiah means “the Lord comforts.” He was raised in captivity and had never seen Jerusalem.
 - He grew up in captivity and yet, his godly parents name him “the Lord who comforts.”
 - God rose up this simple man to do a great work.
 - That’s what God always does...simple people to do great things.

God doesn’t call the qualified, but qualifies the called.

Vs. 1-2

- Month of Kislev (November/December by our calendar), the 20th year of Artaxerxes so, some 9 years after the end of Ezra.
- Hanani, means “the grace of God,” brought a word to Nehemiah...not a coincidence! God uses people in our lives.

Often God uses someone else in our lives to show us a need or situation that God wants to bring to our attention.

- Bloodstained Allies.
- This is why it is of paramount importance in our lives that we listen to those around us, that we have fellowship with other believers.
- You can’t rebuild walls if you don’t know the walls are broken down!

Nehemiah’s heart is for the People of Israel. He loves his nation.

Vs. 3

- I have been led by God to teach through Nehemiah, because all of us here have a heart for America. I'm deeply concerned for the Church in America and for Americans.
- The People of Israel are in "great distress and reproach."
 - I feel this is true in America today.
 - I feel this is true in many pastor's lives.
 - Ex. So many pastors have shared with me that they feel down and depressed right now.
- Jerusalem is defenseless. The walls are broken down. You can't defend yourself if you have no walls.
- The Temple is rebuilt, but the city is open to attack.

America: "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11

- Defunding the police is the destruction of our walls.
- Attacks on the Constitution is the destruction of our walls.
- Attacks on the Church is the destruction of our walls.
- Abortion and the destruction of children is the destruction of our walls.
- How does Nehemiah respond?

Vs. 4

- Nehemiah is wealthy and lives in the capitol city of Shushan, the winter capitol, in the King's house. He has it made...but he is not content!!

Are you content with where you are at with God?

- Ex. Our world is rapidly changing! There is a massive paradigm shift happening in America. Socialist/Marxist ideology is dominating one of our political parties! The foundations of our nation are being dismantled before our eyes!
 - Some of our public schools are training our children in LGBTQ ideology.
 - Our universities are overrun with anti-American sentiment.
 - Our churches are shut down.
- You see this is true in our lives too...we can come to church each week, worship at the Temple, but our lives have breaches, our lives, and the walls of spiritual defense, are defenseless against the enemy throughout the week.
 - The Temple has been built, but the walls haven't been strengthened.
 - Do you come to church and the spiritual walls of your life are broken down?

Are there breaches in your spiritual life?

- Ex. I see people at The Road for a while, and then we don't see them anymore! They came to the Temple, but their walls had breaches!
- Ex. We need fellowship with other believers, we need small groups...
- Ex. Not just "devotions" but "devotion." Like our marriage: "Hey I talked to Liz for 30 minutes in the morning, but then we don't ever talk again."

- Ex. We want to have “devotions” that lead to “devotion.”

Nehemiah’s prayer of repentance.

- We now read this remarkable prayer of Nehemiah! All through the book of Nehemiah are these deep and passionate prayers...study them.
- He’s asking God for attention! “Hear my prayer. Hear my prayer based on your Covenant.”
- God knows our heart and yet He calls us to pray!
- God knows our thoughts from afar! He hears the prayers of our heart, even before we articulate it.

He begins acknowledging Who God is: the great and awesome God.

Vs. 5a

- Nehemiah begins with praise and worship! He opens up, enthroning God in his thoughts.
- In Acts 4, the Church is under persecution and they begin their prayers, “Lord, you are God who made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all that is in them.”
- This is where we should always begin our prayers, by enthroning God over our lives.
- Begin your prayer time with a worshipful response.

He then acknowledges that God is a covenant keeping God of love.

Vs. 5b

- Nehemiah knows that he is entering into prayer based on God always keeping his promises.

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:3-4

- We now have a “grace covenant,” a covenant based on His love for us.
- He promises He will “never leave us nor forsake us.”
- Through the finished work at the Cross, Jesus has forgiven us of all our sins and given us new life.
- So, based on the greatness of God and His covenant, Nehemiah moves into his request...

Nehemiah identifies with the sin of the people.

Vs. 6-7

- Nehemiah takes on the sins of the people.
- Nehemiah cares deeply enough to pray over the sins of others.
- What deep love Nehemiah exhibits for the Jews.

- Nehemiah has it made: he is wealthy and influential, and yet he hasn't forgotten His first love for God.
- Nehemiah is worthy of spiritual leadership because he loves his people! He is not going to use them, but he will lead them toward what is best for them...that is a great spiritual leader.
- What God hates:

**These six *things* the Lord hates,
 Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:
 A proud look, (our pride and arrogance)
 A lying tongue, (deception in high places)
 Hands that shed innocent blood, (abortion and sex trafficking)
 A heart that devises wicked plans, (there are plans being cooked up right now with the election)
 Feet that are swift in running to evil, (the destruction of our cities)
 A false witness *who* speaks lies, (our courts and judicial system)
 And one who sows discord among brethren. (Christians who spread slander about other believers and Christian leaders)
 Prov. 6:16-19**

Nehemiah prays from God's Word.

Vs. 8-9

- Never was this prophecy truer than right now: God had scattered Israel because of disobedience.
- Nehemiah's prayer is based in God's Word.
 - He is quoting Deuteronomy 28 and/or Leviticus 26.
 - Read those chapters this week. They are still true!
- Nehemiah knows the Word of God and quotes it.

- When we pray God's Word, we are saying back to God what He has said to us!
- Ex. One of the most powerful prayers you can pray is quoting God's Word back to God, and then requesting something.
- Ex. Just this week, I prayed through Psalm 127, over a matter that was heavy on my heart.
- Quote the Scriptures when you pray!
- Ex. God has spoken to The Road from 2 Chronicles 7:14. This is why I'm gathering pastors to pray over Colorado Springs tomorrow morning.

Asking for Favor

Vs. 10-11

- Nehemiah unashamedly cries out to God for favor!
- We need favor from God, don't we?
- I think it is a good prayer to ask God for special favor.

"I was a cupbearer of the king."

- Nehemiah is not a congressman; not a priest; not a pastor; not a governor...he is a simple cupbearer of the king.
- We may think that our job means nothing in relation to God, that we are "just cupbearers" and nothing else, when in actuality, God has placed you there for a purpose, to bring glory, and pleasure to Him.

- Do you realize that you are a missionary? That you are in your job as an undercover agent for God?
- Nehemiah, like Daniel before him, is an undercover agent sent in by God to carry out God's purposes!
- So ask God, "What do You want me to do Lord?"
- Nehemiah, a simple cupbearer, will build the walls of Jerusalem in 52 days! Just a cupbearer.
- What can God do through a simple man or woman with a powerful passionate love for God?
- That is you and me!!