

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 2 – “Nehemiah Sent to Judah, Nehemiah Views the Wall of Jerusalem”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

NEHEMIAH – AN EXCELLENT STUDY FOR ANY SPIRIT LED BELIEVER PROJECT:

The study of Nehemiah is often used to set up a standard for the completing of any project or work that the LORD may call a believer to do.

- Recognizing the calling
- Right heart response to the calling
- Proper preparation through a season of prayer - The four months in prayer were not only spent in talking to God,
- But also in listening to Him and in working out a Spirit-led plan for what to do when God did open the door -
- Prayerful planning of what the project may require and how to fulfill those requirements.
- Good leaders learn a sense of God’s timing.
- Nehemiah’s wise diplomatic, approach gives us an example to follow.
- Willingness to make personal sacrifices to do what has to be done to complete the project.
- Willingness to be fully engaged in a “hands on” involvement in completing the project.
- A continual recognition of the hand of God leading to the completion of the project! All glory to Him!

Determining the Fulfillment of the 69 Weeks, 483 Years, 173,880 days of the Prophecy in Daniel

9:25 *“Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.*

The 1st of Nisan in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes Longimanus (the edict to rebuild Jerusalem) was 14th March, B. C. 445. The 10th of Nisan in Passion Week (Christ’s entry into Jerusalem) was 6th April, A. D. 32 (1,986 years ago). – reference - *The Coming Prince text by Sir Robert Anderson, pg. 55 of 158*

The intervening period was 476 years and 24 days (the days being reckoned inclusively, as required by the language of the prophecy, and in accordance with the Jewish practice).

But 476 x 365= 173, 740 days. Add (14 March to 6th April, both inclusive) **24 days. Add for leap years 116 days equals**

a total of **173,880 days. And 69 weeks of prophetic years of 360 days (or 69 x 7 x 360) 173, 880 days.**

It may be well to offer here two explanatory remarks. First; in reckoning years from B.C. to A.D., **one year** must always be omitted; for it is obvious, ex. gr., that from B.C. 1 to A.D. 1 was not two years, but one year. B.C.1 ought to be described as B.C. 0, and it is so reckoned by astronomers, who would describe the historical date B. C. 445, as 444. And secondly, **the Julian year is 11m. 10 46s., or about the 129th part of a day, longer than 'the mean solar year.** The Julian calendar, therefore, contains **three leap years too many in four centuries**, an error which had amounted to eleven days in A. D. 17527 when **our English calendar was corrected by declaring the 3rd September to be the 14th September, and by introducing the Gregorian reform which reckons three secular years out of four as common years; ex. gr., 1700, 1800 and 1900 are common years, and 2000 is a leap year.** “Old Christmas day” is still marked in our calendars, and **observed in some localities, on the 6th January**; still remaining uncorrected in Russia.

TIME LINE – BOOKS OF EZRA – (“Bible Hub” online)

537 BC	The Proclamation of Cyrus	Ezra 1
537 BC	The Exiles Return	Ezra 2
535 BC	Temple Work Begins (70 yrs. from 605BC)	Ezra 3
534 BC	Adversaries Hinder Temple Work	Ezra 4
534 BC	Artaxerxes Orders Work Stopped	Ezra 4:17
520 BC	Tattenai's Letter to Darius	Ezra 5
520 BC	Temple Work Resumed by Darius' Decree	Ezra 6
(Books of Haggai & Zechariah occur here)		
515 BC	Completion and Dedication of the Temple	Ezra 6:16
(Book of Esther occurs here)		
BOOK OF ESTHER (about 60 yrs. from 1st return)		
483 BC	Queen Vashti Deposed	Esther 1
478 BC	Esther Becomes Queen	Esther 2
478 BC	Mordecai Thwarts a Conspiracy	Esther 2:21
474 BC	Haman Seeks Revenge on the Jews	Esther 3
473 BC	Mordecai Informs Esther of Haman's Plot	Esther 4
473 BC	Esther Prepares a Banquet	Esther 5
473 BC	The King Honors Mordecai	Esther 6
473 BC	Haman Is Hanged	Esther 7
473 BC	Xerxes' Edict on Behalf of Esther & Jews	Esther 8
472 BC	Purim Instituted	Esther 9
472 BC	Xerxes' Tribute to Mordecai	Esther 10
458 BC	Ezra to Jerusalem (147 years from 605; 79 years from 1st return; 57 years from last verse of chapter 6!)	Ezra 7
458 BC	Ezra Commissioned by Artaxerxes	Ezra 7:11
457 BC	Families Return to Jerusalem with Ezra	Ezra 8
457 BC	Ezra's reforms (80 yrs. from 1 st return)	Ezra 9
456 BC	Ezra's Prayer About Inter-marriage	Ezra 10

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH (about 100 years from 1st return)

445 BC	Nehemiah's Prayer for the Exiles	Nehemiah 1
444 BC	Artaxerxes Sends Nehemiah	Nehemiah 2
444 BC	Builders of the Walls Named	Nehemiah 3
444 BC	Builders Overcome Ridicule	Nehemiah 4
444 BC	Nehemiah Abolishes Debt and Bondage	Nehemiah 5
444 BC	Sanballat's Plot	Nehemiah 6
444 BC	Completion of the Wall	Nehemiah 6:15
444 BC	Census of Returned Exiles	Nehemiah 7
444 BC	Ezra Reads the Law	Nehemiah 8
444 BC	Israelites Fast and Repent	Nehemiah 9
444 BC	Israelites Seal the Covenant	Nehemiah 10
444 BC	People Settle in Jerusalem	Neh. 11, 12
432 BC	Nehemiah Restores Laws	Nehemiah 13

Kings of Persia in Ezra-Nehemiah:

Cyrus (539-530-9yrs); Darius I (522-486-36yrs); Xerxes (Ahasueres – 485-464-21yrs); Artaxerxes I (464-423-41yrs)

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 2 – “Nehemiah Sent to Judah

Neh 2:1 And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before.

Neh 2:2 Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid,

Neh 2:3 and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?"

Neh 2:4 Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Neh 2:5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

v. 1 ...month of Nisan...twentieth year of King Artaxerxes: A significant date is given here. **First it shows that Nehemiah prayed and waited for four months**, probably praying, LORD, either take this burden from my heart or show me what to do to answer this burden.” Secondly, and **even more important, it establishes the date given to restore Jerusalem and its walls.gave it to the king:** Nehemiah’s position as the king’s cupbearer, was significant. He was a personal *bodyguard* to the king, tasting the wine and food before the king did - making certain no one could poison the king. Nehemiah had frequent access to the king’s presence, making him a man of influence.” The king would have to be able to totally trust his cupbearer. If the cupbearer could be turned against the king, assassination would be easy.

v. 2 ... never been sad.... before: Nehemiah had never been sad in the presence of the king, but on this day he was. The king took notice. Nehemiah *became dreadfully afraid*. It was forbidden to be sad in the presence of the king because kings thought everyone just by being in their presence should be happy. Looking sad could cost you your life!

v. 3 May the king live forever! A great response to the king! Next he will wisely and honestly answer the king’s question with a question. “*Why should my face not be sad when the city ...lies waste...gates are burned with fire?*” Nehemiah didn’t say to the king, “I’m sad because those incompetents in Jerusalem have had 100 years to build the walls and they haven’t done anything. They are a bunch of hardened, uncaring, worthless people.” He described the problem **without putting anyone else to blame.**

v. 4. What do you request? Right away, Nehemiah **knew God gave him favor** with the king, not “Off with his head!” but “**What can I do to help?**” Nehemiah knew that four months of prayer were answered. ... **prayed to the God of heaven:** Knowing his prayer had been answered, Nehemiah prayed again. This was not a long, extended prayer, but an **immediate, silent, “Help me LORD!” prayer.** Nehemiah knew this was an incredible opportunity, and he did not want to miss the chance.

v. 5 send me to Judah: Again showing great wisdom, he respectfully asked for a leave of absence and to be *sent (you send me)* by the king. He asked the king to share his concern for Jerusalem and to become a partner in getting the city and its people back where they should be.

v. 1 Dan 9:25 prophesied that exactly 173,880 days from this day, March 14, 445 B.C., according to Sir Robert Anderson, Messiah the prince would be presented to Israel. Robert Anderson, the eminent British astronomer and mathematician, makes a strong case that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy exactly, to the day, entering Jerusalem on April 6, 32 A.D., precisely 173,880 days from Neh 2:1.

v. 2 When the king said “**This is nothing but sorrow of heart,**” Nehemiah knew the king had noticed his sadness, and that the king took it seriously. Nehemiah must have wondered if the next words from the king would be, “Off with his head!” Nehemiah was also afraid because he knew that he was going to the king for something very important. There was a lot riding on what was going to happen. Nehemiah knew it was not his place to change the king’s heart. He prayed and left it up to the LORD, instead of dropping hints and trying to manipulate the situation. One day, four months later, the king’s heart was different. **Are we making the mistake of trying to change someone else’s heart, instead of leaving it up to the LORD?** **v. 3 ...city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies waste...** With this, Nehemiah explained why he was sad. Jerusalem was a destroyed, disgraced city. No one had to tell the king this was a disgraceful state of affairs; he would immediately sympathize with Nehemiah’s concern for the dignity, safety, and well-being of his people. We see also Nehemiah’s great tact and wisdom, without naming “Jerusalem,” knowing from history it was a city rebellious against the Persians and resistant to their rule. Nehemiah gets the sympathy of the king on his side before he reveals the city!

v. 4 It is wonderful to labor long in prayer; but prayer does not have to be long to be effective, especially when the situation will not allow it. Peter’s prayer, “**Lord, save me!**”

v. 5 Nehemiah’s vision was also revealed: *that I may rebuild it*. That was a huge job and a big goal. Nehemiah isn’t going on a mere fact-finding expedition, or to tell the leaders of Jerusalem what a bad job they were doing. He goes to get the work done, trusting in God all the way! Again, Nehemiah shows wisdom by referring to Jerusalem without specifically mentioning the city (*send me to Judah, to the city of my father’s tombs*). Although, we can also say that Nehemiah is not being deceptive. Though Jerusalem might have historically been a rebellious city to Persia, it isn’t any longer - and will not be.

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Neh 2:6 Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

Neh 2:7 Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah,

Neh 2:8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Nehemiah Inspects Jerusalem's Walls

Neh 2:9 Then I went to the governors in the region beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

Neh 2:10 When Sanballat (Shown in 407 B.C. Elephantine Papyrus, as Governor of Syria) the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of it, they were deeply disturbed (spoiled by breaking in pieces; trembling with evil) that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.

vs. 6-8 *It pleased the king to send me:* Nehemiah's sympathetic heart, his four months of prayer; his moment of prayer; his great faith; his big vision; and his wise responses **were all answered positively**. The **king was enthusiastic about supporting Nehemiah** in this venture. Nehemiah knew how long he would need to be gone (**I set him a time**). He knew he would need letters of safe passage from the king (*let letters be given to me*). He knew what kind of materials would be needed (*timber*). He knew what work needed to be done (*the gates of the citadel . . . the city wall . . . the house I will occupy*). Nehemiah knew the needs by carefully and patiently seeking God. *give me timber*: Nehemiah was also **a bold man, not afraid to ask others to help when he knew they had the resources** to help. Once the king was willing to be a part of Nehemiah's goal (...*pleased the king to send...*), he went right on to ask for an official seal of approval on the project (*letters . . . for the governors*) and for the king to finance the project (*that he must give me timber*). *And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me:*

v. 9 *Then I went:* Another example of Nehemiah's godly leadership. He actually *went*, travelling the 900 miles to do the work of rebuilding the walls and the people. Many people's hearts have been touched like Nehemiah's, **but they stop short of actually going out and doing what needs to be done!**

Beyond the River: "The Euphrates River," an important landmark that separated one region from another. Once a traveler crossed the river, they were on the road to the region of Judea and the city of Jerusalem. At this point Nehemiah spoke to the *governors* of this region who ruled under the Persian and *Gave them the king's letters*: Nehemiah came prepared. He had letters showing he was truly sent by the king. **He had captains of the army and horsemen with him. He also had substantial supplies of lumber from the king's forest. Indeed, Artaxerxes had responded to Nehemiah's invitation to become a partner in the work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.**

v. 10 Sanballat the Horonite . . . Tobiah the Ammonite: Both **powerful, but bad, unbelieving men**, in the Jerusalem area. At the governor's station, Nehemiah met these two enemies of Jerusalem and anyone who cared for the welfare of the city. ***They were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.*** Often we fear ever stepping out for the LORD, because of knowing opposition will come, thinking that somehow our life will be better or easier if they stay in their low, mediocre state before God. How wrong! Tough times are going to come anyway; but **when we are growing and stepping forth in the Lord, we are far more equipped to deal with them.**

vs. 6-8 *I set him a time:* As a capable leader, Nehemiah clearly had a *plan*. The four months in prayer were not only spent in talking to God, but also in *listening* to Him and in working out a Spirit-led plan for what to do when God did open the door. Nehemiah had a plan, and God always works through a plan. The LORD our God is a planning God. From the beginning of the plan of salvation in eternity past, God has a plan and is working it out. God works through planning - if not our planning, then His planning. But as a general principle, God wants to train us up into the work of being planners, just as He is a planner. Though this was a pagan king, Nehemiah still understood that God could work through him in a mighty way. God can provide for our needs in totally unexpected or unlikely ways.

v. 9 Sometimes we substitute *talking* about something for actually doing it. It is one thing to stand around with other believers and talk about doing some evangelism; praying about it, planning it, talking about it - it is another thing to actually go out and *do* it. God is in the *doing* of the thing. Our spiritual enemies don't mind as long as *all* we do is plan and pray and talk; but when God's people start *doing* something, they take notice.

v. 10 Notice when this opposition came: **not at the heart stage, not at the vision stage, not at the prayer stage, not at the planning stage, but when progress came in doing something**. These two cared nothing as long as Jerusalem was weak and vulnerable, but now with a new leader of doing good for the Jews, they become deeply disturbed! **So what do we do when the strong leaders come against us? Anytime we start engaging what the Lord has called us to do, we will pick up a whole new enemies, who are against God, who will hate us; therefore they will be against us for doing His will! All new believers will experience this! We need to recognize this!**

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Nehemiah Views the Wall of Jerusalem”

Neh 2:11 So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.

Neh 2:12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.

Neh 2:13 And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire.

Neh 2:14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass.

Neh 2:15 So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned.

Neh 2:16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.

Neh 2:17 Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."

Neh 2:18 And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.

vs. 11-12 So I came to Jerusalem... told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem. When Nehemiah entered Jerusalem with a military escort and lumber from the king of Persia's forest, people would notice him - but he didn't say anything about his mission until the time was right

v. 13 ... night through the Valley Gate: Apparently Nehemiah set out from the west side of the city, then left towards the south, continuing around the rubble of the city walls, until coming back to his starting point. ... ***viewed the walls...broken down... gates.... burned:*** Nehemiah carefully studied the broken down walls and the burned gates to see the extent of its damage. Nehemiah knew the job of rebuilding the walls couldn't proceed unless he saw exactly how bad the situation was.

v. 14 There was so much debris that Nehemiah could not ride horseback through it. He had to dismount.

v. 15 He had circled the entire city. He was finished with his inspection.

v. 16 Nehemiah used caution and good judgment in doing God's work.

v. 17 Nehemiah explained his vision for the rebuilding of the walls to the city leaders. He could not do the job by himself and would be in a lot of trouble if leaders didn't support him. ***Distress....:*** The /leaders of Jerusalem likely were not sitting around waiting for someone to come and rebuild their walls. They had tried to fix a 100 year-old problem. ***Years ago, when someone tried, enemies simply stopped them. So they lived with it.*** In wisdom, Nehemiah asked them to notice the obvious: ***You see the distress;*** sometimes, the obvious is the hardest to see. ***Wisely, he did not come as if he were there to fix their problem He owned the problem as his also.*** He didn't place blame or criticize anyone. He simply identified right along with them regarding the problem.

v. 18 ...hand of my God....: Notice what Nehemiah ***didn't do***; he didn't beg or make deals. He asked others to be part of his God given vision, never stopping the treating it like a high calling. He simply inferred, ***there's a job to be done, and God is leading us to get it done now. Let us rise up and build:*** This response of the leaders of Jerusalem was of God. They said, we're with you!" They might have denied the *need* for the walls, but here they recognize God has more for us, and *now* is the time to enter in.***set their hands to do....*** God's hand at work here. Nehemiah's *heart*, his *prayer*, his *boldness*, his *big vision*, his *action*, and his *wisdom*, ***were all rewarded.*** This was a God-inspired thing; God moved the hearts of the leaders to do this.

vs. 11-12 Nehemiah came to Jerusalem, full of heart, full of prayer, full of faith, full of wisdom, full of a big vision, full of support from the king, and finally gets to his destination - and he did nothing for three days. "You will often find it best not to commit your plans to others. If you want to serve God, go and do it, and then let other people find it out afterwards. You have no need to tell what you are going to do. ***Good leaders learn a sense of God's timing.***

vs. 13-15 For the first time, Nehemiah saw with his eyes what had been reported to him, and what God had called him to repair. How he must have been touched, knowing the extent of the damage and the fear, poverty, and insecurity the broken walls meant in the lives of the people. He could have focused on all that was right with Jerusalem. They were back in Judah. The forced exile was over. The temple was built. Sacrifice and worship were conducted. Progress was being made, slow as it was. There was much to be thankful for in Jerusalem - but sometimes, one must look at what is wrong, and that is what Nehemiah did.

v. 16 The only people that knew Nehemiah's plans were the few men who had made the secret night ride with him. It is good to continue to remain silent rather than spreading God's calling all around. There is nothing that Nehemiah won't do for God. He is also a thorough leader. Before he tells everyone of his vision to rebuild the wall, he wants to know as best he can what the overall scope of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah was willing to give his full commitment to do all that the Lord required in accomplishing this work. ***Are we willing to go all in re commitment?***

v. 17 The distress that we are in: Nehemiah *wisely* approached the leaders of Jerusalem. He had to. In the accomplishment of any vision or goal - or at least of a God-sized vision or goal, there will be certain people *essential* to accomplishing the goal - you *must* have their help. Nehemiah did not see the present Jerusalem as an unchangeable reality but as described in ***Psalms 48 & 122!*** ***Nehemiah's wise diplomatic, approach gives us an example to follow.***

v. 18 We know that ***Nehemiah was a great leader because people followed him.*** The people he was meant to lead were genuinely influenced by his leadership. ***He outlines the whole vision, his prayerful approach; Artaxerxes agreement and support!***

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Neh 2:19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"

Neh 2:20 So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."

v. 19 Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official both came to oppose the work. Spiritual opposition to the work God wants to accomplish is a reality many Christians fail to take account of, and are thus defeated in what God would what them to do. **Sanballat . . . Tobiah:** These two first surfaced in Neh 2:10; they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel. They had previously made their opinion known; now they will seek to do something about the progress Nehemiah is making. These men were Jews - were fellow brothers - of Nehemiah and the citizens of Jerusalem. We might have thought they would have supported his work, but they do not. Opposition is always difficult; but when it comes from brothers, it is then mixed with the pain of betrayal as well. The Bible makes it clear we have enemies and opponents also, but chiefly they are spiritual enemies: We can experience spiritual attack on a direct inward level from spiritual enemies, or through people who are, wittingly or unwittingly, being used as tools by our spiritual enemies. **Will you rebel against the king?** This shows that Sanballat and Tobiah had a low view of God’s authority. They, ignorantly, figured the king of Persia was the highest authority in the land. The king *had* given permission, even if they didn’t know it. The king was *partner* in the work. Second, they were not concerned with God’s authority.). **Opposition through scorn is a hard thing to overcome.** They scorn anyone who speaks up against their liberal causes and it is a powerful tool to stop people from decent enterprises to scorn them. **None of us like to be scorned, mocked, laughed at, so we have a tendency to keep quiet!.**

v. 20 And said to them: Nehemiah did not give a point-by-point reply or show them the document proving the king’s support of the project. He knew that hearts that refuse to be convinced will *never* be convinced.. **The God of heaven Himself will prosper us:** Instead proclaimed his confidence in God. “It doesn’t matter if you are against us. God’s work will succeed.” Nehemiah didn’t let the enemy sidetrack him. He had a work to do and he was going to do it. If you allow your enemies to get you to stop what you should be doing and give all your attention to them, then your enemies have won. There is a touch of holy boldness in Nehemiah’s response. “Go ahead and take your best shot. It won’t work. God is with us. He isn’t with you. You will fail. We will prosper under the hand of the God of heaven!”

v. 19 They laughed at us: Sanballat and Tobiah used **scorn** in their attack. Along with Geshem, they were three very powerful foes. They wanted Nehemiah to feel mocked, stupid, and foolish. **They laughed at us** shows that they showed their spite (**and despised us**) with a humorous edge. Satan as well, uses ridicule as a powerful weapon of opposition. Ridicule hurts! We need to realize that it is the weapon of those who have no other weapon! But this weapon can only be successful if we give into it.

But we see Nehemiah is not going to back down. He knows that He is called by God to rebuild the walls. He refuses to be cowed by opposition. The first form of strong opposition is that of laughter and being despised! The way that Sanballat and Tobiah **used laughter and scorn as weapons against the work of God** should also make us reflect on our own use of humor. Some Christians who are otherwise well-meaning are tools of the enemy, all for the sake of a few laughs. Nehemiah could have turned the question back on them: **Will you rebel against the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?**

v. 20.... I answered them! The God of heaven Himself will prosper us! Note Nehemiah’s faith in God that He will enable us to do His will—he told that right to the faces of these three powerful men. He ignored their scorn. His bold, straightforward words showed he had not been put on the defensive by their mocking, scornful attack. When faced with the choice of pleasing man or pleasing God, Nehemiah knew exactly what he would do. **Let them mock - he would serve the LORD. ... will arise and build:** Nehemiah proclaimed who he was and what he would do, that he and his followers had a job to do. They had agreed to **rise up and build** and they will do it. In facing our enemies, we must always keep focus on who we are and what we should do. Failure to see these will always lead to defeat. These are exactly the things our spiritual enemies want us to forget! And sometimes, you just have to proclaim it! **heritage or right or memorial...** Nehemiah then not only stuck in the knife into these three, but twisted it! He slams the door shut on them. He proclaimed the truth about his enemies. They may have been Jews by birth; they may have been legal citizens of Jerusalem; they may have owned property in the city. **We can say the same to our spiritual enemies: “You have no heritage or right or memorial in me. I belong to Jesus Christ. You don’t belong here. Move on because I’m not going anywhere.”**

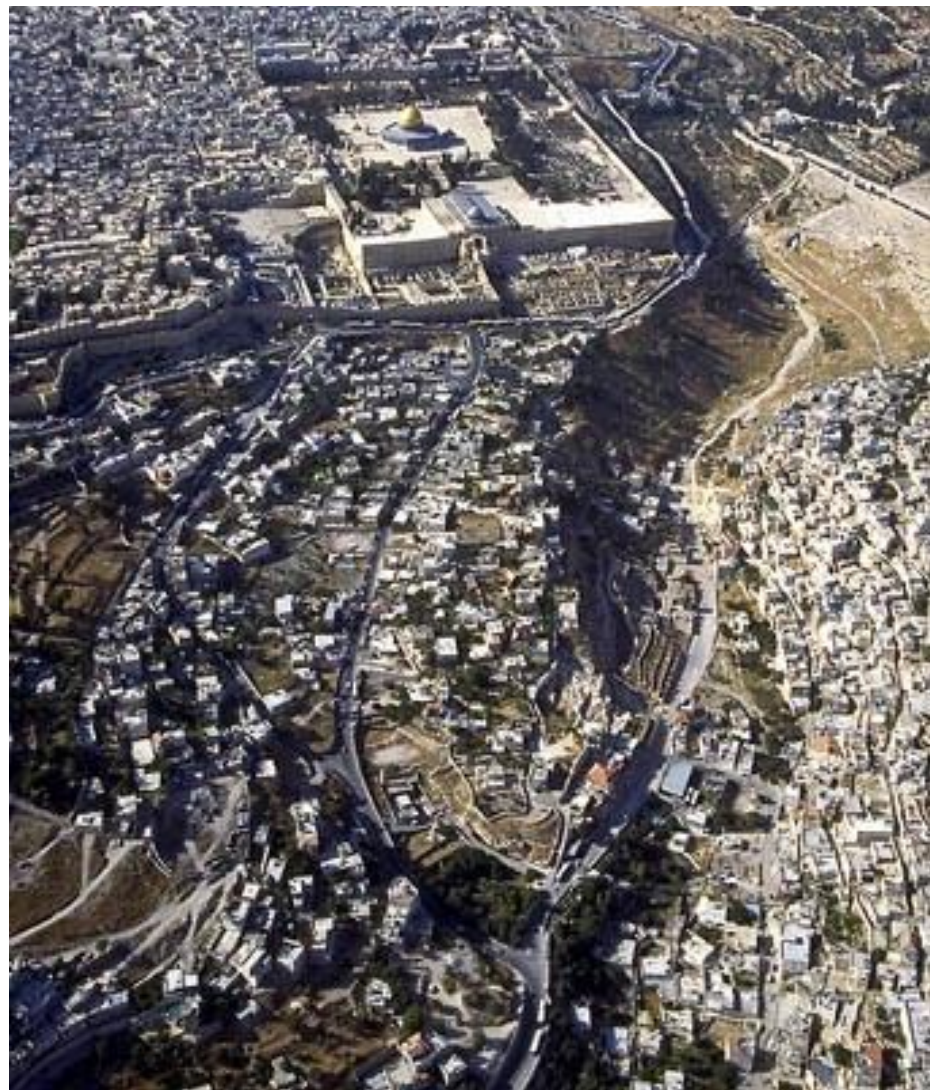
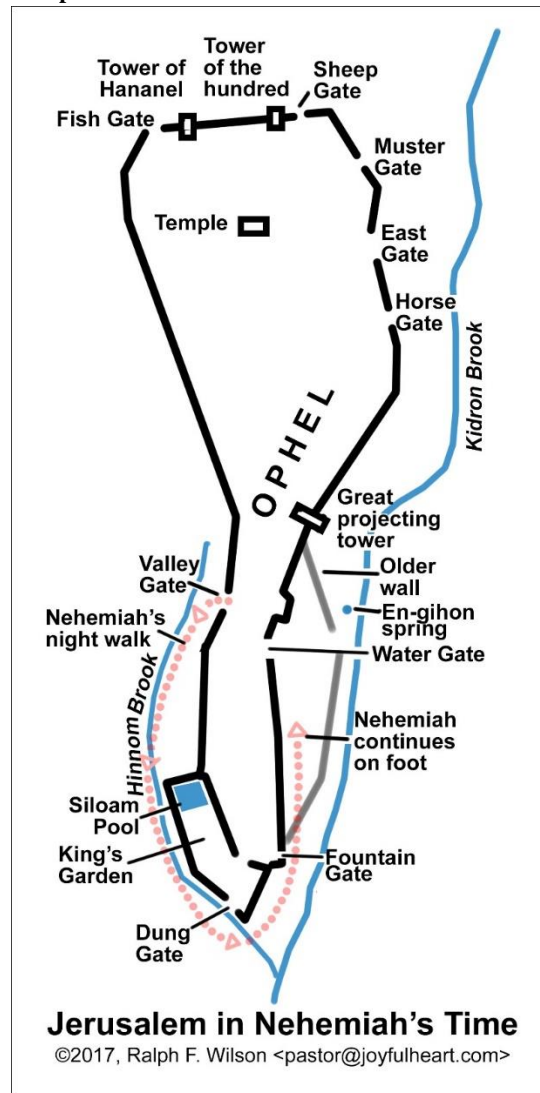
NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 2 – “Nehemiah Sent to Judah, Nehemiah Views the Wall of Jerusalem”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION



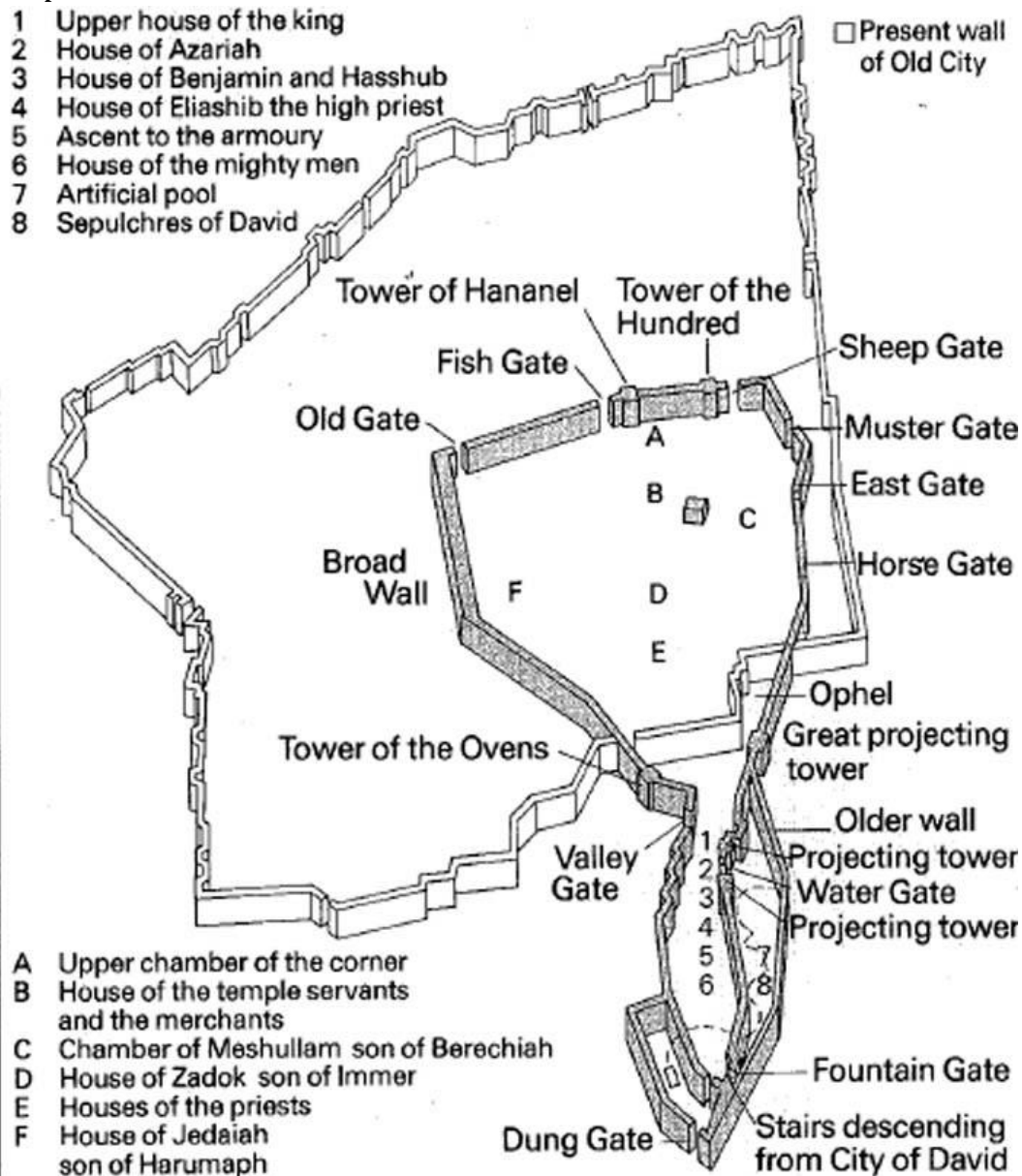
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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION



Zion, the City of Our God (Psalm 48:1-2)

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Let Us Go to the House of the Lord - A Song of Ascents. Of David.

Psa 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."

Psa 122:2 Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Psa 122:3 Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together, Psa 122:4 Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the LORD, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the LORD.

Psa 122:5 For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David.

Psa 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

Psa 122:7 Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."

Psa 122:8 For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you."

Psa 122:9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.