



Through the Bible Series: Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Pencils/Markers
- ✓ One small doll or action figure per child
- ✓ Blocks to build the wall (Lincoln logs, Lego's, wooden blocks, etc..)
- ✓ Index card folded in half in the shape of a "tent"
- ✓ Clear tape
- ✓ 1 sheet of white 8/12 x 11 paper
- ✓ Copies of Word Trace
- ✓ Copies of Coloring Sheet
- ✓ Copies of Take Home Overview



Books of the Bible Series: Nehemiah

Objective of Lesson

The objective of this lesson, and every lesson in this series, is for our children to become familiar with the structure and order of the books of the Bible and point out how each book is written to specifically picture the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reference

Book of Nehemiah

Lesson Instructions

1. Every week we have been learning an overview of another Book of the Bible. By doing this I hope you have learned two things: 1. The whole Bible from cover to cover is about Jesus Christ the Son of God and everything HE did to save His fallen people from their sins. 2. The order of the books, so you can find them and follow along when your pastor or your parents read to you from this book. Can you name the books of the Bible you have learned so far? Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles and Ezra! Wow you guys are learning so much!
2. Today we are going to learn about the book of Nehemiah. Can you find the

book of Nehemiah and point to the first verse? Last week if you remember, we talked about Ezra and how the people went back to Jerusalem and rebuilt the temple. Remember our figures? (Hold up the figures) We are going to bring these figures back and play a little more with them. Today our figures are going to be building the walls of the city of Jerusalem. You remember last week they were building the actual temple. We are going to pretend this index card "tent" shape taped to this piece of white paper is going to represent our temple and we are going to build the walls around it with our blocks. The walls need to go all the way around the edge of this paper. The walls represent both the security of God's elect in Christ AND that which separates the people of God from all the people of the world (1 Cor. 4:7; Ex. 11:7).

3. The next thing I want you to notice is ALL of God's people work together to build God's kingdom. God appointed a man named Nehemiah and he was in charge of organizing the building of these walls. That is where our chapter gets its name, Nehemiah. I want you to hold up your figure as I call your name and I want you to decide what your figure does for a living. Is he or she a doctor? A Jewlery maker? A writer of books? They can be anything you want them to be; it does not matter.
4. Once I find out what you are then I am going to pretend I am Nehemiah, and I will assign to you your job in building the wall. (As they tell you what their figure does, assign them a section of the wall to assemble on the edge of the paper "temple". The goal is to build a short wall around your "card tent" temple. Split this task up into equal parts depending upon how many children you have.) Now that you all have your assignments, I want you to get to work!!
5. What do you notice about building these walls? Does it matter what you do for a living? No. Is anybody in our group NOT working on the wall? No. What does this teach us? It teaches us that no matter who you are in God's kingdom every single one of His people is important and is vitally involved and active in the building of God's kingdom. It does not matter who you are, or

how many there are, or what your task is. Some of you are working on the corners of the wall and some in the middle, but ALL of the tasks are important, and that makes God's people important.

6. No matter what talent the Lord gives you, you are to use it to the best of your ability because all of God's people are valuable and important to him. There is no such thing as a less important Child of God. We all work as one in the purpose that God has assigned to us in this life. Do you know what that goal is? It is to further the preaching of His gospel and the spreading the word of the good news of Jesus Christ. What is that good news? Jesus Christ came to this earth to save sinners!! Not good people! Sinners! God told His disciples, "...to go into all the world and preach the gospel." It does not matter who you are or what you do; we are to do that with which the talents and abilities God has given us.
7. As you guys are building the walls Nehemiah hears that a people from nearby heard of the work you were doing and they were going to attack!!! They don't want you to spread the gospel and the good news! They don't like it! What do you think happens? Nehemiah gave them ALL swords. We are going to make little swords from toothpicks and duck tape. You each get two small pieces of duck tape and a toothpick. Put the two pieces of tape at the end, stuck to each other to form the handle, with the toothpick in the middle. It forms a little handle. Now as your figures work they should all have a sword.
8. Now go back to building that wall!!! Keep working with your swords on your hip!!! What in the world do you think this teaches us? I am going to read you a verse of scripture. **Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* That just told us that this sword, this sharp powerful sword that is given to all His people is His word!!! Just like when these people were attacked while going about God's work, today we are given a sword to defend ourselves too! That sword is the

word of God. If someone comes up to one of God's children today, what can they use to defend themselves? They have the word of God. They can whip out verse after verse after verse of scripture to fend off those who do not love the gospel and try to cast a bad light on it!

9. What did we learn from this chapter today?! No matter what you do or who you are in God's kingdom, everybody in God's church from the preacher that stands in the pulpit to your Dad that goes to work every day to give his money to help support the work of this church - to the person that mows the grass in front of the church building, they are all working together to help spread the word of the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We spread the news that Jesus Christ the Son of God came to this earth as a man and died for His peoples' sins so that we might be accepted of God - something we had no hope of doing for ourselves yet was freely given to us by our wonderful savior.
10. When people try to attack your work and what you are doing, how do you defend yourselves? (Hold up the Bible) You tell them what God says in this book. This is your sword - God's word! (Hold up your sword and as you say this lunge forward with your sword and say,) "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword; it can divide the soul from the spirit; it can divide the joints and marrow, and it knows and reveals the thoughts and intents of the heart.*" Amen!

Lesson Activities

- Word Trace
- Coloring Sheet
- Assembly of temple illustration - Take a small index card and fold in half to form a "tent". Tape the tent in the middle of a blank 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper. This will represent the temple. Have the children build the "walls" on the edges of this 8 ½ x 11 sheet so that it surrounds the "temple".

- Assembly of the swords. - Take the toothpick and place the pieces of duck tape sticky side to sticky side at the end of the toothpick to form the guard of the sword handle. Then wrap duct tape below the guard to form the entire handle of the "sword". See photo for illustration.





Take Home Lesson Overview

Through the Bible Series: Nehemiah

Scripture Reference:

Book of Nehemiah

Lesson Overview:

The Book of Nehemiah is a continuation of the building of the temple in Jerusalem and its walls. The building of the walls were important because walls separate and protect, just like our Lord separates and protects His children on this Earth. Every person in the city helped with this task. It did not matter what they did; they all helped to build the walls in some way. When people tried to attack them and keep them from God's work they were each given a sword so they could work and defend themselves if necessary. What does this teach us? No matter what you do or who you are in God's kingdom, everybody in God's church from the preacher that stands in the pulpit to your Dad that goes to work every day to give his money to help support the work of this church to the person that mows the grass in front of the church building are all working together to help spread the word of the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We spread the news that Jesus Christ the Son of God came to this earth as a



man and died for His peoples' sins so that we might be accepted of God - something we had no hope of doing for ourselves yet was freely given to us by our wonderful savior, Jesus Christ.

When people try to attack your work of spreading the gospel, are you to defend yourself? You tell them what God says in the Bible. This is your sword - God's word! *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and **sharper than any two-edged sword**; it can divide the soul from the spirit; it can divide the joints and marrow, and it knows and reveals the thoughts and intents of the heart."* Amen!

Student Name _____

Date _____

Handwriting Practice **Basic Print - Large Letters** - 13/16 inch

To print worksheet widest side horizontal click "File" - "Page Setup" and "Landscape"

Nehemiah

Nehemiah

Nehemiah

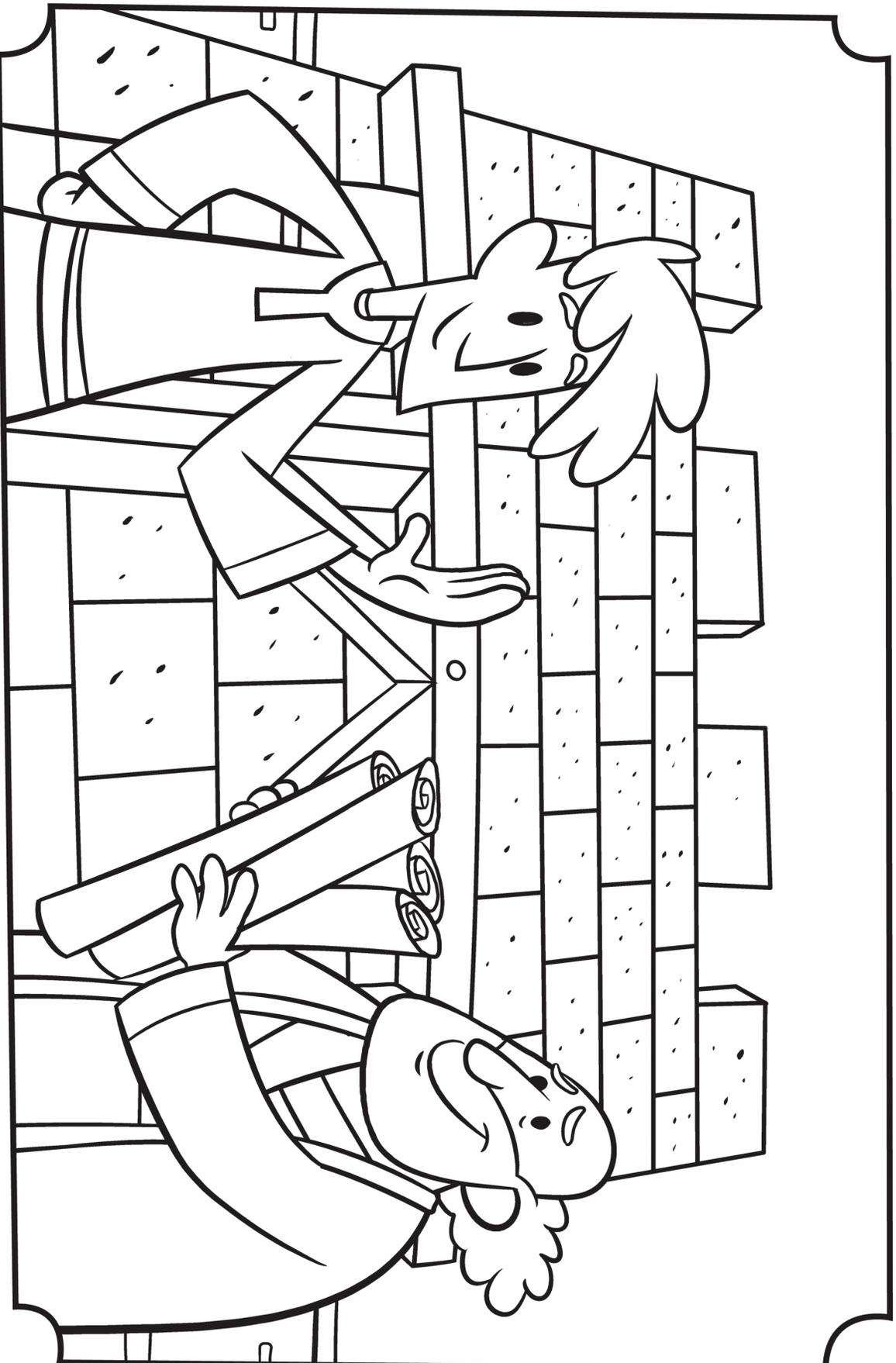
Nehemiah

Nehemiah

Nehemiah

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Nehemiah became the governor of the Israelites and Ezra became the priest. - **Nehemiah 5**

Title: **NEHEMIAH**
 “Build Thou the Walls of Jerusalem”

Text: Nehemiah 6:3

Subject: *Building the Walls of Jerusalem—The Message of Nehemiah*

Introduction:

As the Book of Ezra describes the great work of rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem, the Book of Nehemiah describes the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. The Book of Nehemiah is really just a continuation of the Book of Ezra. **The theme in both books is the restoration of divine worship and the restoration of God’s people.**

These two things always go hand in hand. When there is a revival of true worship, there is revival in the hearts of God’s elect. And when the Lord sends revival to his people, the worship of God is restored and set in order. This is clearly set before us in David’s prayer of repentance in Psalm 51:18-19.

(Psalms 51:18-19) "Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. {19} Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar."

SEPARATION

As the temple of God speaks of the place of divine worship and sacrifice, and represents the whole work of salvation, the salvation of God’s elect by the sacrifice, intercession, and grace of Christ, the walls of Jerusalem (the city of God—the church) represent another aspect of grace and salvation. The walls represent both the security of God’s elect in Christ and that which separates the people of God from all the people of the world (1 Cor. 4:7; Ex. 11:7).

(1 Corinthians 4:7) "For who maketh thee to differ *from another?* and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it?*"

(Exodus 11:7) "But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel."

What separates us from others? Grace, nothing but the free, sovereign, saving grace of God!

- Electing Grace
- Redeeming Grace
- Calling Grace
- Keeping Grace

Four times, Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem, the leaders of those who conspired against Ezra, Nehemiah and Judah sent word to Nehemiah to leave off the work of building the walls of Jerusalem to come down and meet them. Though their real purpose was to stop the work, their pretense was that they wanted to work out a plan whereby they could unite in the great work. Four times, Nehemiah gave them the same reply (Neh. 6:3).

(Nehemiah 6:3) "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?"

Proposition: Like Nehemiah, our concern in this world, the work to which we have been called, is the building of God's church; and we must not allow anything or anyone to turn us aside from that which our God has sent us to do.

There was an interval of about twelve years between the work of Ezra's reforms and the time that Nehemiah obtained permission from King Artaxerxes, to whom he was cup-bearer, to go up to Jerusalem.

ARTAXERXES

Reading the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, we frequently run across the names of Artaxerxes and Ahasuerus. But really, these are not the names of different kings, but the titles given to them. That fact gives us a little difficulty. But it really should not. Many years later, the rulers of Rome were called "Caesar," but there were several different Caesars. The title "Artaxerxes" means "the great king." "Ahasuerus" means "the venerable father." The titles Artaxerxes in Nehemiah and Ahasuerus in Esther refer to the same king, King Darius spoken of in the book of Daniel. Then, to add to the confusion, Artaxerxes in the book of Ezra is not the same Artaxerxes spoken of in Nehemiah. That Artaxerxes was opposed to the work Ezra and Nehemiah led the Judah to perform. He opposed the building of the temple (Ezra 4:21-24). He was probably Darius' son.

NEHEMIAH'S CONCERN

Nehemiah was deeply distressed by the news that his brethren gave him concerning the God's people in Jerusalem (1:1-4).

(Nehemiah 1:3-4) "And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. {4} And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven"

The rest of the first chapter (vv. 5-11) records his great prayer of intercession to God. Nehemiah was imminently a man of prayer. Throughout these 13 chapters, he interjects brief prayers. As he worked and labored in his great cause, he continually sought God's direction and help, depending upon him.

Nehemiah's heart was broken. His soul was stirred by the news of the desolate condition of the city with its broken walls. So much so that, as he served King Artaxerxes, the king asked him what was wrong with him (2:2-3).

(Nehemiah 2:2-3) "Wherefore the king said unto me, Why *is* thy countenance sad, seeing thou *art* not sick? this *is* nothing *else* but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, {3} And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, *lieth* waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?"

The king then asked him what he wanted and sent him to Jerusalem to build the walls of the city. To put it in Nehemiah's words, "*So it pleased the king to send me...And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me*" (vv. 6-8).

Nehemiah found things in horrible condition at Jerusalem. He gathered the elders together and told them of the good hand of his God upon him, and they said, "*Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work*" (2:18).

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

This book is full of lessons for us. It begins with Nehemiah's confession of sin and prayer to God on behalf of his people (chapter 1).

- His great concern is for the house of God, the people of God, and the worship of God (vv. 1-4).
- He ascribes to God the glory and praise of his greatness as God (v. 5).

(Nehemiah 1:5) "And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:"

- Throughout this prayer, he describes God's people in such a way as to move him to be gracious, seeking mercy on the grounds of God's greatness and the desperate need of his people.

(Nehemiah 1:6-11) "Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear **the prayer of thy servant**, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and **confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.** {7} We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses. {8} **Remember**, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, *If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:* {9} But *if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, **yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.*** {10} Now these *are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed* by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. {11} O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of **thy servants, who desire to fear thy name:** and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer."

WORKERS TOGETHER (Chapter 3)

Nehemiah was sent by the king to do the work, but neither he nor the king thought that this great work would be the work of one man. The work involved all those who feared God. Nehemiah and the people of Judah labored side by side as “*laborers together with God*” (1 Cor. 3:9).

- Christianity is not a spectator sport. The work of the church is not the work of one man, but of many, working together with God. This is not my ministry, but ours—Yours, mine, and Christ’s! (Our Tapes, Our Books, Our Service).

As they built the walls of Jerusalem, they began at the Sheep Gate and completely enclosed the city (chapter 3). Priests, rulers, goldsmiths, apothecaries, and merchants, all worked side by side, brothers working together in the common cause of God. We are told exactly who set up the various gates, with the locks and the bars thereof.

No work done for God’s glory is overlooked by him no matter how small it might appear in our eyes. He delights to place on record the humblest service. It is written, “*And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them*” (Rev. 14:13).

That is what we are doing, laboring together for the glory of God, for the worship of God, to build the kingdom of God. Let us be like “*Baruch, the son of Zabbai, (who) earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest*” (3:20).

OUR ENEMIES (Chapters 4-6)

But, in chapters 4-6, the descendants of the Samaritans, who had harassed Zerubbabel, were relentless in their efforts to hinder the work. First they mocked them: *“What do these feeble Jews? That which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.”* *“Hear, O our God; for we are despised,”* was Nehemiah’s prayer. *“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work”* (4:1-6).

When their mockery could not stop the faithful from their work, Judah’s foes conspired to fight against Jerusalem. But Nehemiah says, *“We made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch day and night.”* He armed the workers and gave orders that at the sound of the trumpet they were to run to the place needing help and defend the city.

That is when Sanballat and his crowd sent the messages to Nehemiah, asking him to meet them in the plain of Ono. His reply was, *“I am doing a great work: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?”* Then they accused Judah of rebellion (antinomianism), and sought to weaken their hands and make them afraid, but Nehemiah replied to Tobiah: *“There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart.”* And as a last resort, one urged Nehemiah to take refuge in the Temple, *“for they will come to slay thee.”* *“Should such a man as I flee?”* was Nehemiah’s steadfast reply. *“So the wall was finished in fifty and two days”* (6:15).

Those who oppose Christ and the gospel we preach will employ any means they can to hinder or discourage us from doing God’s work. Let us, like Nehemiah, ever remember who has

commissioned us, and praying and relying upon our God, completely disregard, utterly ignore their carpings.

CHRIST OUR PRIEST (Chapter 7)

The register of those who first came from Babylon under Zerubbabel is again repeated in chapter 7. Some of the priests names could not be found in the genealogy. could not be found, *“Therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood. And the Tirshatha (Governor) said unto the, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim”* (7:63-65).

Here we have here one of those instances in the Old Testament when the Face of Christ suddenly shines forth in the most unexpected and unlikely places. This is only a register and a few priests who could not find their place in it. But it makes our hearts thrill with the consciousness that we have a great High Priest – the Lord Jesus Christ – who has the Urim and Thummim, who is the “Light and Perfection.” He settles the question as to our right to communion with God, symbolized in the eating of the most holy things. He declares that, as those who are made priests unto God by him, we are worthy to partake of the holy things. His blood and righteousness makes us worthy.

- To Approach God
- To Be Baptized
- To Receive the Lord’s Supper
- To Wear the Name “Sons of God!”

He has, by his own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us (Heb. 9:12). And if we trust in his one great sacrifice for sins for ever, we also may draw nigh and have communion with God, not once a year, or once a month, or once a week, merely, but continually!

Christ is our great High Priest – not by genealogy from Aaron, but “*after the order of Melchizedek,*” who was “*without genealogy*” (Heb. 7:3 RV). Melchizedek’s genealogy was, no doubt, omitted to fit him all the more to be a type of Christ who had no earthly father. God has called us in Christ to be Priests unto him, and our right of priesthood depends upon whether we have been born again and have our names written, not in an earthly register, but in the Lamb’s Book of Life. He has, moreover, provided for our fitness in the present tenses of John’s Epistle. First, “*The blood cleanseth,*” so that there need never be any cloud between our souls and God. Second, “*The anointing abideth,*” so that there need never be any lack of the supply of His Spirit for service.

PLACE OF PREACHING (Chapters 8-12)

When we get to chapter 8 we see that the immediate result of the work of restoration was a great hunger for God’s Word. The people gathered themselves together as one man unto Ezra before the Water Gate, and begged him to bring forth the Book of the Law of Moses.

Here Ezra, perhaps an old man now, comes forward again, and we see him and Nehemiah uniting in God’s service. We are given a striking picture of Ezra’s preaching. Already we have seen him as a reformer, and as a man of prayer, and now all his skill in the Law of the Lord comes out as he stands on that pulpit of wood – “*made for the purpose*” – with thirteen of the leaders of the people standing beside him, and all the people thronging round. **He opened the roll of the book, and having prayed, read the Law distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused the people to understand it.** Hour after hour, and subsequently day after day, they listened, men and women and children, “*all that could understand.*”

His preaching stirred Jerusalem as Savonarola's preaching stirred Florence. The people wept as they found how far short they had come of God's will. But Ezra and Nehemiah and the Levites stilled the people, and **told them not to weep**, and their weeping was turned into joy by the preaching of God's great goodness revealed in his work, that which is recorded in his Word. *"And the people went their way...to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them"* (8:12). *"Great peace have they that love Thy law."*

- Kept the Feast of Tabernacles
- Made a Covenant, Renewed Consecration

The children of Israel sealed themselves under a solemn covenant to keep the Law, especially with regard to marriages with the heathen, to keeping the Sabbath, and to maintaining the worship of God.

The dedication of the walls was a joyful occasion, for *"God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced; so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off"* (12:43).

MORE DECLINE (Chapter 13)

Yet, in spite of all the grace and goodness they had experienced, these blessed people show us again that God's people in this world are but sinners saved by grace.

Once more twelve years have passed, and Nehemiah, who had been back at the Court of Shushan, returned to Jerusalem, to find all the terms of the covenant broken and the Law disregarded. He dealt with all these abuses firmly. Eliashib, the priests, because he was allied unto Tobiah the Ammonite, had given a chamber in

the Temple to this enemy of the Lord. Nehemiah turned him out immediately. Again, Nehemiah contended with the rulers because he found that the service of the house of the Lord was neglected. Next he found a wholesale disregard of the sabbath.

Such contempt for the things of God, his honor, his worship and the blessed rest of faith symbolized in the sabbath day must not be tolerated. If it is, it will inevitably lead to utter apostasy. It is a sign of the perilous times of these last days, when “*Men shall be lovers of their own selves...loves of pleasure more than lovers of God*” (2 Tim. 3:1-4).

COMPROMISE

Nehemiah found that the Jews had married among the heathen, violating God’s express command is both an act of defiance and idolatry (Ex. 34:14-17). Great evil is sure to follow. The result here was that their children spoke half in the speech of Ashdod, and half in the Jews’ language. In other words, their children learned by their compromise to be idolaters.

Believers are to marry “*only in the Lord.*” We must “*not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers*” in any area of life, but most particularly in marriage. Those who disobey God’s revealed will in this matter, marrying unbelievers, can expect nothing but sorrow as a result.

The argument (excuse) is frequently used that the believer will be able to win the unbelieving to Christ. But we must never expect God’s blessing upon our disobedience. I have often seen the Lord graciously intervene; but, more often than not, the result of such a union is that the person professing to be a believer is gradually drawn, (It may be almost imperceptibly.), to love the things of the world, and is found – together with the children of such a marriage – speaking “*half the speech of Ashdod,*” and

unable to speak as a citizen of the heavenly city. The spirit of compromise with the world mars the usefulness for Christ of many homes and churches, just as it did in Solomon's.

In all these breaches of God's law Nehemiah "*contended with the Jews,*" whether they were nobles or rulers or the common people, he dealt with them pointedly. He did not rest till all was put right. This was no lack of love on his part, but just the opposite. He was willing to spend and be spent for his people. It is an evidence of true love to deal faithfully with compromise, false doctrine and rebellion of any kind. Any church today blessed of God with a pastor who has the boldness, love and faithfulness Nehemiah had to deal with such things, has reason to give thanks to God for his goodness in giving his church pastors according to his own heart (Jer. 3:15).

GOD'S PEOPLE STILL

Having said all that, let us not set ourselves up as judges over one another when the Lord's people are overtaken in a fault, condemning them as unbelieving and reprobate. Evil must be reproved by God's servants, by the faithful exposition of holy Scripture, as it was by Ezra and Nehemiah. But when our brothers and sisters in Christ are overcome in a fault, let it be ours to fulfill the law of Christ, bearing their burden, doing what we are able to restore them in meekness, considering ourselves (Gal. 6:1-4).

The Holy Spirit specifically illustrates the fact that those who are truly beloved of the Lord are yet subject to such evils, by using Solomon as an example both of the sins of the Jews on this occasion and of the immutability of God's mercy, love and grace to his elect (Neh. 13:26; Mal. 3:6).

The fall of another reminds us that we are all sinners saved by grace. None of us are beyond temptation. None of us are beyond weakness. None of us are beyond sin. There is nothing we would not do, and completely justify ourselves in doing it, if the Lord left us to ourselves for a moment.

The falls of others give us opportunity to love and help. These sad events in the lives of God's saints in this world should serve as reminders that salvation is altogether the work of God's free grace, that our only righteousness before God is the righteousness of God in Christ, and that the only thing that makes one to differ from another is God's goodness and grace in Christ. Therefore, it is written, in Ephesians 4:32-52—"*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*"

¹ Date: Danville—Tuesday Evening—May 20, 2003
Redeemer Baptist Church, Louisville KY (Friday PM 05/23/03)
Tape # X-60b
Readings: Bob Poncer and Bobbie Estes