2Thess #173

Pick up your weapon and stand your post.

Don’t forget this Thursday I will be off due to maintenance on my computer.

No message this Thursday, I’ll be back Sunday and also we will do the Lord’s Supper this Sunday.

We will be in the OT - Nehemiah, feel free to go there now.

We will close this series out today. This will be very quick study on certain principles aligned with a Believer getting their life balanced in an orderly fashion.

There will be some bouncing around within a few chapters of Nehemiah, so be prepared.

The historical background on the book of Nehemiah points us to a time after the Babylonian empire was conquered by the Persian military.

This was a time Artaxerxes took over the throne of Persian power. It points to a time of restoration after Babylonian exile. It marks the beginning of the 70 weeks taught in prophecy from the book of Daniel.

This restoration began under Ezra when the Persian emperor, Cyrus the Great, decreed the return of the Jews to their lands.

The Persian era of dominance was much easier on the nation of Israel than the Babylonian era. Yet the Persians still remained in full control over the land.

/Nehemiah as a cupbearer and personal servant under the king was in a very close office to the throne. Which enabled him to have a more intimate relationship with Artaxerxes I. cupbearers had to test food and drink to ensure the King’s safety. This often became a position where the King and Queen allowed greater intimacy and friendship with the cupbearer over many other servants.\

In God’s perfect plan and HIS perfect timing, Nehemiah is not only in this position but also a favorite servant under the King’s authority.

Nehemiah had a strong desire and calling from GOD to restore Jerusalem and rebuild the walls.

Nehemiah was a man of great conviction, and he led an organized life. He walked with integrity and had a patriotic heart.

When the report of the poor conditions of Jerusalem reached the Persian palace, Nehemiah immediately began to pray.

In chapter one, Nehemiah takes responsibility as a member of the nation of Israel for their failure to follow Yahweh and remain faithful to HIS commands.

/Neh 1:11 “**Please, Lord, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer** of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and **please make Your servant successful** today and grant him mercy before this man.”

The first step toward having a balanced and organized life, begins when we take responsibility for our own actions and poor decisions. \

When we lay ourselves bare in front of GOD – we seek forgiveness of sins and recognize our own failures and weaknesses, this is the true humility that opens the doorway for God to work in our life.

/Neh 2:1 And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, **that wine was before him,** and I picked up the wine and gave it to the king. **Now I had not been sad in his presence.**

Having discernment how and when to go forth into a ministry or a mission for GOD takes a level of spiritual growth. Recognizing the calling and opening GOD uses is dependent upon BD in the soul.\

The date is also important, because it establishes the date given to restore Jerusalem and its walls.

There are many layers to scripture beyond the initial surface level. Especially prophecy.

/[Daniel 9:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/9/25/s_859025) prophesized exactly 173,880 days from this day — which was March 14, 445 B.C. — Messiah the prince would be presented to Israel. Many scholars make a strong case that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy exactly, to the day, entering Jerusalem on A.D. April 6, 32, precisely 173,880 days from [Nehemiah 2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/neh/2/1/s_415001). Nehemiah being a mature spiritual warrior, is used in the Divine Plan of the prophetic life of The Lord Jesus Christ in several ways.\

Most Christians miss out on opportunities to be used in deeper ways for the fulfillment of God’s plan.

Nehemiah gives us an example of the full potential for the Christian way of life.

Neh 2:2 So the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, though you are not ill? This is nothing but sadness of heart.” Then I was very much afraid.

Nehemiah wasn’t playing with puppy dog eyes and crocodile tears; he was genuinely distraught.

/[Neh 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/2/3/s_415003) And I said to the king, **“May the king live forever.** Why should my face not be sad when the city**, the site of my fathers’ tombs, is desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire**?”

He does not trample the chain of command and he shows great regard for the doctrine of authority.\

[Neh 2:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/2/4/s_415004) Then the king said to me, “What would you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.

The right thing done in the right way.

Neh 2:5 Then I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, *I request* that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.”

[Neh 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/2/6/s_415006) Then the king said to me, with the queen sitting beside him, “How long will your journey be, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a definite time.

The mature Bel will have the openings and guidance needed to follow through with God’s plan.

/[Neh 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/2/7/s_415007) And I said to the king, “**If it pleases the king, let letters be given me for the governors** *of the provinces* beyond the River, so that they will allow me to pass through until I come to Judah,

Nothing Nehemiah had done was from an emotional wave even though his heart is heavy. He follows protocol in an organized fashion…thinking and planning in advance.\

[Neh 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/2/8/s_415008) and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, so that he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which is by the temple, for the wall of the city, and for the house to which I will go.” And the king granted *them* to me because the good hand of my God *was* on me.

The Bel reaching levels of maturity understands the plan of GOD and how GOD touches every aspect of their lives.

Nehemiah has a grateful spirit.

/The greater we advance into the plan of GOD, the greater our life can become balanced and organized. So as not to fall into the traps of emotional decisions made in haste, error or based on human viewpoint. Right from the beginning, Nehemiah used consistent prayer and BD throughout his mission of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. Trusting GOD and acknowledging HIS plan.\

[Neh 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/2/9/s_415009) Then I came to the governors *of the provinces* beyond the Euphratesbeyond the River and gave them the king’s letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

When the Bel begins to grow inside the plan of GOD and centers their life on BD, GOD will even use outside sources, or Unbels to assist in our journey.

 REPEAT

/[Neh 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/2/10/s_415010) And when **Sanballat** the **Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite** official heard *about it,* it was very displeasing to them that someone had come to seek the welfare of the sons of Israel.

Men in positions of authority from the Moabite and Ammonite bloodline. There will always be opposition, usually from demonic forces when a Bel advances and takes up a ministry for GOD.\

Jump over to Chapter four RF.

The Christian who begins to advance in the plan of GOD knows the risk and the challenges. They prepare and handle what ever the Kingdom of darkness puts in their path. Adapt and overcome!

Nehemiah had to take time to assess the walls and inspect Jerusalem.

In fact, there is a great study on the gates of Jerusalem, which is not our focus today.

/All Bels need to evaluate and measure their time, talent and treasure as they press forward into the plan of God. When you remain unorganized and in disarray, your life becomes stagnant and your spiritual life will certainly suffer. Satan loves confusion and chaos, GOD is not the author of confusion, HE brings peace and assurance (1Cor 14:33).\

Neh 4:1 Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry, and he mocked the Jews.

This is not uncommon in the plan of GOD, it is a regular occurrence.

/Neh 4:1 – *he became furious and very angry;*

*ḥārâ kāʿas rāḇâ kāʿas,* This speaks to a deep seated, burning frustration, turning into a rage or true hatred. This is written to display a very aggressive attitude or criminal intent, fueled by blind rage.\

*HA-RAH KA-ASS RAH-VA KA-ASS,* The fact is those who truly are pawns of Satan, those who embrace the cosmic system, often become deadly enemies of the people of GOD.

All Christians have to be alert - not afraid, but awaken to the fact that this spiritual warfare is real.

TLJC was consistently attacked and persecuted and then the lives of the apostles were very similar.

Seeds of Satan are around every corner in this world and they do not just dislike you - they would happily plot and follow through on your demise.

This is one of the key reasons to strive toward SM so you can have discernment and also strength to press forward when the attacks arise.

 REPEAT

[Neh 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/2/s_417002) And he spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy people of Samaria and said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore *the temple* for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish *it* in a day? Can they revive the stones from the heaps of rubble, even the burned ones?”

We see these men became much like the Sanhedrin against Christ, whipping up the mob mentality.

/[Neh 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/3/s_417003) Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* near him, and he said, “**Even what they are building**—if a fox were to jump *on it,* it would break their stone wall down!”

Human view point can never fathom how and what GOD is doing in your life. GOD is working on rebuilding the walls, and HE works through prepared men and women.\

[Neh 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/4/s_417004) Hear, O our God, how we are *an object of* contempt! Return their taunting on their own heads, and turn them into plunder in a land of captivity.

/[Neh 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/5/s_417005) **Do not forgive their guilt** and do not let their sin be wiped out before You, for **they have demoralized the builders.**

Nehemiah makes a harsh prayer request, a type of imprecatory prayer out of concern for his people.\

As the work continued and the threats and pressure arose over the course of weeks or months many Jews peeled away into hiding.

A good leader cares for his people and willingly stands in the gap for them.

This is very similar to what we saw with Gideon before the battle in Midian.

[Neh 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/6/s_417006) So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together to half its *height,* for the people had a mind to work.

/[Neh 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/7/s_417007) Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, *and* that the breaches began to be closed, **they were very angry.**

The mob mentality turns into violence very quickly. Therefore, preparation and problem-solving skills have to be at a high level in order to push forward in the plan of GOD.\

[Neh 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/8/s_417008) So all of them conspired together to come to fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.

Satan never rests, he may give you a reprieve for a period of time. Yet he always circles back around for another attacks.

Jump down a few verses in closing.

[Neh 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/12/s_417012)When the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times, “They will come up against us from every place where you may turn,”

[/Neh 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/13/s_417013)then **I stationed *men* in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall,** the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families **with their swords, spears, and bows**.

There comes a time when you advance in God’s plan, that challenges may turn into real conflict. Are you prepared and mature enough to stand your ground?\

[Neh 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/14/s_417014)When I saw *their fear,* I stood and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people: “Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.”

Nehemiah gives the glory to GOD – he relies upon divine power not human power. In doing so, he also lifts up those around him by reminding them of the GOD they serve.

[/Neh 4:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/15/s_417015)Now when **our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had frustrated their plan,** then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work.

When we walk in the center of God’s plan, prepared and heading into maturity, God will part the way and frustrate enemies for you.\

Just as Yahweh did at the Red Sea and just like HE did for Gideon and the 300.

[/Neh 4:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/16/s_417016)And from that day *on,* **half of my servants carried on the work while half of them kept hold of the spears, the shields, the bow**s, and the coats of mail; and the captains *were* behind all the house of Judah.

Remaining prepared and well organized while relying upon the power and plan of GOD ensures victory against any enemy.\

[Neh 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/17/s_417017)Those who were rebuilding the wall and those who carried burdens carried with one hand doing the work, and the other keeping hold of a weapon.

[/Neh 4:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/neh/4/18/s_417018) As for **the builders, each wore his sword** strapped to his waist **as he built**, while the trumpeter stood near me.

The SWORD of truth is our offense and defense – it is what we stand in no matter the enemy is doing against us.\