IT IS TIME TO REBUILD THE WALLS

January 31, 2021
IT IS TIME TO REBUILD THE WALLS

+ The Walls Surrounding Our Nation Need To Be Rebuilt

+Nehemiah Remembers The Rebuilding Of The Walls

+Nehemiah 1:1 (NIV) 1 The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa,
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- Perspective: The People Of Israel Were In Exile
- *It Is A Time Of Discipline For The People Of God*
- *Israel Rejected God’s Leadership And Direction*
- *They Found Themselves In Bondage -- Defeated*
And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.
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+Nehemiah A Jewish Exile Is Living In A Persian Citadel
+Nehemiah 1:2–3 (NIV84) — 2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. 3 They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”

+The News Is Troubling & Disgraceful
  • The Walls Are Broken Down
  • The Gates Have Been Burned With Fire
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+ Why Has This News Come To Nehemiah?

+ The Lord Knows That Nehemiah Will Do Something About It

+ God May Use Bad News To Get You Involved In His Plan
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- The Walls Are Broken Down
- The Gates Have Been Burned With Fire
  - This Signifies Trouble Now & Trouble To Come

- Where There Are No Walls There Is No Safety
- There Is No Future
- There's No Hope For Change Or Stability

- If These Issues Aren’t Dealt With The Enemy Will Come Back Repeatedly
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+Nehemiah’s Response: (Nehemiah 1:4 NIV) — 4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

+Nehemiah: Wept, Mourned, And Fasted For Days.

+To Pray Is An Awesome Thing -- But To **Act** Upon Our Prayers Is Where The Broken-Down Walls Will Be Repaired
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- Nehemiah In The Time Of His Greatest Need Did Something Significant: He Spends Time With The Lord.
  - He Honors God
  - He Declares God’s Word Regarding His People
  - He Intercedes For His Country And His City
  - He Confesses Their Sins --- Both His And Israel's
Nehemiah 1:5–7 (NIV84) — 5 Then I said: “O L ORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s house, have committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

- He Confessed The Sins Of His People And Of Himself
- He Prayed to The Lord
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+ **Commands From The Lord Are Keys To His Blessing**

+ **When We Ignore God’s Will, Ways, & Word -- We Are On Our Own And Devastation Soon Finds Us**
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+Nehemiah 1:8–11 (NIV84) — 8 “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 9 but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’ 10 “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. 11 O 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.” I was cupbearer to the king.

+Nehemiah Prays: Give Me Favor & An Audience Use Me To Touch Your People

+Lord We Are Your People, Hear This Prayer, Give Success.
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+ We Need To Rebuild The Walls

+ The Walls In Our Nation Are Fast Coming Down

  - When Light Becomes Dark And Dark Becomes Light
  - When Right Becomes Wrong And Wrong Becomes Right
  - When Good Becomes Bad And Bad Becomes Good

+ It Means That You've Lost Your Footing, Covering & Protection From The Enemy
The Problem In Life Is When We Throw Off God And No Longer Have A Basis To Determine About Anything In Life

When We Throw Off God --
Off Goes His Protection The Walls Begin To Crumble

Drifting From God And Throwing Off His Protections Is Dangerous. It Leads To Devastation.
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+ Romans 1:16–17 (NIV84) — 16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

+ Where Can We Find Salvation & Righteousness From God By Faith -- In The Gospel -- This Is The Foundation And The Framework Of The Walls That Protect Us From The Attack Of The Enemy.

+ If We Reject The Gospel -- We Reject Salvation—Deliverance—Redemption—Healing—Blessing-- Etc.
Romans 1:18–22 (NIV84) 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.
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+ The Walls Always Break Down And Crumble To Pieces When We Reject God

+ Romans 1:21–22 (NIV84) — 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

+ Their Thinking Becomes Futile = Their Thoughts Become Empty, Unsuccessful, Senseless & Worthless
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*Where God Is Rejected*  --  Foolish Hearts Are Darkened

*Psalm 14:1 (NIV84) --- 1* The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.
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When People Push God Out Of Their Minds -- They Tear Down The Walls Of God’s Protection And Blessing Over Their Lives

Men's Hearts Are Darkened & Thinking Becomes Futile Because

1. They Do Not Glorify God
2. And They Do Not Offer Thanks To God
3. “They Claim To Be Wise – But They Became Fools”
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In Denying God People Make Serious Mistakes:

- They Profess Themselves To Be Wise And In Doing So They Become Fools

  - **God DoesExist.** *He Has Clearly Revealed Himself Within People's Thoughts And Through His Creation*

- When People's Hearts And Minds Are Emptied Of God -- They Have To Fill Their Hearts And Thoughts With Something Else -- So They Replace The True God With A False Substitute To Guide Their Life By
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-One Reason We See So Much Of The Cancel Culture Today -- It's Because The World Has Rejected God And Thrown Off His Concepts Of Morality

-The Truths Of God Which Are Designed And Shared With Us To Set Us Free And Keep Us Free Are Now Considered Abusive
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- Everything Righteous, Holy, And Godly Is Now A Cause For Panic And Given As A Reason For The Cancel Culture To Engage Yet Again

- We Are A Nation In A Freefall Towards Depravity
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“Where God Is Not Acknowledged--Feared--Or Listened To--There Will Be An Environment Produced Whereby Decisions And Actions And Reactions Are Completely Delusional--And They Don't Make Sense.” -- Rick Renner

There Is No Truth Or Wisdom Outside Of God When You Reject Him -- You Reject The Reality But You Also Reject The Blessing
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+ They Abandoned God -- He Gave Men Up To Do As They Willed
+(Rom 1:24 NIV) Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

+ How Does God Reveal And Execute His Wrath Upon Man?
+ He Does Not Corral People -- He Releases Them –
+ He Gives Them Up To Do As They Will
+ He Gives Them Up To Their Impurity –
+ He Gives Them Up To Their Sinful Desires
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When Man Is Left To Himself The Bad Always Chokes Out The Good, Because That Is The Inclination Of His Fallen Nature.

He Does Not Evolve -- But Devolve

He Is Not Ascending To God -- But Descending Away From God.

The Mind That Finds God Worthless Becomes Worthless Itself.
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THE RESULT OF DEPRAVED & UNSUITABLE BEHAVIOR:

(Rom 1:29 NIV) They have become filled with every kind of wickedness

“Sin is not bad because it’s forbidden—it’s forbidden because it’s bad. It’s forbidden because it will destroy us corporately and individually....” Courson, J.
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+ It Is Time To Turn To God --- Our Hope & Answer Is In Him:
  + We Must Believe -- Trust God -- Step Out In Faith
  + Faith Is The Victory – By Faith, The Enemy Is Defeated
  + The Truth Is -- We Can't Make It Without God!
  + We Can’t Do It Without Him
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TO REBUILD WALLS NEHEMIAH TEACHES:

1. THE WALLS (THOUGH CRUMBLING) CAN BE REBUILT
2. WE MUST CARE DEEPLY
3. WE MUST GET RIGHT WITH GOD
4. WE MUST ASK GOD FOR HIS HELP IN SUCCESS
5. WE MUST TAKE A FAITH RISK
6. WE MUST GO TO THE SECRET PLACE WITH GOD