

# Trowels, Trumpets & Swords

Sunday, March 3, 2019  
10:30 AM

## **Nehemiah 1 New International Version (NIV)**

### **Nehemiah's Prayer**

**1** The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, **2** Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had 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."

### **Nehemiah Inspects Jerusalem's Walls**

**2:11** I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days **12** I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

**13** By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal[a] Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. **14** Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; **15** so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. **16** The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

**17** Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." **18** I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

**4:10** Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

**11** Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

**12** Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

**13** Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. **14** After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

**15** When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

**16** From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah **17** who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, **18** and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

**19** Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall.

**20** Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!”

**6:15** So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days.

### **Ecclesiastes 4:12 New International Version (NIV)**

**12** Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Nehemiah's Cord of Three Strands

## Trowels

### 1. We need a vision of the work

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They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

#### **John 4:35 New International Version (NIV)**

**35** Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

2. We need all the a parts of the body

### **Nehemiah chapter 3**

[Ne 3:1-32](#). The names and order of them that built the wall.

#### **1 Corinthians 12:12 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup>Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

3. We need freedom from debt and bondage

### **Nehemiah chapter 5**

[Ne 5:1-5](#). The Jews complain of their debt, mortgage, and bondage.

[Ne 5:6-13](#). Nehemiah rebukes the usurers, and causes them to make a covenant of restitution.

[Ne 5:14-19](#). He forbears his own allowance, and keeps hospitality.

### **Trumpets**

**4:19** Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall.

**20** Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!”

Trumpets sound the warning of enemies both without and within

**Ezekiel 33:7 New International Version (NIV)**

7 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.

## **2 Timothy 2:14 New International Version (NIV)**

14 Keep reminding God’s people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

## **II. Restoring Spiritual Desire 8-13**

- i. By Considering God’s Word Chapter 8
- ii. By Confessing Their Sin Chapter 9
- iii. By Committing Their Lives Chapter 10
- iv. By Continuing in Community Chapter 11
- v. By Consecrating Their Praise Chapter 12
- vi. By Cleansing Their Practices Chapter 13

## **Swords**

### **Nehemiah 6 New International Version (NIV)**

#### Further Opposition to the Rebuilding

6 When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates— 2 Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: “Come, let us meet together in one of the villages[a] on the plain of Ono.”

But they were scheming to harm me; 3 so I sent messengers to them with this reply: “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?” 4 Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.

5 Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter 6 in which was written:

“It is reported among the nations—and Geshem[b] says it is true—that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king 7 and have even appointed prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: ‘There is a king in Judah!’ Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us meet together.”

**8** I sent him this reply: “Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head.”

**9** They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.”

But I prayed, “Now strengthen my hands.”

**10** One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, “Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you—by night they are coming to kill you.”

**11** But I said, “Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!” **12** I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. **13** He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me.

**14** Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, my God, because of what they have done; remember also the prophet Noadiah and how she and the rest of the prophets have been trying to intimidate me. **15** So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days.

### Opposition to the Completed Wall

**16** When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

**17** Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. **18** For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. **19** Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

### **1 Peter 5:8-9 New International Version (NIV)**

**8** Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **9** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you

know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

### **Ephesians 6:11-17 New International Version (NIV)**

**11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

10:30 “We promise not to give our daughters in marriage to the peoples around us or take their daughters for our sons.

**31** “When the neighboring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on any holy day. Every seventh year we will forgo working the land and will cancel all debts.

**32** “We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give a third of a shekel<sup>[b]</sup> each year for the service of the house of our God: **33** for the bread set out on the table; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, at the New Moon feasts and at the appointed festivals; for the holy offerings; for sin offerings<sup>[c]</sup> to make atonement for Israel; and for all the duties of the house of our God.

**34** “We—the priests, the Levites and the people—have cast lots to determine when each of our families is to bring to the house of our God at set times each year a contribution of wood to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the Law.

**35** “We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the Lord each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree.

**36** “As it is also written in the Law, we will bring the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks to the house of our God, to the priests ministering there.

**37** “Moreover, we will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God, to the priests, the first of our ground meal, of our grain offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and of our new wine and olive oil. And we will bring a tithe of our crops to the Levites, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all the towns where we work. **38** A priest descended from Aaron is to accompany the Levites when they receive the tithes, and the Levites are to bring a tenth of the tithes up to the house of our God, to the storerooms of the treasury. **39** The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine and olive oil to the storerooms, where the articles for the sanctuary and for the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the musicians are also kept.

“We will not neglect the house of our God.”