

# Establishing His Kingdom (Nehemiah Chapter 4)

Sunday, October 6, 2024

10:30 AM

What does it mean to Establish the Kingdom of God?

So far Nehemiah has taught us that Establishing the Kingdom of God is about the inward work of allowing The Holy Spirit to build His Kingdom, first, within our hearts and then the outward work of allowing the power of The Holy Spirit living in us to build His Church in this world.

Our companion New Testament verse for this study has been

**Matthew 16:13-19**

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

So let me ask you... Have you personally recognized that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God? Have you repented of your sins and confessed Him as your Savior and Lord?

That's where the work of Establishing His Kingdom begins. But let's not forget that it is an ongoing work. As that old children's chorus says, *"He's still working on me, to make me what I ought to be. It took Him just a week to make the moon and the stars, the Sun and the Earth and Jupiter and Mars. How loving and patient He must be. 'Cause He's still working on me."*

It's an ongoing work... And there are ups and downs, victories and failures, steps forward and sometimes steps backwards.

And in the midst of that inward work (while He is working in us) he calls us to be a part of the outward work of Establishing His Kingdom in this world. While He is STILL working IN us, He wants to work THROUGH us. Both works are going on simultaneously. And both of them are ongoing... And there is LOTS of work to be done.

That's why, in Chapter 1 we learned that Establishing His Kingdom begins with The FIRE being IGNITED or REIGNITED in our hearts... The Fire of

- Of Passionate Concern
- Of Confession and Repentance
- Of Prayer and Fasting
- Of Obedience
- Of Taking Action

In Chapter 2 we learned that we must

*PROTECT THAT FIRE... because the enemy doesn't want us to establish the Kingdom of God in our hearts nor in this world. I read a post from a facebook friend yesterday, a strong believer, who said that he has been struggling with his faith for a couple of years with doubt, anger with God and feelings of being abandoned by God. Let me say that there are times we all feel that way. Whether we are talking about the inward work establishing His kingdom in our hearts or the outward work of establishing His kingdom in this world. Church work, ministry work...*

So it's important we learn to protect that fire

- From DOUBT and FEAR
- By TRUSTING God for the PROVISION of all that I need
- From the RESISTANCE of the enemy
- Through times of WAITING
- From the DISCOURAGEMENT of others
- While ASSESSING the SCOPE of the work to be done
- While ACKNOWLEDGING the DIFFICULTIES that lie ahead
- By STARTING the work
- By REMINDING ourselves and others about the TESTIMONIES of what God has already done
- From The DISCOURAGEMENT of the enemy

Then in CHAPTER 3 - WHAT A POWERFUL CHAPTER - We learned that Establishing His Kingdom, whether inside our hearts or outside in the world, requires TEAMWORK...

## THE POWER OF UNITY IN CHRIST

How can we create and maintain Unity in the Body of Christ?

- ACKNOWLEDGE that EVERYONE is NEEDED
- APPRECIATE the UNIQUE SKILLS, GIFTINGS, and PERSONALITIES that God has called to be a part of the TEAM
- WORK TOGETHER through RELATIONSHIP, RESPECT, HUMILITY, LOVE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS and FORGIVENESS
- LEADERSHIP is a part of God's PLAN for the team
  - God wants us to respect them, follow them, protect them and pray for them
- Be AWARE of WOLVES in sheep's clothing; but also know that sometimes what appears to be a TARE might actually turn out to be WHEAT

## Chapter 4 - OVERCOMING THE OPPOSITION OF THE ENEMY

### Nehemiah 4

4 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”

- The enemy **RIDICULES** us and **TEARS** us down

### Revelation 12:10

..the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night...

- He gets us to focus on the **ENORMITY** and **IMPOSSIBILITY** of the work, our lack of strength

### Matthew 19:26

26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

### Philippians 4:13

13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

### 1 John 5:4

4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

### Romans 8:37

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

- He questions the **VALUE OF OUR WORK** and He tells us it won't last (it's not good enough)
- I want to remind you **IT IS GOD'S WORK** not ours, He chooses to use us as His tools.

2 Corinthians 12:10

10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

4 Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.

➤ TAKE it to God, GIVE it to God

1 Peter 5:7

7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

➤ KEEP WORKING

7 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. 9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

*The Horonites and [Ammonites](#) were two of the people groups God had driven from the Promised Land for the Israelites. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem were regional governors serving under the king of Persia. Sanballat, called a Horonite, was probably from Horonaim, a city of Moab. Tobiah the Ammonite was governing an area east of the Jordan River. Geshem the Arab was most likely from the region south of Judah. Generations after Israel had first possessed the Promised Land, some of their old enemies were back, seeking to keep Jerusalem in ruins.*

*In Hebrew the name is Sanballat ([Hebrew](#): סַנְבַּלֵּט). [Eberhard Schrader](#), cited in [Brown–Driver–Briggs](#), considered that the name in [Akkadian](#) was Sīn-uballit ([Akkadian](#):*

*\*  30.TI.LA) from the name of [the Sumerian moon god Sīn](#) meaning "Sīn gave life".*

*One of the chief opponents of Nehemiah when he was building the walls of Jerusalem and carrying out his reforms among the Jews. "Sanballat," according to Sayce (in Hastings, "Dict. Bible," s.v.), is connected with the Assyrian "Sinballidh," and means "Sin has vivified."*

- The enemy is not going to quit... He will ramp up his attacks...

Revelation 12:12

12 ...But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

- Keep **PRAYING** and **BE ON GUARD** to meet his threats. (do not be unaware of the devils schemes)

2 Corinthians 2:11

11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

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.”

- It's a LOT OF WORK and it's NEVER ENDING

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.”

- One of the enemies greatest tactics is to instill fear in your heart over **WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN**

Matthew 6:34

34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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

- Sometimes our own brothers and sisters in Christ are better at **CREATING FEAR** than **ENCOURAGING FAITH**

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.”

- **KNOW YOUR VULNERABILITIES**, Don't be **AFRAID**, Remember that **God is GREAT** and **FIGHT**

Ephesians 6:10-13

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 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.

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.

- **KEEP WORKING**

Galatians 6:9

9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

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!”

21 So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. 22 At that time I also said to the people, "Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day." 23 Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

- The **POWER OF UNITY** is still important
- Fight **WITH EACH OTHER** not **AGAINST EACH OTHER**
- **LISTEN** to those whom God has placed in **LEADERSHIP**
- **ALWAYS BE READY**