

Establishing His Kingdom (Nehemiah Chapter 6)

Sunday, October 20, 2024

As we work our way through the book of Nehemiah, each chapter has taught us a different principle of Establishing The Kingdom of God both within our hearts and in this world.

- Chapter 1 - Igniting/reigniting The Fire to Establish His Kingdom
- Chapter 2 - Protecting The Fire
- Chapter 3 - Teamwork - The Power of Unity in The Body of Christ
- Chapter 4 - Overcoming The Opposition of The Enemy
- Chapter 5 - INTERNAL TRANSFORMATION

CHAPTER 6 - DEFEATING THE TACTICS OF THE ENEMY

Nehemiah 6

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 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 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.

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.

For us to properly understand the what Nehemiah Chapter 6 has to teach us about Establishing His Kingdom, we need to compare it to the temptation of Jesus found in Luke Chapter 4

Luke 4:1-13

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’ ”

5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

8 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’ ”

9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written:

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

12 Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

In both Luke Chapter 4 and Nehemiah 6, we see the temptations or tactics of the enemy broken into 4 parts.

Part 1

Nehemiah 6:1-4

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- He repeatedly tries to stop the work (REPEATED ATTACKS)
- He tries to get us alone (ISOLATION)
- He zeroes in on where we are most vulnerable (WEAK SPOTS)
- ❖ Focus on what God has called you to do (not your own wants and desires)
 - take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (Ephesians 6:16)
 - He answers them in the same way (God's truth as opposed to the devils lies)

❖ **Stay close to Jesus and close to other believers**

- Jesus told them they would be scattered like sheep without a shepherd (Mark 14:27)
- Then everyone deserted him and fled (Mark 14:50)
- Peter followed at a distance (Mark 14:54)
- Do not give up meeting together (Hebrews 10:25) - There is strength and encouragement from being with other believers

❖ **Learn to walk in your strengths rather than be controlled by your weaknesses**

- *Man does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God* (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3)
- *“I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”* (John 4:32)
- *“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”* (John 4:34)

Part 2

Nehemiah 6:5-9

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 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.”

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Luke 4:5-8

5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

8 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’ ”

- He seeks to instill fear to cause us to act inappropriately (INTIMIDATION)
 - To provoke fear, they said Nehemiah intended to have himself declared king of Judah—an act that would have represented revolt against Artaxerxes and would likely lead to the destruction of all they had built.
 - *frighten or overawe (someone), especially in order to make them do what one wants:*

- At the same time, he subtly uses false flattery in an attempt to trip us up. (PRIDE)
 - ❖ Do not be afraid
 - Over and over the scriptures tells us not to be afraid but to put our trust in him (Psalm 56:3)
 - *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.* (2 Timothy 1:7)
 - PRAY for STRENGTH... PRAY for REVIVAL
 - We need to remind ourselves of who we are in Christ
 - We need to remind the devil of his future
 - VIDEO - "REVIVAL IN THE LAND"

❖ Walk In Humility

Philippians 2:5-8

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Part 3

Nehemiah 6:10-15

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

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Luke 4:9-12

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“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

12 Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

- He secretly attacks us where we least expect it (DARK ALLEYS)
 - Shemaiah was a coconspirator of Sanballat and Tobiah
 - He was lying and faking his own fear of danger to draw Nehemiah in
 - His solution would have caused Nehemiah to sin by going where only a priest could go.

❖ We need discernment

1 John 4:1

4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Part 4

Nehemiah 6:16-19

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.

Luke 4:13

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

- ONGOING BATTLES

- ❖ STAY ALERT

1 Peter 4:7

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)

8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.