

Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem

Nehemiah 1:1—13:31



bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

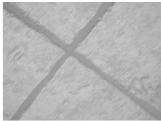
Luke 1:37

For nothing is impossible with God.

Ms

main street

May 29, 2011

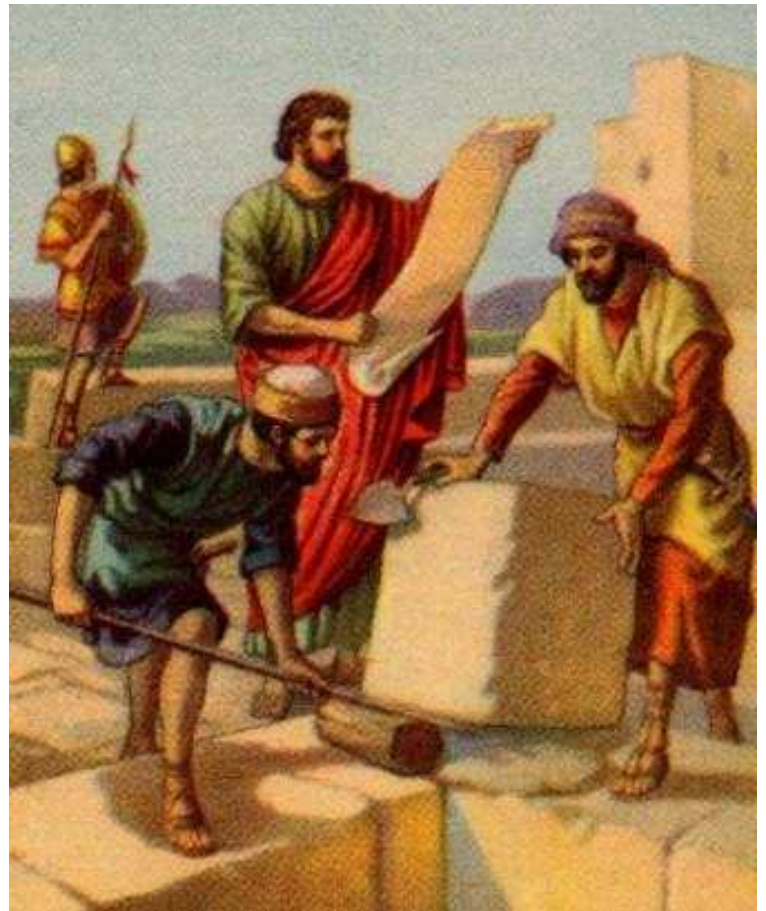


story lesson

BIBLE STORY

Some of the exiles had returned to the land of Judah and rebuilt the Temple of the Lord. However, the city of Jerusalem was in bad shape. It had no walls to protect it.

Nehemiah, a Jew, was a trusted servant of King Artaxerxes (cupbearer) and one of his brothers told him of the fragile, unprotected state of Jerusalem. Nehemiah prayed his heart out to the Lord. Then one day, he was in a sad state and the king asked him why he was gloomy. Fearful for his life, Nehemiah told him what was troubling him. He even laid out a plan of action telling the king how it could be accomplished. King Artaxerxes was impressed and told Nehemiah to go for it and that he could use any and all resources necessary from the royal treasury. Wow! A foreign government was going to pay for the construction of the walls of Jerusalem!



Nehemiah went out to Jerusalem, ascertained the layout of the project, then got to work. He rallied the people and they began work on the walls. They encountered opposition from some foreign nationals who were living in the land of Israel. They sought to thwart what the people of God were trying to do. However, under the prayerful leadership of Nehemiah and guiding hand of protection from the Lord, they finished the job—the wall was built, the city was restored. Nehemiah became the governor and led the people well.

A national revival took place upon completion of the wall. Under the priestly guidance of Ezra and the wise leadership of Nehemiah, the people of Israel rededicated themselves to being the people of God in the world. They desired to hold fast to the *torah* and live according to the standards held by God.





life application

MAKING IT REAL

Opposition

It is not okay to oppose the work of the Lord. It is possible, but you will end up losing far more than if you joined Him in His work. The enemies of God always meet a depressing demise. As the people of God, our job is to be on the alert and watch each other's backs, and not to fight amongst ourselves.

Deciding to Live Right

The people dedicated themselves to living according to the laws of God. They had been discarded and disobeyed far too long. With historic perspective, the people realized that they really needed to obey and follow the Lord. He was faithful with His promises, but the people were consistently unfaithful with their promises. What about us? Do we live among a people (family, community, personally) who follow the Lord? Are we continually evaluating where we are as a faith community? It's easy to see in children and youth the ways they need to obey and grow. But what about adults who are really good at hiding behind life circumstances? Are we obeying the Lord?



questions

REMEMBERING

- 1. What was still in ruins in the city of Jerusalem?** Its walls
- 2. Who took leadership of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem?** Nehemiah
- 3. Who opposed the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem?** Foreign nationals... foreigners who were opposed to God and his kingdom
- 4. What position did Nehemiah assume after the wall was rebuilt?** Governor
- 5. Did the people of Israel rededicate themselves to follow God?**
Yes... wholeheartedly



coloring sheet

ON THE NEXT PAGE

IF IT PLEASES THE KING, LET HIS SERVANT
GO TO JUDAH WHERE MY FATHERS
ARE BURIED, SO I CAN REBUILD.



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