

## **“Arise and Build!”**

### **Nehemiah 2:17-20**

Nehemiah’s admonition to God’s people at Jerusalem included some factors that we can consider-and, even implement in our churches today. When it was time to build, Nehemiah (1) SAW the NEED, (2) FOUND the MOTIVATION and (3) EXPECTED the OPPOSITION. These same factors come into play with any building project. Consider...

#### I. The EVIDENT NEED to build (v. 17)

A. They needed to build because THE FACILITY WAS IN DISREPAIR (v. 17a)

PAIR (v. 17a)

· Haggai 1:49 (525 B.C. vs. 425 B.C. with Nehemiah)

B. They needed to build because THE BELIEVERS WERE BEING

REPROACHED. (v. 17b)

1. The reproach was REPORTED TO NEHEMIAH BY HIS

BROTHER (1:3)

2. The reproach was REPORTED TO GOD BY NEHEMIAH

(4:4)

3. The reproach was REMEDIED BY GOD FOR HIS PEOPLE

(5:9)

#### II. The EXPLICIT MOTIVATION to build (v. 18)

(two primary motivating factors... for Nehemiah and for us!)

A. He was motivated by the FAVOR OF GOD (18a)

1. Psalm 106:4

2. Proverbs 12:2a

B. He was motivated by the PROVISION (v. 18b)

· Nehemiah had asked for (1) leave of absence (2:5-6), (2) letters of intent (passage) (2:7), (3) lumber from the forest (2:8). “And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me” (2:8b).

· Notice the WAYS IN WHICH God provided:

1. God will provide the PLANS (cf. chap 3)

2. God will provide the MATERIAL (cf. 2:8)

3. God will provide the LABOR (v. 18d)

#### III. The INEVITABLE OPPOSITION to building (v.v. 19-20)

(Whenever God wants to do a good work, Satan will always try to thwart it!)

A. The opposition was IDENTIFIED (v. 19a)

1. The opposition MOCKED the servants of God (v. 19b)

2. The opposition ACCUSED the servants of God (v. 19c)

B. The opposition was REFUTED (v. 20)

1. The opposition was refuted because of DIVINE DIRECTION (v. 20b)

· Romans 8:31 “If God is for us who is against us?”

2. The opposition was refuted because of DEDICATED DETER-

MINATION (v. 20b)

· Nehemiah 4:6 “So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together...for the people had a mind to work”.

1. We have a NEED TO BUILD!

2. We have a MOTIVATION TO BUILD!

3. We have VICTORY OVER THE OPPOSITION TO BUILD!