

We are pilgrims on Earth and we long to be home We were exiled in birth and wandered alone Until Jesus the Lamb who was slain in our place Redeemed us and claimed us His own

We have hope in the place where suffering ends All our tears wiped away and worship ascends Where our Savior now sits at the right hand of God Our Defender, Redeemer and Friend

O for that day when our journey has ended All of our hope found in Heaven's reward When we will have the Messiah forever And we will dwell in the house of the Lord

We have dreamed of the streets that are covered with gold
Where we walk with the saints in the city foretold
King Jesus receives us as His perfect Bride
His love we'll forever behold

We all know of the day when He'll come to reclaim The Earth from the Beast, cast to the flame King Jesus, the just, the One faithful and true Will gather His children to reign

Oh for that Day, by Ryan Fogelsong



NEHEMIAH:

Four years ago, one of Donald Trump's main campaign promises was to "build the wall" along the Southern border of the United States. The wall's design would, supposedly, protect our country by making it harder for enemies to illegally enter.

Four years later, Joe Biden was sworn in as president, and in his first act as President, before he had even left his inauguration, was to sign an executive order stopping construction on the wall. The claim, supposedly, is that the wall is antithetical to a nation with an open attitude toward the poor and the refugee.

If we are honest, we can at least understand both sides of the argument. A wall, any wall, properly built, can keep enemies out. But what if the wall surrounds a place where people need to get in? What good is a wall if the enemies are already on the inside of it?

While this may seem like a pressing modern political issue, it was very much the debate of the day in the book of Nehemiah. The Jews who had been exiled by Assyria and Babylon, were allowed to return to the land by the Persians. They immediately began to rebuild their temple, which was becoming the focal point of restored Judaism. They also immediately ran into opposition. Samaritans and other factions in neighboring Persian provinces were troubled by the temple's construction and vowed to stop it. That story is told in the book of Ezra.

Nehemiah shifts the focus from the temple to the wall.

With religious life returning to Jerusalem, Nehemiah understood that the threat of apostasy was ever present. The desire to compromise fundamental truths of the faith to better assimilate is not only a Jewish problem, but is a human problem. It was a veritable epidemic in Nehemiah's day.

So, Nehemiah set to work on Jerusalem's wall. If Jerusalem was going to have a chance to stand against the world, she needed to protect her own people and a wall was critical. It's construction of course inflamed the anger and jealousy of her enemies, but this opposition fed Nehemiah's devotion to Jerusalem's cause.

Yet, the book does not end well. Even when the wall was complete, Israel was not holy. There were literally people lined up outside the wall ready to sell sin to the Israelites on the inside, and it was a seller's market.

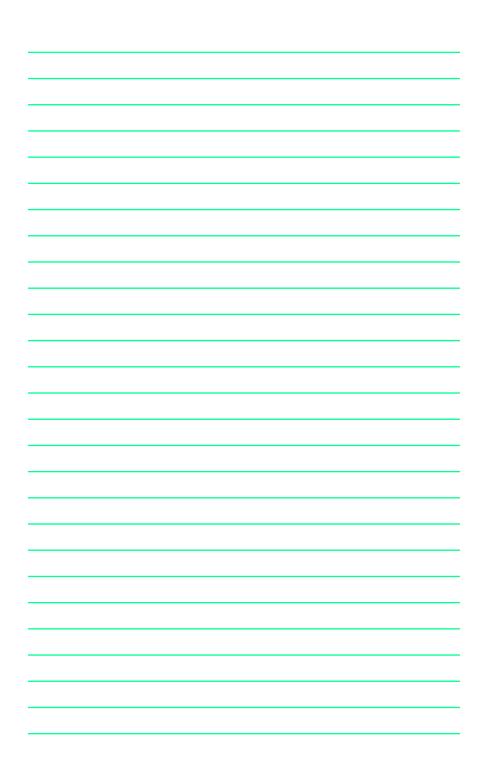
Nehemiah's wall reveals more than the limited protection a wall can provide. It actually points to the limitations of manmade religion. No wall can keep out sin. A spiritual kingdom cannot be built with brick and mortar. Jerusalem was supposed to be a beacon of light to the nations, but enemies caused a physical barrier to be built that did not invite them in, but walled them out.

Thus, the book of Nehemiah finds it fulfillment in the New Covenant. The Savior comes, and tears down the wall of hostility built between Jew and Gentile. He makes a new nation—the church, including both Jew and Gentile. With his blood, Jesus accomplishes what Nehemiah's sword and trowel could not: sanctifying those inside the fellowship.



 $\mathcal{N} E H E M I \mathcal{A} H I$

Broken Walls, Broken Hearts & Broken Covenants





NEHEMIAH 2
SOVEREIGNTY & SUFFERING

HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO DIFFICULTLY WHEN YOU KNOW GOD IS SOVEREIGN?

1	Sadness over sin
2	Prayer for usefulness
3	Desire to do good
4	Patience to act wisely
5	Integrity to stay holy
6	Confidence in God's control

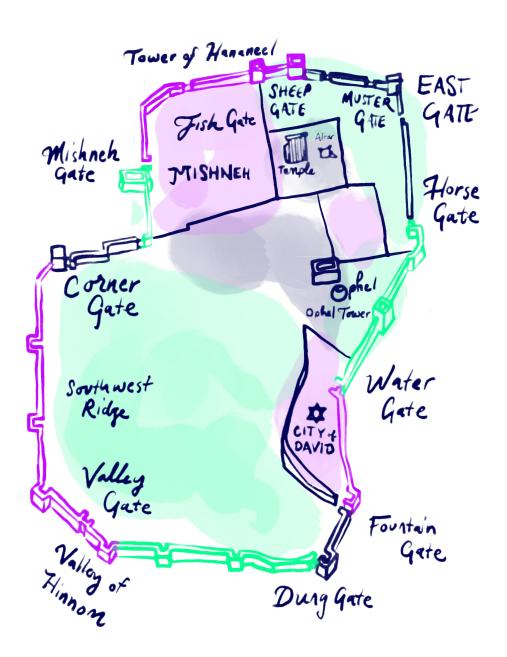
"Do not be overcome
thethe
with evil, but
overcome evil
with good."
 with good.
- Romans 12:21



NEHEMIAH 3 WHY WE WORK

"I like work, it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours." - Jerome K. Jerome

T H E W A L L



"Man don't work, man don't eat"	
2 THESSALONIANS 3:10	

WHY WE WORK:

- 1 Because God made us that way
- 2 To provide for ourselves and our families
- 3 To advance the kingdom of God



NEHEMIAH 4
WHY WE FIGHT

WHY WE FIGHT:

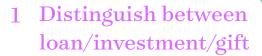
1	Because God gave us enemies
2	To protect our families
3	To advance the kingdom of God

"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete."
- 2 Corinthians 10:4-6



NEHEMIAH 5 REAL CESAR CHAVEZ

PRINCIPLES FOR DEALING WITH POVERTY:



- 2 Don't allow need within the walls
- 3 Love your neighbor with real love, not condescending love

"So then, as we have
opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially
to those who are of the
household of faith."
— Galatians 6:10

"If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him. If ever you take your neighbor's cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate"

- Yahweh in Exodus 22:25-27			

NEHEMIAH 6 - 7 WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE



 WHATWE
 $LEARN\ FROM$
 OUR ENEMIES:
 1 Don't be distracted
2 Don't be deceived
3 Persevere
4 Be vigilant

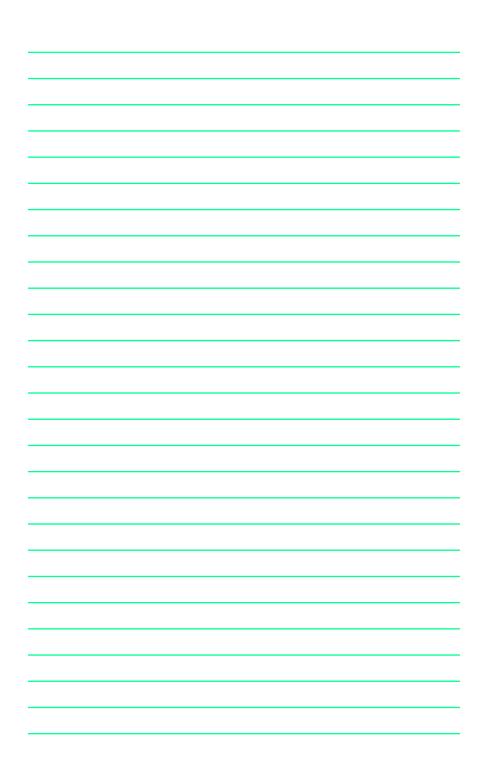
"Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us." — Titus 2:7-8

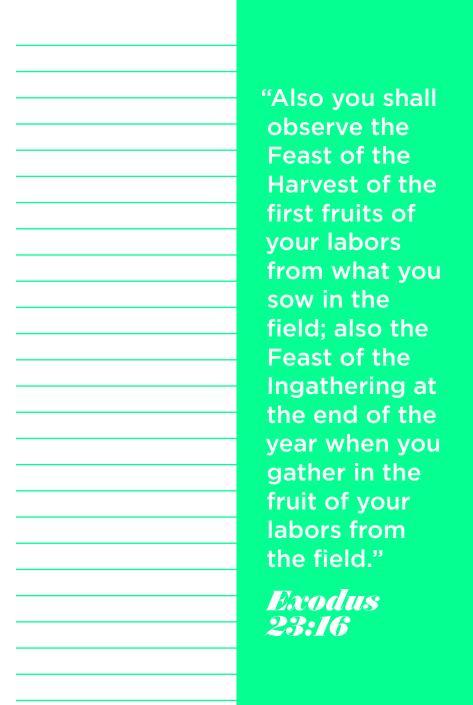
NEHEMIAH 8:1-12 How To Listen To A Sermon



HOW TO LISTEN TO A SERMON:	
1 Eagerly (1) 2 Patiently (2)	
2 Patiently (2)3 Attentively (3)	
4 Submissively (4-5)5 Reverently (6)	
6 Knowingly (7-8)	
7 Happily (9)	







NEHEMIAH 9:1-5 SIX HOUR CHURCH



3 RESPONSES TO SIN IN A BELIEVER'S LIFE:

- 1 Turn to the word
- 2 Confess it to God
- 3 Prayer

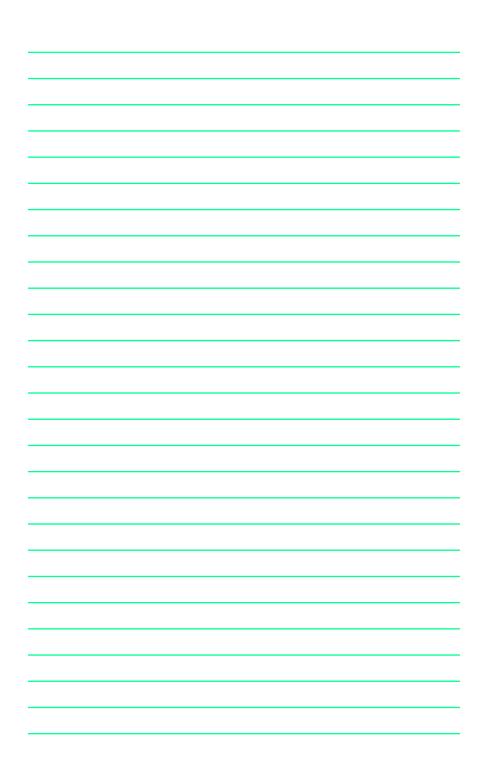
"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us."	
"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."	
"If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."	
- 1 John 1:8-10	

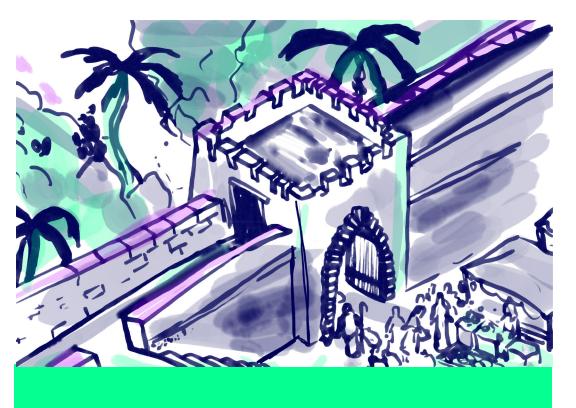
NEHEMIAH 9:6-38 SIX HOUR PRAYER



SEVEN TRUTHS TO REMEMBER ABOUT GOD, SO THAT YOU GROW YOUR PRAYER LIFE:

God as the Creator (6)
God as the Chooser (7-8)
God as the Savior (9-12)
God as the Ruler (13-14)
God as the Enforcer (16-19a)
God as the Forgiver (19b-22)
God as the Fulfiller (23-25)



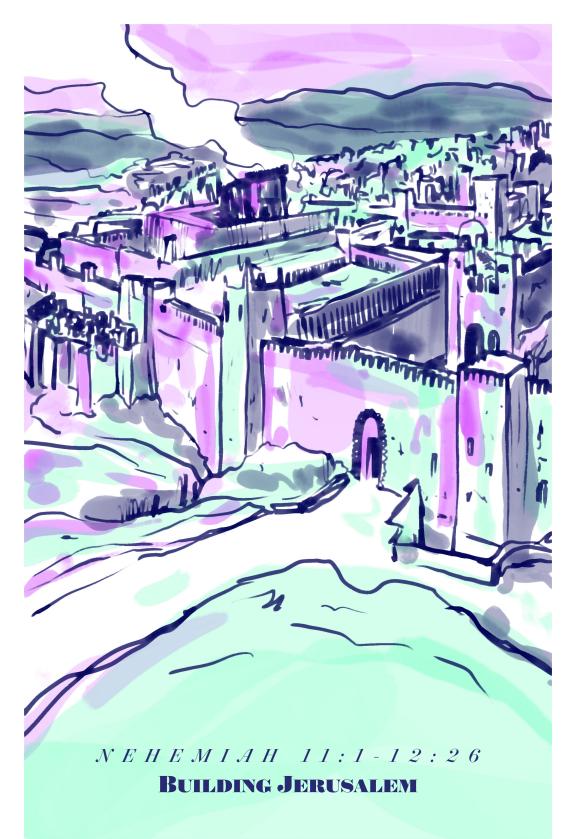


NEHEMIAH 10 REALLY REALLY MEAN IT

"Trying to put
our sin and lust
to death based
on our own
 human strength
 is the essence
 and substance of
all false religion
in the world.
Even a good vow
if carried out
with man-made
 schemes, always
 ends in self-
righteousness."
JOHN OWEN

THREE REALITIES THAT LINK COVENANTS TO THE GOSPEL

- 1 God's people are to be separate from the world
- 2 This separation is seen in obedience
- 3 This obedience is impossible without the Lord



Oh for that day when our journey is ended, all of our hope found in heaven's reward, When we will have our Messiah forever, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord

- Ryan Fogelsong	

"The end of the matter; all has	
been heard. Fear	
God and keep his commandments,	
for this is the	
whole duty of man. For God will	
bring every deed	
into judgment, with every secret	
thing, whether	
good or evil." Ecclesiastes	
12:13-14	



3 REASONS TO SACRIFICE FOR GOD'S GLORY:

1	Sacrifice leads to gospel expansion
2	Sacrifice leads to rewards
3	Sacrifice causes rejoicing

NEHEMIAH 13

REMEMBER ME!



THREE STEPS TO
WASH-RINSE-REPEAT
YOUR SIN AWAY:

- 1 Remove
- 2 Renew
- 3 Remember

"If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell." - Matthew 5:29-30

