

# DUNAMIS

Power Hour

for the love of the Word

--- journey through the Bible ---



# Rebuilding

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# Introduction

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Background to Nehemiah

Book of Nehemiah

Chapter 13

Personal insights found in Nehemiah

Principles found in Nehemiah

Nehemiah's problems and responses

Conclusion



power in action

# Nehemiah: Background

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- Authorship attributed to Nehemiah, but it is considered that both Ezra and Nehemiah wrote the book. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah flow together
- Nehemiah is translated “Yahweh Comforts”
- Written between 458 and 420 BC
- Nehemiah the cup bearer to king Artaxerxes. Holds prominent political position
- Served as Governor of Judea twice
- Nehemiah’s Characteristics : prayer, intercessor, quality of leadership, powerful, eloquence, inspirational organizational skills, had confidence in God, had quick and decisive responses to problems, bold, unimpressed with problems, commitment
- Key Scripture : Nehemiah 6:3
- So I sent messengers to them, saying , “ I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go to you ?”



# The Book of Nehemiah

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- Chapter 1-7 : Rebuilding of the Walls of Jerusalem
- Protection of the people from the outside. Cities in the ancient world were walled for protection. The walls were also symbols. Unwalled cities merited contempt. Walled cities were seen as significant. Nehemiah could not stand the thought that the city of God should not have walls and committed himself to rebuild them.
- Neh 2:17 Then I said to them, “ you see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lays waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.”
- Overcame Laziness : Neh 4:6 So we built the wall, so the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.
- Wall was rebuilt in 52 days!!!
- Overcame physical attacks : Neh 4:17 Those who built on the wall and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so with one hand they worked on construction, and with the other held a weapon.
- Overcame mockery : Neh 2:20 So I answered them, and said to them.” The God of heaven Himself will prosper us: Therefore, we His servants will arise and build
- Neh 4:4a Hear, O our God , for we are despised



# The Book of Nehemiah

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- Chapter 8-10: Addresses people inside the walls of Jerusalem : Covenant restored
- Enemies inside the walls exposed :
- Neh 2:19. Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem
- Neh 6:16 And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes: **for they perceived that this work was done by our God.**
- Covenant : This is the Mosaic Law. The Law was referred to as a formal contract that defined the relationship between God and His people
- Neh 8:1 Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate, and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses , which the Lord had commanded Israel. 2 So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. 3b ...and the ears of the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.
- Galatians 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith



# The Book of Nehemiah

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Chapter 11-13 : The people are restored to obedience to Gods Word.

Sin is purged, Ezra and Nehemiah work together. Nehemiah supported Ezra spiritually.

What we see here is a repentance and a re-commitment to God after the reading of the Law of Moses, **BUT** it is not long after tha , even with Ezra still being the priest, that the people revert back to their old ways of living, intermarriage, sin and rebel despite having signed a covenant document before God and the Levites

Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem and is shocked.

Let's deal with Chapter 13



# Chapter 13

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Neh 13:6 But during all this I was not in Jerusalem... b. Then after certain days I obtained leave from the king 7 and I came to Jerusalem and discovered the evil ...

What was discovered ?

High priest Eliashib had made a room for Tobiah in one of the storerooms of the Lord.

The Levites had not been assigned their portion and had to go back to their fields to work

Offerings were restored by Nehemiah

People working on the Sabbath and traders were coming to Jerusalem to trade and were stopped

Intermarriage with women of other nations. Forbidden by God yet this sin is repeated again

Children could not speak the language of Judah

Neh 13:25 so I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair ...

Neh 13:30 Thus I cleansed them of everything pagan ....



# Personal insights found in Nehemiah

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**Practical prayer** : Ezra was a man of action, but his prayer life was not neglected and blends practicality with spirituality. A strong intercessor

**Prayer of confession** : An effective prayer life is rooted in a right relationship with the Lord. Nehemiah identified with the people, accepted responsibility for their failures. Confessed their disobedience and weakness as well as his own shortcomings. Neh 1:4-11

**Prayers of action** : Nehemiah remained conscious of the presence of God at all times. Prayed practical prayers :

Neh 2:4 Then the king said to me ,”what do you request ?“. So I prayed to the God of heaven, and I said to the king.

Neh 4:9 Nevertheless we made our prayer to God

Neh 6:9 Now therefore O God strengthen my hands

**Meeting Opposition** : Refer to the chart. Do not be distracted, persevere and go on

**Covenanting with God** : Good but unspecified intentions are not likely to result in reform. When we clearly define what a fresh spiritual commitment may mean in terms of how it will affect our lives, we are far more likely to follow through.

**Facing discouragement** : Nehemiah's personal commitment never wavered. Chapter 13  
An individual, fully committed to God can live a holy life and impact others lives for good



# Principles found in Nehemiah

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Compassion is often the springboard of obedience to God's will.

Co-operation with others is required to carry out God's will.

Confidence results in fervent prayer and the exposition of the Word of God, which reveals God's will.

Courage will manifest itself as sanctified tenacity in refusing to compromise on the conviction that one is doing God's will.

We need to know our spiritual and personal goals. And when a problem arises, we need to deal with them in such a way that we keep on making progress towards our goals. They must not distract us and not allow them to stand in our way!



# Nehemiah's Problems and Responses

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Problem	Response
Ridicule by enemies	asked God to vindicate them; ignored the ridicule
Plot to attack the builders	set half the people to work, half to guard with arms in their hands encouraged Israel to remember the Lord
Poorer Jews borrowed from wealthy; They could not repay creditors whilst working	got wealthy to remit interest, return the land taken as security set example by supporting himself rather than demanding the governor's allowance
Invited to council ( trap ) by the enemies	refused to be distracted : kept building the walls
Shemaiah the prophet hired by enemies To frighten Nehemiah into hiding in the temple	refused to hide from possible assassins; set example of courage
Threatened with a letter to Artaxerxes saying Nehemiah planned rebellion	replied that the enemy had a good imagination; kept on with the work



# Conclusion

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Nehemiah 6;3

So I sent messengers to them, saying. “ I am  
doing a great work, so that I cannot come down.  
Why should the work cease while I leave it and go  
down to you?”



**THANK YOU**