

"Mission Possible" Part 20
(Rise & repair 1)
Nehemiah 1:1-4, 2:12- 20.

I. Background.

A. The nation of Israel had come through Babylonian captivity which was the result of their rebellion & idolatry. Rabbi Jonathan Cahn, Is. 9:10, The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones: the sycamores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars. Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him & join his enemies together; The Syrians before & the Philistines behind & they shall devour Israel w/open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still. Those whose god is their belly mind earthly things (Phil. 3:19). Ps. 30:6, in my prosperity I said I shall never be moved

1. One of the tale-tale signs that you have sinned or displeased the Lord is defeat. Remember Deut 28, if you...blessed in city...head not tail, above & not beneath, your enemy will chase 1 way & flee 7 ways. Ps. 41:11, By this I know that you favor me, because my enemy does not triumph over me. 2 Cor. 2:14, Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ.

2. But when Israel committed spiritual adultery & whoredom by worshipping other gods the Lord used other nations to execute judgment against them in order that they might repent & return. Punishment is not for annihilation or destruction, but love, Heb. 12:6, For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth & scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? When you don't repent & return to God on your own He has strong methods of persuasion. Joel, tells of locust, palmerworm, cankerworm & caterpillar becoming the army of the Lord. Ps. 30:5, For His anger endures but a moment; in His favor is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes...

B. Here you see God using the Babylonians to chasten Israel.

C. Finally the punishment was over & God brings judgment on the Babylonians & a Persian king named Cyrus comes to power & he releases the people of God & starts granting them permission to return to their homeland in Jerusalem. Later Cyrus passes & Artaxerxes reigns & he continues to allow the exiles return. Nehemiah hears the news & he weeps over the condition of his homeland & God moves on him to lead in the repair & restoration of Jerusalem.

1. Nehemiah acknowledged sin on 3 levels; personal, generational, ancestral, & national.

2. After he prayed he set about to find a way to repair the broken down walls. In Bible days the walls of a city determined its strength.

a. You & your family need walls.

b. How do you build back the walls? Through ministry.

II. 3 steps to repair.

A. He ASSESSED the situation. He took a tour & looked at the walls. I've assessed the family & have come to the conclusion based on the following stats that the family needs repair.

- 137 divorces every hour in the U.S. Divorce rate among Evangelicals is equal to the general public.
- 32% of Christian teens have watched a pornographic movie.
- Approx. 5.3 million domestic violence cases each year in U.S. 324,000 of those are pregnant woman.
- 3 women are murdered by husbands or boyfriends every day.

B. Nehemiah assessed the situation he took ACTION.

C. After Nehemiah assessed & took action then God made ARRANGEMENTS.

III. Nehemiah's Mission & Opposition.

A. 2:12, God put something in his heart to do. 2:17, Come let us build up a wall 2:18, Let us rise up & build. It was a group effort, each person had a part to play & role to fill. 4:6, So built we the wall because the people had a mind to work.

B. When you start to build you can expect opposition. (NIV) "When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall he became angry & was greatly incensed. "Can they bring stones back to life from those heaps of rubble burned as they are? Tobiah, the Ammonite, who was at his side said, "What they are building, if a fox climbs up on it he would break down their walls of stone.

1. "They posted a guard day & night to meet his threat. I posted them by families w/their swords, spears, & bows. After I looked things over I stood up to the nobles, the rulers, & the rest of the people & said, don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord who is great & awesome & fight SHOUT "fight". Fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, & for your house."

2. You have to know when to forget it & when to fight it.

3. Nehemiah refused to be bothered by it. He said, "I'm building a wall & cannot come down."

4. Nehemiah said, "When you fight, fight for your daughters, son, wife, household."