

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

2. Nehemiah Inspects the Walls



Introduction

After Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, the first thing he did was to inspect the condition of the walls and the gates. He found the walls had been broken down badly in some places, making it easy for their enemies to enter the city and take whatever they wanted.

The walls of the city can be compared to the invisible wall of protection that God places around our lives. When there are areas in our lives that are broken down, our enemy, Satan, can attack us as he pleases, and steal from us the blessings and promises of God.

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 2:10-20

- ✿ What was happening to the people as a result of the walls being broken down? See Nehemiah 1:3, 2:17. What trouble do you think they were facing?

(The people were in trouble because the walls had been broken down, and this was a great disgrace, as the God they worshipped was the true and living God, and this dishonoured him. We are not told specifically what trouble they were in, but one difficulty they possibly had was that they had no protection from thieves.)

When we are walking in obedience to Jesus, we are protected from the evil one. However if there is sin in an area of our life, it is just like part of the wall is broken down, and the enemy can attack us.

- ✿ How can we keep the wall of God's protection from being broken down in our lives? 1 John 2:1-2, 1:7, 9

(We need to walk in obedience to the Lord. If we sin, we need to be quick to ask his forgiveness. As soon as we do, we are forgiven and protected from the enemy.)

- ✿ What areas in your life do you need to work on right now?
- ✿ Sometimes we feel helpless to do anything about these areas in our lives. What steps did Nehemiah and the people take in the time of Nehemiah to rebuild the walls and what can we learn from this? Nehemiah 2:18, 20

(The people said they wanted to rebuild, they had a desire to do it and did so! Secondly, they put their trust in the Lord, that he would give them success.)

Conclusion

The same is true in our lives! If we just accept the way we are, we will never change. First of all we need to recognise that we are in trouble, and that the way we are living brings dishonour to the Lord. Then, like the people of Judah and Jerusalem, we need to want to do something about it and trust the Lord. God gave Nehemiah and the people success. In Philippians 1:6 it says, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." We have God's promise that he will give us success too!