

Let's Worship God

29th July - 3rd August 2019
Nehemiah





Monday - Psalm 127 - The Reason Behind It All

When the wall of the city had been completed there was still work that needed to be done. The city had to be made secure. They could not ignore the fact that there were those nearby who would have taken any opportunity to undermine the work. So Nehemiah made sure that the gates were put securely in place, and gatekeepers appointed to make sure that the gates were not left unguarded. It was of fundamental importance that the city and its people should be kept safe from external enemies.

The rebuilding of the wall however, was not an end in itself. The whole purpose of making the city secure was so that it could be returned to what it should be; a place wherein the people of God could live safely and worship God as they had been instructed in the law of God. The singers and the Levites were there to lead the people in worship; the walls were not rebuilt so the people of Jerusalem could look at nice walls. They were rebuilt so they could worship God with greater glory and freedom than ever before.

It must always be remembered that central to any work that is undertaken by the people of God within the church must be worship and praise. Any work that is done that does not exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and lead the people of God to praise and glorify God is of questionable value. It is very significant that the first act that Nehemiah did when the walls were completed, even before appointing a civic leader for the city, was to appoint those who would be responsible to lead the people in worship, praise, and prayer. This demonstrates that Nehemiah understood that he was engaged in a work of tremendous spiritual significance. To have ruined city walls was sad, to have the city of Jerusalem without the worship and praise of God was a disaster!

Questions

1. What was the whole point of building the city walls?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put God first in all that we do.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127:1

Praise: Psalm 6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - Nehemiah 7:1-3 - The New Governor

The reason that Nehemiah had taken the enormous step of returning to Jerusalem and dedicating all his energies and abilities to the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem was not for his own political glory or the advancement of his own career. He had been called by God to do a particular work and when that work completed, he was quite willing to hand it over to somebody else. It was not that he was giving up the work nor that he was unwilling to play any part in seeking the stability and progress of Jerusalem, it was simply that he did not think, as some church leaders do, that he was the only one capable of doing the work.

Nehemiah decided to hand over the responsibility of governing the city to two men. One was his brother Hanani, the man who had first travelled to Susa to tell Nehemiah about the sad condition of Jerusalem. This was a potentially dangerous appointment for Nehemiah could have been accused of favouritism and nepotism in appointing such a close relative to such an important task. It is always important in the work of the Lord to make sure that there is no suspicion of favouritism, but sometimes it is necessary for the good of the work that we be prepared to risk misunderstanding so that the work is not held back. Nehemiah had always acted for the glory of God and in the 'fear of the Lord' 5:15, and that is precisely how he acted in the appointment of Hanani. It is obvious from the little that we know about Hanani that he was a man who was well qualified for the onerous task of governing Jerusalem. He was so concerned about the state of Jerusalem that he was prepared to make a difficult and dangerous journey to inform those who were still in exile with the hope that there would be those who would do what Nehemiah did. He had a heart for the people of God and the city of God, he was courageous and resourceful, just the kind of man needed for the work!

Questions

1. Did Nehemiah think he was the only one who could do the job?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be humble in our work for the Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127:1

Praise: Psalm 7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - Matthew 5:13-30 - Fearing the Lord

The second man appointed by Nehemiah to govern the city of Jerusalem was Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, and the reason for his appointment is extremely significant. There is almost nothing known about him, but what is said of him is the best thing that could be said about anybody, 'a faithful man and feared God more than many'. It is the fear of God that makes men faithful and trustworthy, and safe for public life.

God is absolutely holy and true and has revealed His holy and unchangeable law to men. He demands from men that they obey every precept and also that they not only have an outward obedience to his commands, but that they maintain heart purity. Not only must their actions be upright, the thoughts and intents of their heart must also be pure. To fear God is to honour Him and His word and seek to submit to Him in every part of life, both internal and external. The fear of God must have an impact upon how a person lives out his daily life, how he does his work, how he treats other people, his thoughts, his words, and his actions. The governing principle of his life will not be what is expedient but what is right.

It is sometimes said that 'every man has his price', but the man or woman who truly fears the Lord cannot be bought, not with money or prospects of promotion or advancement, they will never do what is dishonourable or self-serving because they are conscious that they ultimately serve the living and the true God.

To have such a person in a position of authority in civic society is truly a great blessing from the Lord, and so the choice that Nehemiah made of Hananiah was truly wise and for the good of the people of Jerusalem.

Questions

1. Why did Nehemiah pick Hananiah?
2. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
3. How can we grow in fearing the Lord?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would fear the Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127:1

Praise: Psalm 8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - Nehemiah 7:1-3, Ephesians 6:10-17 - Being Alert

The wall around the city had been completed, provision made for public worship and the governing authority put in place, but Nehemiah was very much aware that the city was still not safe from the attacks of their enemies. A great victory had been achieved but it is precisely at the time of victory that the greatest danger is present because the guard tends to be relaxed.

Nehemiah was very well aware of that, and so he issued instructions that, unlike the common practice in most middle Eastern cities when the gates of the city were opened at sunrise, the gates of Jerusalem were not to be opened until later in the day. This was to ensure that no surprise attack could be mounted using the cover of dawn, and it would also ensure that the defenders would be wide awake! During the time that the gates were open, they were to be guarded right up until after they had been closed and bolted. Nehemiah also instructed that those who guarded the city would have responsibility to be vigilant for the area around their own homes.

What a great lesson this teaches for both church and home! In the spiritual warfare there is a need for constant vigilance, for the enemy of souls is constantly on the prowl seeking to attack the believer and the church of God 1 Pet. 5:8. Great watchfulness is especially needed after a period of great blessing or success in the work of God. Nehemiah realised how important it was for each family to protect and strengthen their own home, and so it is with regard to the spiritual life. The church is strong when the individual families that make up the church are constantly on the alert to identify and to resist the attacks of the devil.

Questions

1. What did Nehemiah command concerning the gates?
2. What was each person responsible to guard?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be alert and on guard against Satan.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127:1

Praise: Psalm 9 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

NEHEMIAH

pray | plan | build

Friday - Nehemiah 7:1-5 - Assessing the Situation

The impression may be given in the first few chapters of the book that the major problem with Jerusalem was that the walls were broken down. That was a major problem, to be sure, but there was another difficulty that was, perhaps more difficult to resolve. Although the city was large and spacious, there were not many people and many of them did not have adequate housing. No doubt Nehemiah gave considerable thought to this problem, but it was God who gave him the answer. The Scripture is very clear that when we lack wisdom we are to ask God James 1:5 even when the problem does not seem to be a specifically 'spiritual' one.

Just as when he was faced with the problem of the broken down walls, Nehemiah wanted to know exactly what the true situation was. With the problem of the walls Nehemiah did a survey 2:11-16, now, in order to deal with the situation of the sparse population he wanted to know exactly how many people he had, and precisely who they were, and what resources were available, and so he determined to take a comprehensive census.

In the providence of God he came across the census taken by Ezra and the list in ch. 7 of Nehemiah is essentially the same as that in Ezra 2:1-70. What minor differences there are in names and numbers may well be accounted for by errors in transcribing and transmission.

The lessons for the people of God are very plain to be seen:

- a. There is no situation that is too mundane to be taken to God in prayer to seek his wisdom.
- b. God expects people to use the faculties that He has given them.
- c. There needs to be a realistic assessment of a situation before a proper plan of action can be put into place.
- d. In the work of God, every individual and family is important.

Questions

1. What is the problem in the city? What does Nehemiah decide to do?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God cares about small things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127:1

Praise: Psalm 10 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - Nehemiah 7:6-73 - The Covenant People

It sometimes appears that the lists of names that appear from time to time in the pages of the Bible are not very significant or profitable for the people of God today. It must never be forgotten however, that they are there because it pleased God to have them revealed to us and so there must be lessons that can be learned from them.

The list of names recorded in ch.7 are said to be those who 'came up from the captivity', those who 'returned to Jerusalem and Judah' v. 6. When it is remembered that only about 2% of the exiles returned, it is understandable that those who had had the vision and the courage to return to the city of God should have been considered worthy to have their names recorded in the Word of God, 'those that honour me I will honour' 1 Sam. 2:30.

It is also significant that it was not just individuals that are named, but families or heads of families. In God's economy the family relationship is of great importance - it is one of the ways in which God builds His church as parents teach their children the things of God. The commitment of the returning families is also seen in the contributions that were made so that the work of the Lord could advance.

Perhaps one other reason for carrying out the census was to ensure that only pure Jews, especially amongst the priests vs 63-5 should be included in the work of the Lord. Nehemiah had already had to prevent intruders taking part in the work 2:20, and even some that were amongst the people were dealing with the enemy, and so it was important to try to preserve the integrity and purity of the list of those who had citizenship in the city of God. It is no less important that we seek to ensure that our names are written in the 'Lamb's book of life'.

Questions

1. Why are these names important?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127:1

Praise: Psalm 11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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If you have any queries please contact - admin@rpglobalalliance.org