

Nehemiah, part 3:
“Rise Up and Build!”
Nehemiah 2:9-20

What is necessary to the Church’s recovery and advance

1. A Sober Awareness of the Opposition **vv. 9-10, 19-20**

(1) Inevitable Opposition! *“When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of it, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.”*

- Sanballat – Governor of the Samaritans
- Tobiah – Governor of Ammon
- Geshem – an Arab governor (cf. v. 19)

(2) Spiritual Opposition!

- **Satan hates such endeavors!** *“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers...”*

(3) Continual Opposition!

- Here at the beginning of the endeavor – and beyond! *“They laughed at us and despised us, and said, ‘What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?’”*

2. A Careful Assessment of the Ruins **vv. 11-16**

(1) Secret

“Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart... nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.”

- because of Nehemiah’s awareness of the opposition
- because he properly cherished what God had put upon his heart and what He had done thus far – how He had shown His hand

(2) Necessary because such exact knowledge of the conditions would strengthen his appeal

3. An Appeal to the People of God

vv. 17-18

(1) The Appeal

“You see the distress we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste... Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.”

-1- Exclusive!

Only the people of God can take this up! cf. v. 20

-2- Fueled by a jealousy for the glory of God.

-3- Buttressed by that which God had already begun to do.

“And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king’s words that he had spoken to me.”

(2) The Response

-1- The Response of God’s People:

“So they said, ‘Let us rise up and build.’ Then they set their hands to this good work.”

- Zeal!
- Action! Organization!

-2- The Response of God’s Enemies:

- Mockery! Ridicule!
- Accusation!

Further Application: