

'Building Blocks of Faith Series'

Sermons in the Book of Nehemiah

Message 21 - 'Dedicating the Wall' Nehemiah 12:27 - 47



A joyous chapter is what we find in chapter 12 as it considers the dedication of the walls of Jerusalem. The people raised their Ebenezer's, 'thus far has the Lord helped us'. This surely was the testimony of Nehemiah and the people as they saw the walls built, and a city restored physically, and most importantly spiritually, and all had been done to the glory of God. This was marked in their conclusion and celebration as we can see in these verses:

1. Concluding - The work was coming to a conclusion, and in all these things Nehemiah had dealt wisely, it is clear that he was not relying on his own strength and understanding, but he rested on the One he knew was sufficient for all things and surrendered his life. A life surrendered under the hand of God can be used by the great God to do great things. As Hudson Taylor remarked, 'Depend upon it - God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies'. As one commentator describes, 'the walls thus appear for what they are: not a monument to the strength of Judah - heaven forbid! - but God's gift for the protection and perpetuation of his name in the world.'

2. Celebrating - The people were bearing witness to the watching world that God had done the work, and He alone should be glorified. They once again gave testimony to those around that 'this work was wrought by our God'. The attitude of the people to the working of God on their behalf. There is great rejoicing, and this shows itself in the singing. It is the true religion of heaven, biblical religion that the people of God express their joy and thanksgiving in great singing together. Why should this be the case? Ultimately, the truth of God, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the message of salvation, the grace of God, they are wonderful things. They had heard the Word at the Water Gate in Nehemiah 8:2, so it was only right that they now express their worship; for the worship and the Word must always go together. This repetition of the words joy and rejoicing is important, and I want you to see the importance of the fact that the Lord had given them great joy. They were not just enjoying themselves or being entertained, it was not a reaction to the created atmosphere, it was a spiritual joy. In conclusion, this was an occasion of great rejoicing for the people as they acknowledged all that the Lord had done on their behalf. So it is for the believer that their worship should be fuelled with a thankful heart when thought is given to all that God has done on our behalf in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, our Redeemer, and sending His Spirit to work grace in our lives. That is a cause of rejoicing and how it should be that our praise is heard far beyond these walls.



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs