

June 19th, 2022AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier
Nehemiah 2:11-20 – “Let Us Arise & Build”

- A. The call to rebuild what is broken-down is not only for Nehemiah & the people of Israel.
 - 1. There are many things in the modern church that are in disrepair & need fixing.
 - 2. This Father’s Day is a reminder of the importance of fathers in the lives of children.
- B. Nehemiah identified himself at the end of the chapter 1 as **“the cupbearer to the king.”** As the cupbearer of King Artaxerxes, he was a highly trusted official.
 - 1. After hearing the bad news of Jerusalem, Nehemiah spent days in mourning, prayer, & fasting.
 - 2. In **Neh 2:8**, regarding the favor the king gave him to return to Judah, Nehemiah said, **“the good hand of my God was on me”**

God calls you to arise & work for the sake of the kingdom of God.	I. <u>THE INSPECTION & CALL TO BUILD</u> II. <u>WORKERS ARISE & SO DOES OPPOSITION</u>
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I. THE INSPECTION & CALL TO BUILD

- A. **vv12-15** describe Nehemiah’s nighttime inspection of the damaged walls & burned gates of Jerusalem.
 - 1. His inspection was done with an armed guard; **v12** say he took a few men with him.
 - 2. Perhaps Nehemiah chose to go at night to go under the radar of pagan officials in the area.
 - 3. Every good plan requires a careful inspection first.
 - 4. Because the kingdom of God is always at war against the world, the flesh, & the devil, we must always be careful to assess both our defenses & our weapons of war.
- B. Why all this urgency to repair the wall of Jerusalem in the first place? Were the Jews in Jerusalem really in that much danger?
 - 1. **Neh 2:19** tells us that there were local gentiles (Haronites, Ammonites, & Arabs) who hated the Jewish people: **“they mocked us & despised us.”**
 - 2. **Neh 4:11** says that gentile opposition intensified as they later progressed in rebuilding the wall: **“Our enemies said, ‘They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them & put a stop to the work.’”**

C. After the inspection of the damage to the walls & gates, Nehemiah brought the report to Jewish priests, the nobles, & officials. He called them— He charged them— to rebuild. → Look at **vv17-18**.

- 1. Living in a city with defensive walls made them a **“reproach”** (**v17**) The Hebrew word here could be translated as a “disgrace” or “shame.”
- 2. Nehemiah’s persuasion prevailed with a good response→

II. WORKERS ARISE & SO DOES OPPOSITION

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A. The Workers arise. In v18, after Nehemiah assured them how God's good hand of favor was upon him, **"Then they said, 'Let us arise & build.' So they put their hands to the good work."**

1. Pastors, elders, deacons, parents, business owners, & supervisors all love to hear someone say **"Let us arise & build"** or "I am tired of just sitting around; let's get up & get to work!"
2. These folks Jewish leaders were not just all talk; v18 says **"they put their hands to the good work."**

B. The opposition arises. → Look at v19

1. Why didn't Nehemiah just show his letters giving him his endorsement from King Artaxerxes?¹
2. Perhaps Nehemiah was convinced it wouldn't do any good.
 - a. Fools don't listen to reason, facts, science, wise counsel.
 - b. Their problem is stubborn pride. **Prov 12:15a** says **"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes."**
 - c. We are faced with a similar dilemma. We think it would be good to show people some proof from science or some statistics; however, we cannot even convince some people that there are plain ways to define the differences between a man & a woman.

3. The Apostle Paul explained why some people are innately opposed to God's people & His message → **2 Cor 2:14-17**.

- a. Some you witness to will respond with joy at the message which is an aroma of life to them because they accept it & Christ whom you represent.
- b. Some you witness to will respond with anger, resentment, opposition, or even hate at your message because it is an aroma of death to them because they reject your message & Christ whom you represent.

C. Notice Nehemiah's reply to those who opposed the work of God's people; → look at v20.

1. There is a place for a godly confidence like that of Nehemiah; **"The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise & build,"**
2. As he said in 2:8, the king gave him favor **"because the good hand of my God was on me."** Why was God going to begin His good work through Nehemiah if He didn't plan to help him to finish it.
3. At the end of v20, Nehemiah said to Tobiah the Ammonite & his 2 friends, **"you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem."** This is a great reason for Tobiah's anger; because he thought he did. Eliashib the priest who was in charge over the storerooms of the temple allowed this pagan man to live in a large room in the courts of the temple (**Neh 13:1-9**). Tobiah knew his days of leaching off the Jewish people were coming to an end.

Review, further application, & conclusion:

¹ See Nehemiah 2:7.