

LESSON 7—April 18, 2021

Spring Quarter 2021 Theme:
Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant
Unit II: Prophets of Restoration

Lesson Titles:
Initiating Renewal
(Faith Pathway Bible Studies)
**Nehemiah: The Captive
Cupbearer Rebuilds
A Nation**
(Townsend Press Sunday School
Commentary)

Devotional Reading:

Daniel 9:4-6, 15-19

Background Scriptures:

Nehemiah 2:11-20; 13:1-22

Print Passages:

Nehemiah 2:11-20

Key Verse(s):

Said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. (Nehemiah 2:17, KJV)

.....

I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." (Nehemiah 2:17, NIV)

► Questions to Consider:

1. What did Nehemiah do upon his arrival to Jerusalem?
2. What did Nehemiah challenge the people to do?
3. How did Nehemiah hand his adversaries?

► Lesson Context:

- Nehemiah received word from his brother Hananai, and others who had recently returned from Jerusalem who told him about the deplorable condition of the **wall** around Jerusalem and the potential dangers the people faced because of it.
- Nehemiah cared about God, God's **people** and the city of Jerusalem.
- The Lord put in Nehemiah's heart and spirit to go to **Jerusalem** to help in the rebuilding the walls around the city.
- Nehemiah received permission from King Artaxerxes to travel to Jerusalem to lead the people in rebuilding the wall.

► Lesson Aims:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:

- Examine why Nehemiah decided to restore the walls of Jerusalem and reform/revive the Sabbath law.
- Appreciate Nehemiah's feelings and behavior in restoring the wall and reforming Jewish worship.
- Identify ways to restore worn parts of the faith community and revive traditions that honor God.

► **Lesson Outlines/Key Points:**

I. **Reviewing the Situation (Nehemiah 2:11-16)**

Key Point 1: Upon his arrival to Jerusalem, Nehemiah spent three days quietly “reviewing the situation.”

Key Point 2: Nehemiah surveyed the condition of the land to determine the extent of what he faced.

II. **Challenging the People (Nehemiah 2:17-18)**

Key Point 1: Nehemiah called a meeting with the general population and the leadership.

Key Point 2: Nehemiah shared his **vision** to rebuild the wall with enthusiasm, challenging and inspiring the Jerusalem leaders to rebuild the wall.

III. **Denouncing Opposition (Nehemiah 2:19-20)**

Key Point 1: Nehemiah faced opposition to his plan of rebuilding the wall.

Key Point 2: The task was already successful because **God’s** hand was in it.

► **Lesson Summary:**

- If God has revealed a task to you, follow the example of Nehemiah by seeking His will and His direction first.
- **Total** dependence on God is an essential key to effective leadership and discipleship.

What Do You Think? (These questions are found in this week’s Faith Pathway student book.)

1. Why is planning such a key component of success?

2. Which of Nehemiah’s leadership strategies have you seen other leaders implement with success?

3. Why is it sometimes difficult to resist the temptation to respond negatively to ridicule and opposition?

As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
