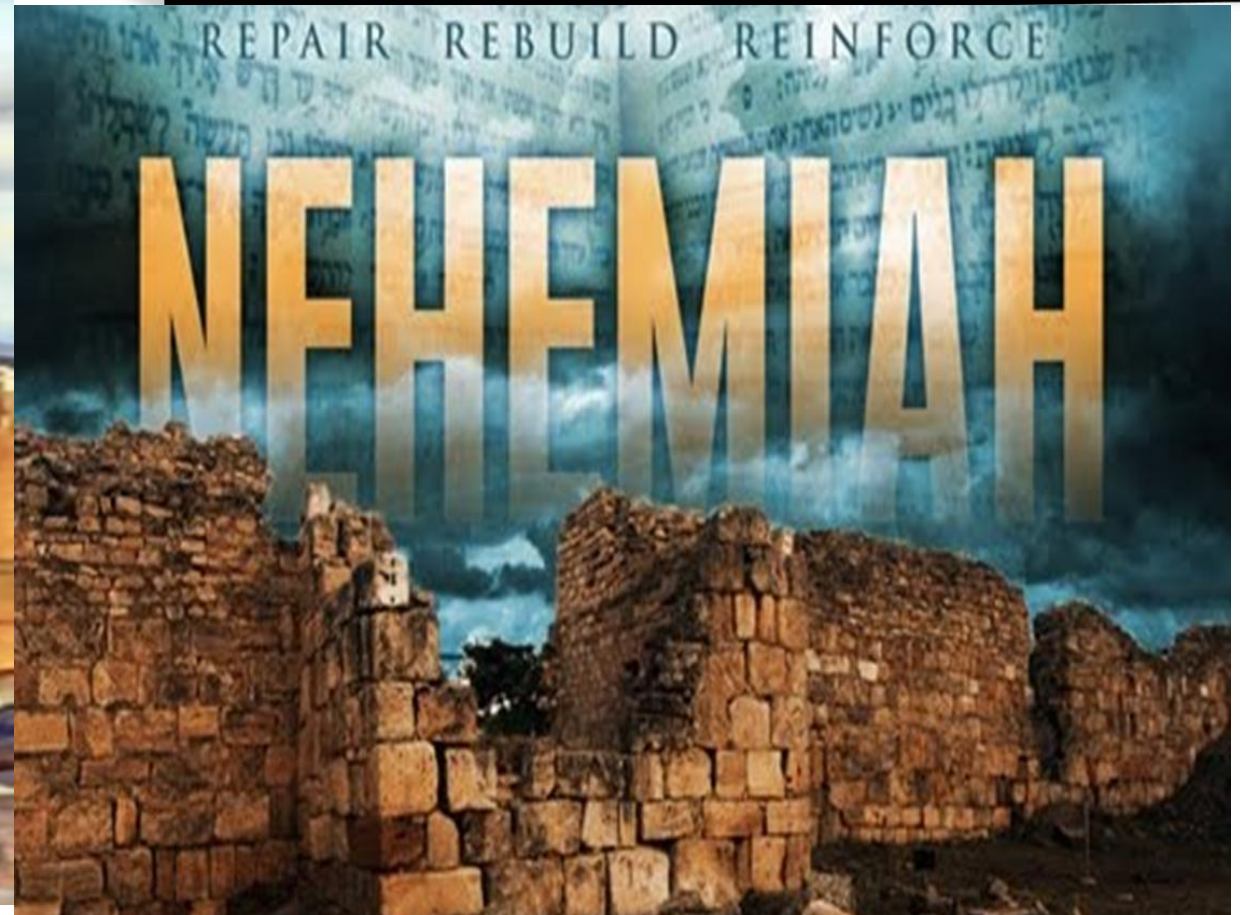


Lessons from the life of Nehemiah.



COME LET US BUILD GOD'S
KINGDOM

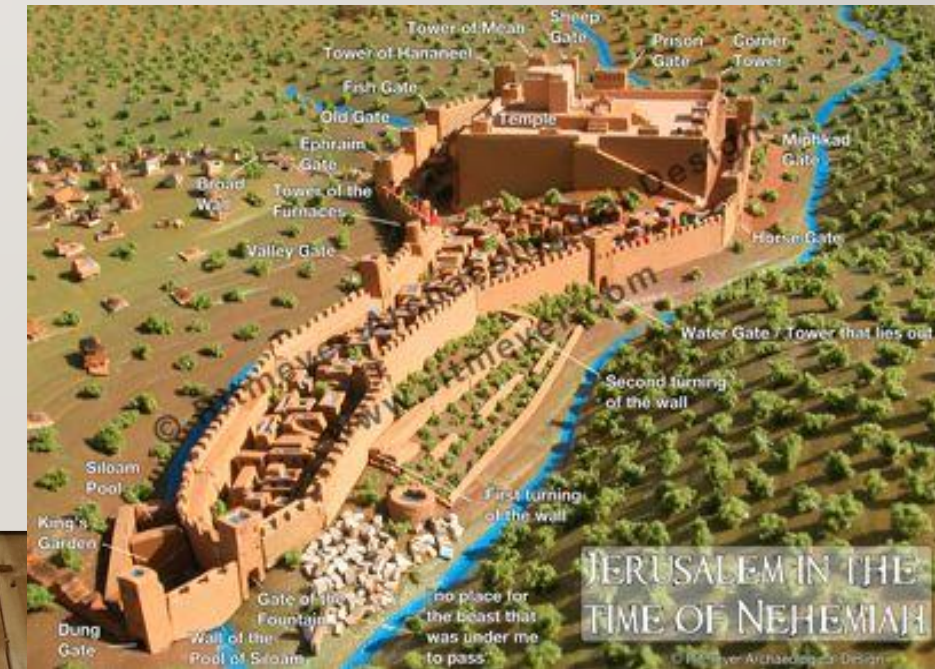


SOME QUESTIONS

Q.1. How many of us truly desire for the Kingdom of God to grow powerfully?

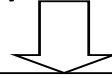
Q.2. Do we indeed, like to see this EU/EGF /Church grow in the Lordship of Christ, grow in strength, grow in unity, grow in ministry and grow in the Word?

Q.3. How many of us would like to see our EGF, families, and workplaces united, so that God's purpose can be accomplished for you and your family?



EZRA, NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER

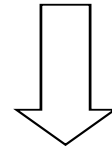
Captivity of 70 years



Temple Rebuilt (538 - 515)

*Zerubbabel, Haggai (520),
Zechariah (520-518)*

Gap of 57 years



ESTHER (483-473)

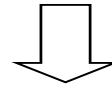
EZRA

People Reformed

558

456

Gap of 12 years

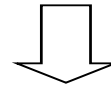


Nehemiah

Walls Rebuilt

444

432



Nehemiah's
Second Return

430 B.C.

Malachi
450 - 430

400 Silent years.



Nehemiah – cup bearer to the King

- He held a high position in the court.
- He was close to the king and could share his confidence.
- Nehemiah has not forgotten his own people.
- Read (Ps 122 and 137:5-6).
- The news was distressing that the remnant was suffering shame, the walls were broken down, and the gates were burned.
- Instead of being a city of God's glory and praise, Jerusalem became a city of shame and reproach.



NEHEMIAH

- The meaning of NEHEMIAH is “YAHWEH comforts” in Hebrew.
- Although the Temple in Jerusalem was completed in 516 BC, the city walls remained in shambles for next 70 years.
- The walls represented power, protection, pride of the Jewish nationality.
- Walls of Jerusalem are broken down & the people are defenseless & vulnerable.

The situation of Judah and the Temple at Jerusalem.

1) Nehemiah received the Vision: How can we receive it?

- Introspection and core values of your life.
- Zeal and courage to do something big for the Lord.
- **When God wants to do something good in your life, He often gives it through a vision. This is what happened for Habakkuk and Samuel in the Old Testament.**
- Your emotional connection.
- Nehemiah had a divine burden.
- His vision was born from compassion and covenant loyalty, not ambition

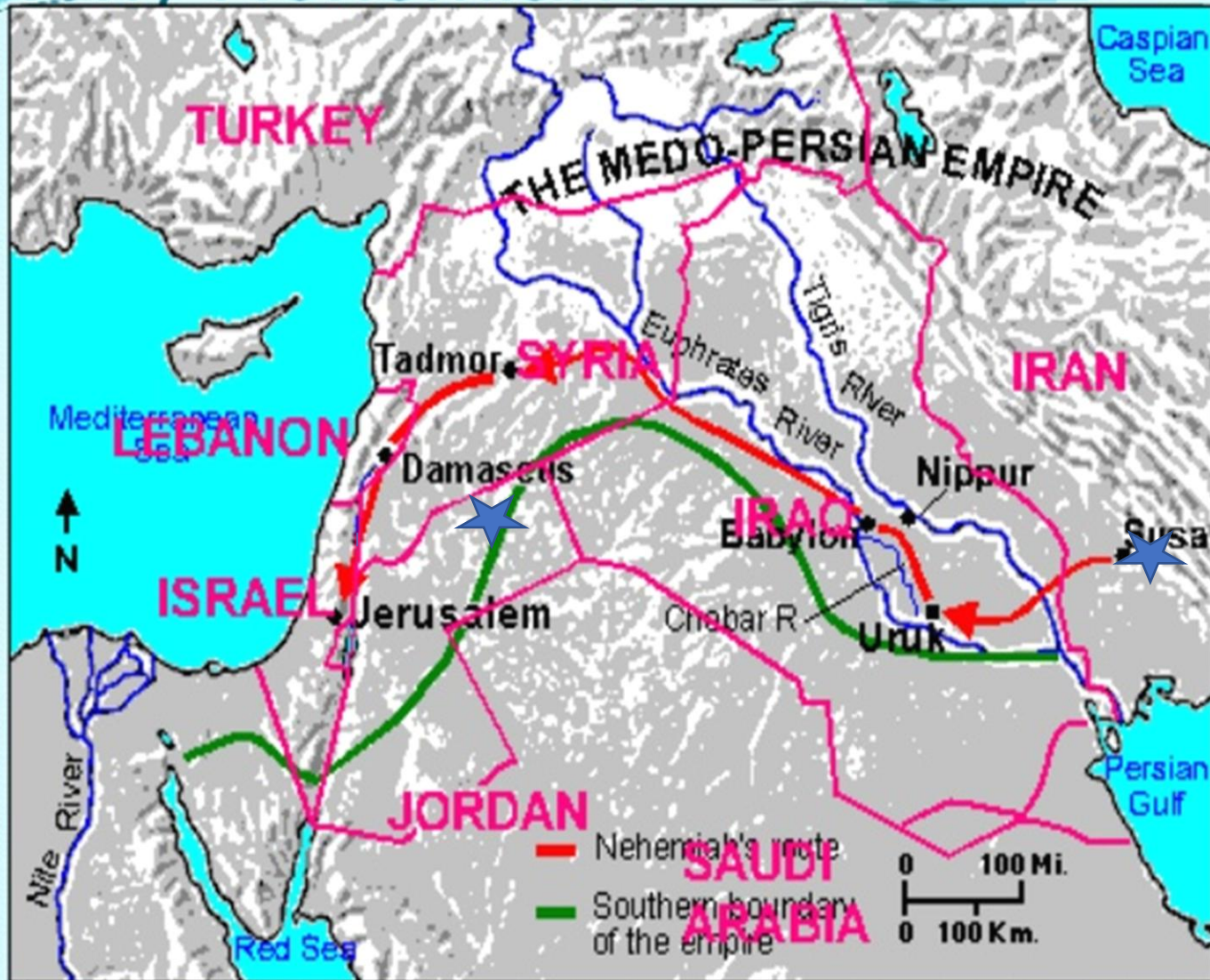
2) Nehemiah inquired and interceded (1:8-10).

- Vision is not just a dream. It's your life, your passion.
- Nehemiah prayed intensely. His prayer included (Neh.1:5-11).
 - Confession of national sin
- Remembrance of God's promise.
- Petition for favour with the King.
- His 4-months prayer included preparation and planning.

3) Nehemiah converting the Vision into Mission.

- Nehemiah petitioned the King (2:1-8).
- He clearly articulated the problem.
- Proposed a solution.
- Requested letters of safe passage and timber.

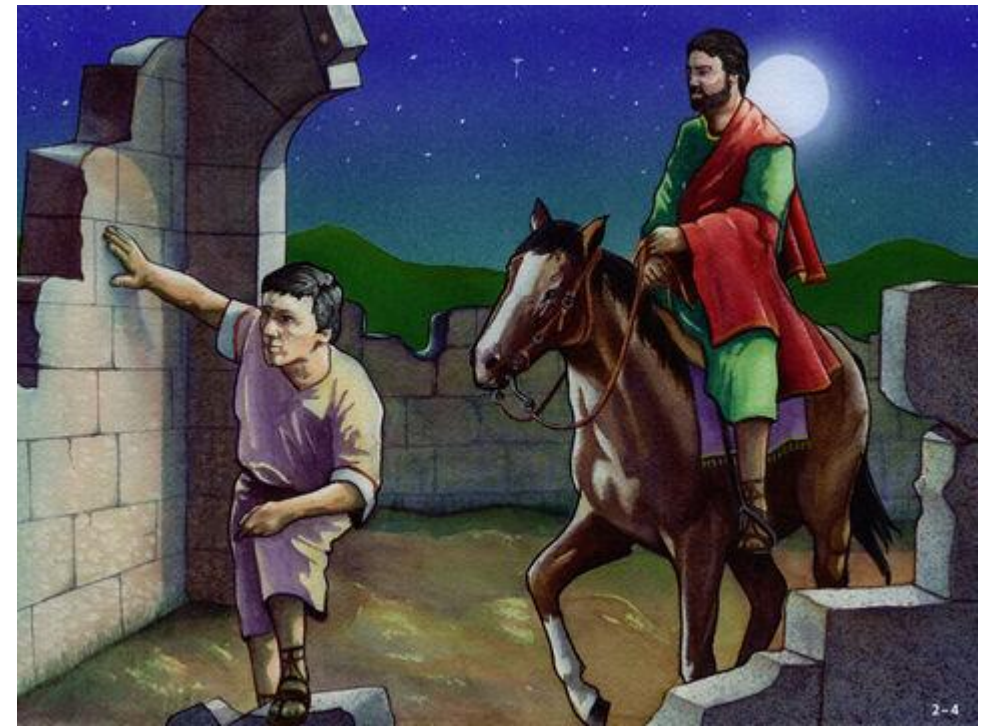
Why Nehemiah?



- Distance between Susa to Jerusalem is 1580 km.
- Nehemiah had to travel more than 30-days to reach Jerusalem with his caravan.

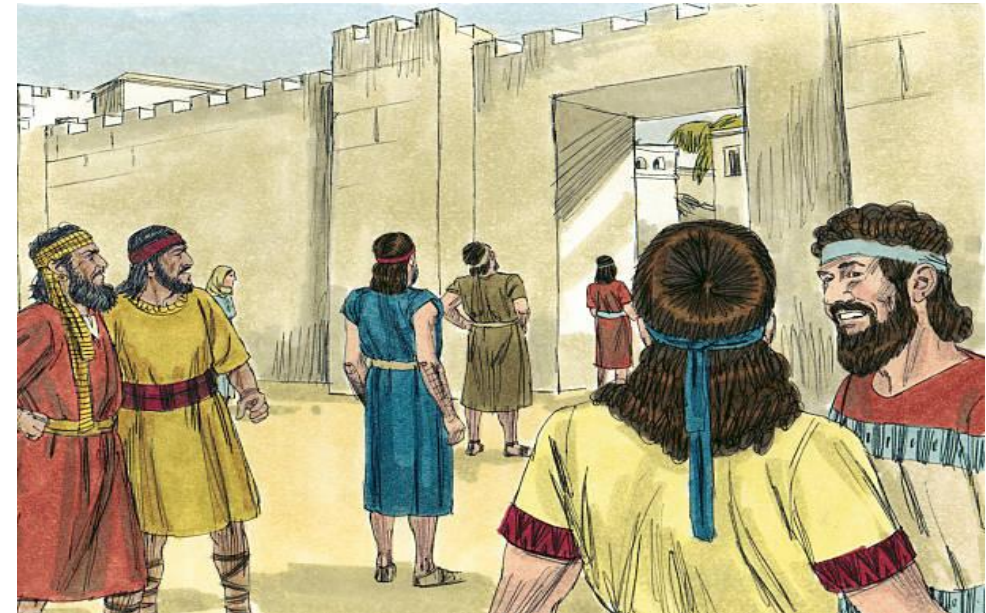
Onsite Quiet Assessment (2:11-16).

- He inspected the walls at night. This shows that:
- Wisdom in timing.
- Realistic evaluation.
- Avoiding premature exposure.



Casting the vision (2:17-18).

- He mobilized the Community.
- He shared the Vision.
- He asked God's favour.
- He asked King's favour.



God's is calling all of us.

God wants us to be light and salt. God wants us to reach out to the world with His word, the Gospel.

God wants us to grow as believers to mature. So, we have great work to do. In fact, God wants to work as a team to achieve His purposes.

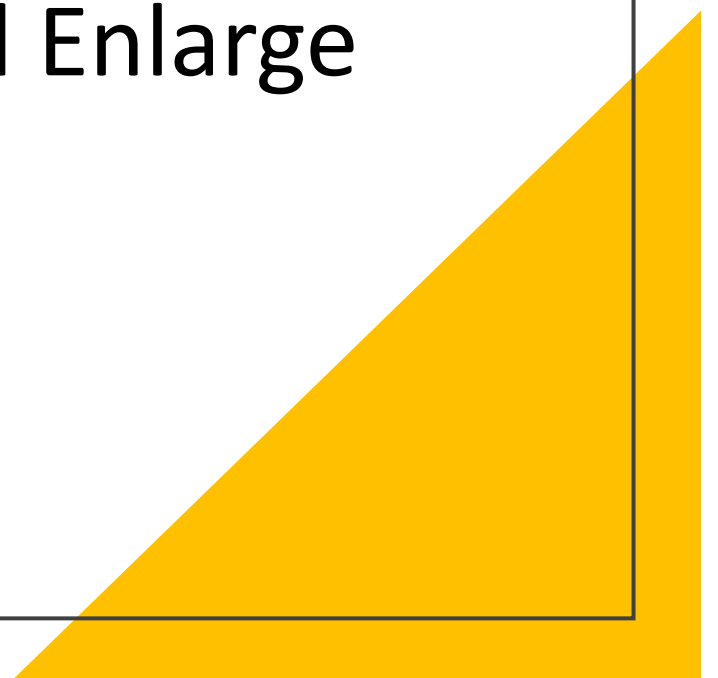
Christian ministry always has to be a team ministry, and each one of us has to be a team player. If you are thinking about it as your own ministry, it is not Christianity.

Every EGF and Eu student must rally himself/herself to the local group to ensure quality and quantity.

(1 Thess.1:5-6): Our Gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.

How did
Nehemiah
achieve his
Mission

Equip, Engage
and Enlarge



1) Nehemiah
was spiritually and
physically
equipped.

(Neh.1:4-11; 2:4;
4:4-5; 6:14).

- Prayer was his first response to every challenge.
- When he came to Jerusalem, he faced opposition from Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite.
- He told the people what God had put in his heart to do. The vision was shared to all
- He called all the people & told them “Come let’s rebuild “and the people responded by “let us start rebuilding.”
- When he faced opposition, he said “The God of heaven will give us success.”

Nehemiah Engaged God given resources

- The people started re-rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. All the people were involved, from the Priests, Goldsmiths, Perfume makers, Governors, Merchants & various other people.
- Most of the people repaired the wall opposite their house.
- The people faced ridicule,” if even a fox climbing up on it will break down the walls”.
- Nehemiah prayed, and the people worked with all their hearts.
- Nehemiah placed people by families armed with swords, spears, & bows.
- He reminded the people of the Great and awesome God and encouraged them to fight.
- God frustrated the enemy’s plan, and the building of the wall progressed.
- Half of the people did the work & half of the people carried weapons.

It was complete Teamwork

Each family in Jerusalem agreed to build a part of the wall.

The high priest said that he would build one of the gates and the wall beside it to a certain tower.

Some of the rich men built on a long space, others did very little, while some did nothing at all.

One man built just as much of the wall as would stand in front of his house, and no more.

Another man built only that part of the wall that fronted his own room.

One man and his daughters hired workers to build (Neh.3:12)

The goldsmiths built some, and the men who sold medicines; the merchants also built a part of the wall.

Almost all the men of the city, and some of the women, took part in the building, for the people had a mind to work.

Nehemiah organized the complete execution of the wall.

There was unity.

There was Delegation and Collaboration.

The Mission succeeded because everyone saw themselves in the Vision.

Nehemiah gathers the people to hear, Ezra reads God's law.

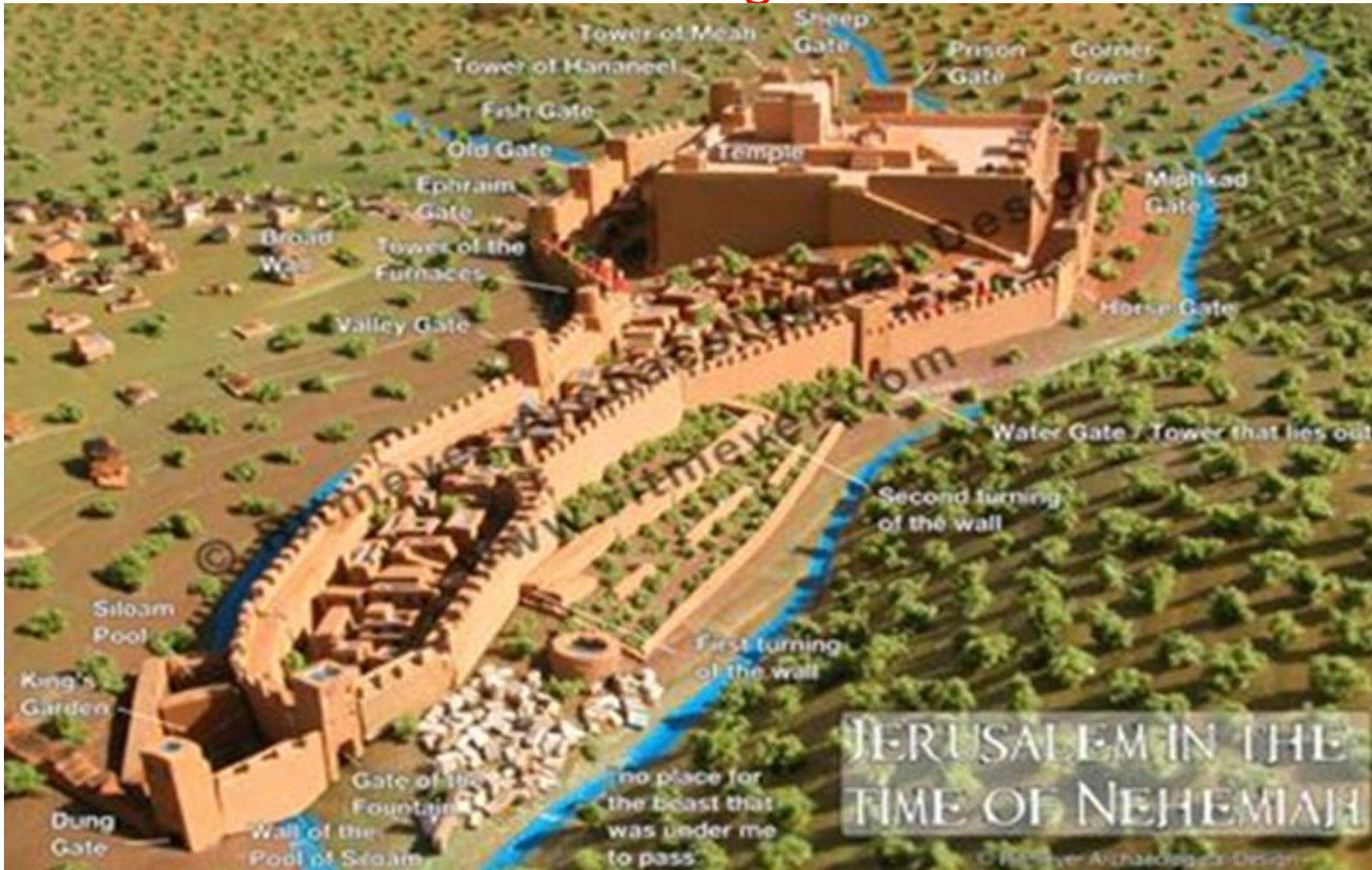
No matter where you live, constantly check our behaviour against God's standards.



Length: 4,018 meters (2.4966 mi), Average height is 12 meters (39.37 feet)
Average thickness is 2.5 meters (8.2 feet). Built in 52-days.

34 Watchtowers and 10 main gates for circulation

- 1) Sheep Gate (3:1; 12:39)
- 2) Fish Gate (3:3; 12:39)
- 3) Old Gate (3:6; 12:39)
- 4) The valley gate (3:13; 2:13)
- 5) The Dung gate (3:14; 2:13; 12:31)
- 6) Fountain Gate (3:15; 2:14; 12:37)
- 7) Water Gate (3:25-26)
- 8) Horse Gate (3:26)
- 9) East Gate (3:29)
- 10) Miphkhad Gate (3:31)



Why Teamwork?

- 1) **God Works as A Team:** God is Trinity. Trinity is a team. Father, Son and the Holy Spirit are a team.
- 2) **Jesus Worked as a Team:** Jesus used all kinds of people with different backgrounds to reach the world.
 - He utilized tax collectors, physicians, fishermen, women, children, etc.
 - He also used the wealthy, poor, masters, slaves, passive people and dynamic people in his team.
- 3) **Paul Worked as a Team:** Paul the Apostle was a team player. It is said that Apostle Paul had almost 40 people in his team.
- 4) **Greater Vision and Achievement:**
 - Teams create a vision of something larger than one can see The great commission is not a one-man job.
 - We have a part in it together. Teamwork helps us accomplish this.

Some Illustrations of team work

1) Horse-pulling contest:

- Teamwork can achieve greater results.
- Individual horses 2000Kg & 1800 Kg.
- Both horses together pulled 5450 Kg (1650 more)

2) Geese V-formation

- Front ones do the flapping.
- By V-formation, the flock gets 70% greater flying range.
- The tired goose is replaced, it goes back, and some other takes the lead.
- The geese behind make a honking sound, indicating that all is well.
- When one goose gets sick or wounded, two fall out of formation, stay with the struggler until it's able to fly again.



Bee hive:

- There are approximately 4000 bees in a hive.
- On a warm day about half the bees in a hive beat their wings while the other half go out to gather pollen and nectar.
- Because of the beating wings, the temperature inside the hive is about 10 degrees cooler than outside.
- They bees rotate their duties of cooling and honey gathering.



Redwood Tree

- Largest Trees in the world have a life span of almost 1500 years. The maximum height is more than 300 ft.
- Each tree's roots grow down only about 4 feet below the ground
- Redwood trees grow only in groves or bunches
- The roots are intermingled with the other Redwood trees next to them. This keeps them strong.
- No Redwood grows alone.



Nehemiah
enlarged the
Mission to all
communities



Social justice

There was a great outcry from the people regarding the interest they were paying.

Nehemiah admonished the people to stop taking usury and walk in the fear of the Lord.

Nehemiah governed Jerusalem for 12 years. (5:12)

Nehemiah did not take any of the benefits of the Governor, but instead spent his own money for the people.

He confronted the nobles / wealthy who were exploiting the poor and children as slaves.

As Governor, Nehemiah addressed the problems of intermarriage, neglected tithes, profaning the Sabbaths, and ensuring the community adhered to the standards of the Covenant (Neh.13).

Spiritual Revival (Neh.8-10)

- His ultimate goal was not just a wall, but a righteous community.
- Nehemiah purified the Temple of the Lord, called the Levites back & stationed them at their posts.
- The tithes & offerings were brought into the house of the Lord (Malachi book).
- Ezra read the book of the law. Nehemiah and the Levites made the word of the law clear to the people.
- They responded with weeping and mourning.
- Nehemiah told the people, “ Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength”.
- The people celebrated with great joy the festival of Tabernacles for 7 days and Ezra read daily from the book of the Law.
- Nehemiah appointed singers & gate keepers.

What are the problems we face in the ministry.

- 1) When You Do God's Work, You Will Face Opposition (Neh. 2:19) – Sanballat, Tobiah
 - Paul said: (1 Cor.16:9): A great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.
- 2) There Will Be People in The Team Who Do Not Work (Neh.3:5)
 - The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to work under their supervisors.
 - There are different kinds of people who come to church /EGF viz. Which category we belong: viz.
Participators, Spectators, Encouragers and Discouragers.
- 3) We Need To Find Our Place In the Work that God Is Doing in our state (Neh.3:1-4).
- 4) Different kinds of People Who Worked On The Wall
 - People Were From Everywhere.
 - People Were From Different Backgrounds.
 - There Were Men and Women, Young and Old.

How to be an effective Christian Team Leader?

5-point Formula **Remember the word: (LIGHT)**

Lordship; Integration; Gentle; Humble; Tarry.

- 1) L - Lordship of Christ. (Eph.4:2-6)
- 2) I - Integration. (Let there be unity)
- 3) G - Gentle. (Be Gentle)
- 4) H - Humble. (Be humble or meek)
- 5) T - Tarry – For one another (Have patience).

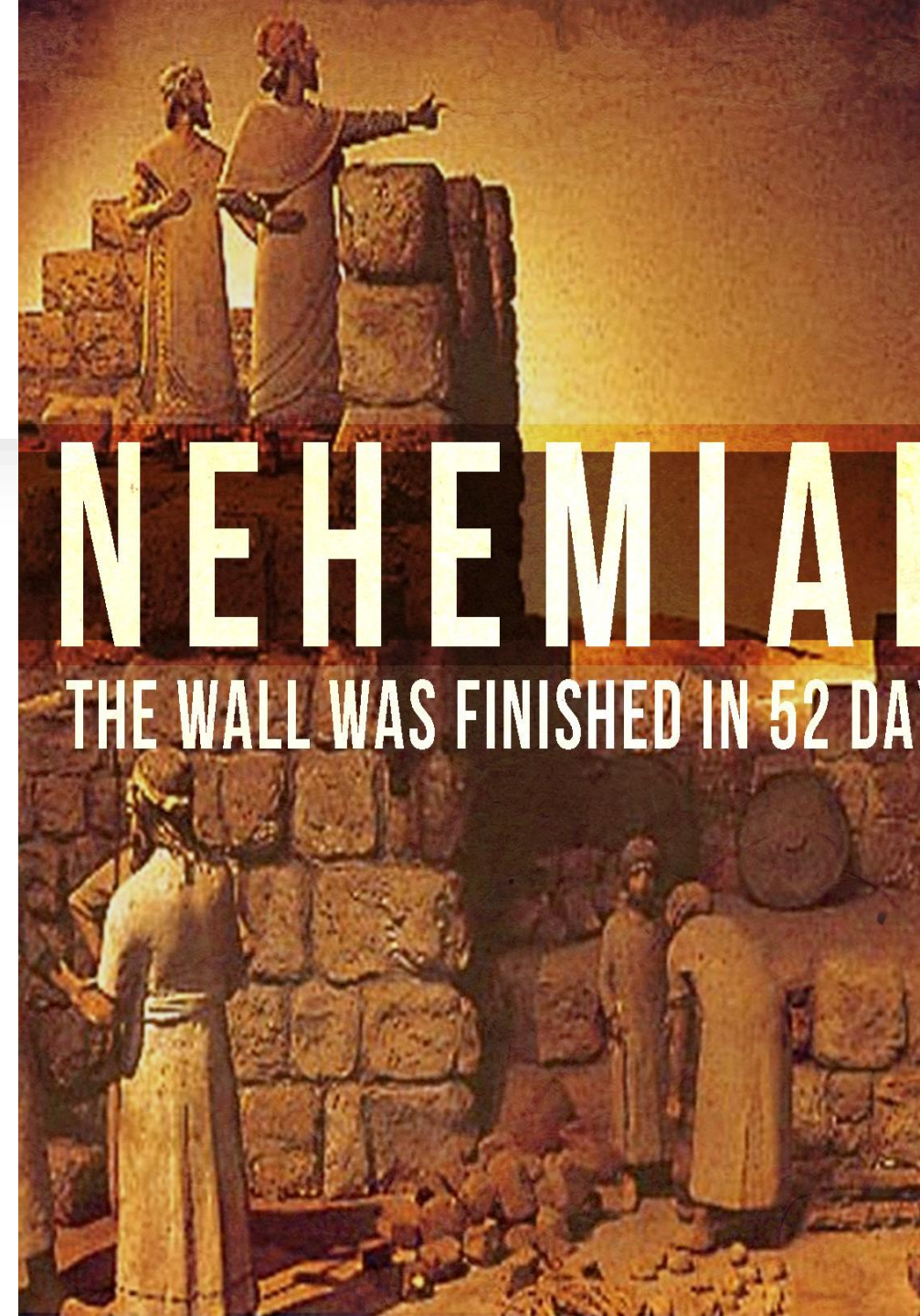
Together we can achieve more.

(Neh.3:20) “Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest.”

- One man stands out from all the others. He did it with zeal and with passion.
- Which one are you? Are you a Baruch or like the nobles?
- Do you serve or do you expect to be served?

Time to ask ourselves?

- Nehemiah lived in the luxury, yet he was willing to leave everything behind, taking responsibility and gathering all the people to accomplish the mission of reviving the walls of Israel back to life.
- Nehemiah was a team-player and part of God's team.
- **Are we willing to be part of God's team today?**
- Are you a team player or are you a detached soldier in Christ?
- God is searching for you.



FOR I AM
BUILDING A
PEOPLE OF
POWER

- **Verse**

For I'm building a people of power
And I'm making a people of praise
That will move through this land by My Spirit
And will glorify My precious name

- **Chorus**

Build Your church, Lord. Make us strong, Lord.
Join our hearts, Lord, through Your Son
Make us one, Lord In Your Body
In the kingdom of Your Son
Build Your church, Lord. Make us strong, Lord.
Join our hearts, Lord, through Your Son
Make us one, Lord In Your Body
In the kingdom of Your Son



LET US BUILD
GOD'S
KINGDOM