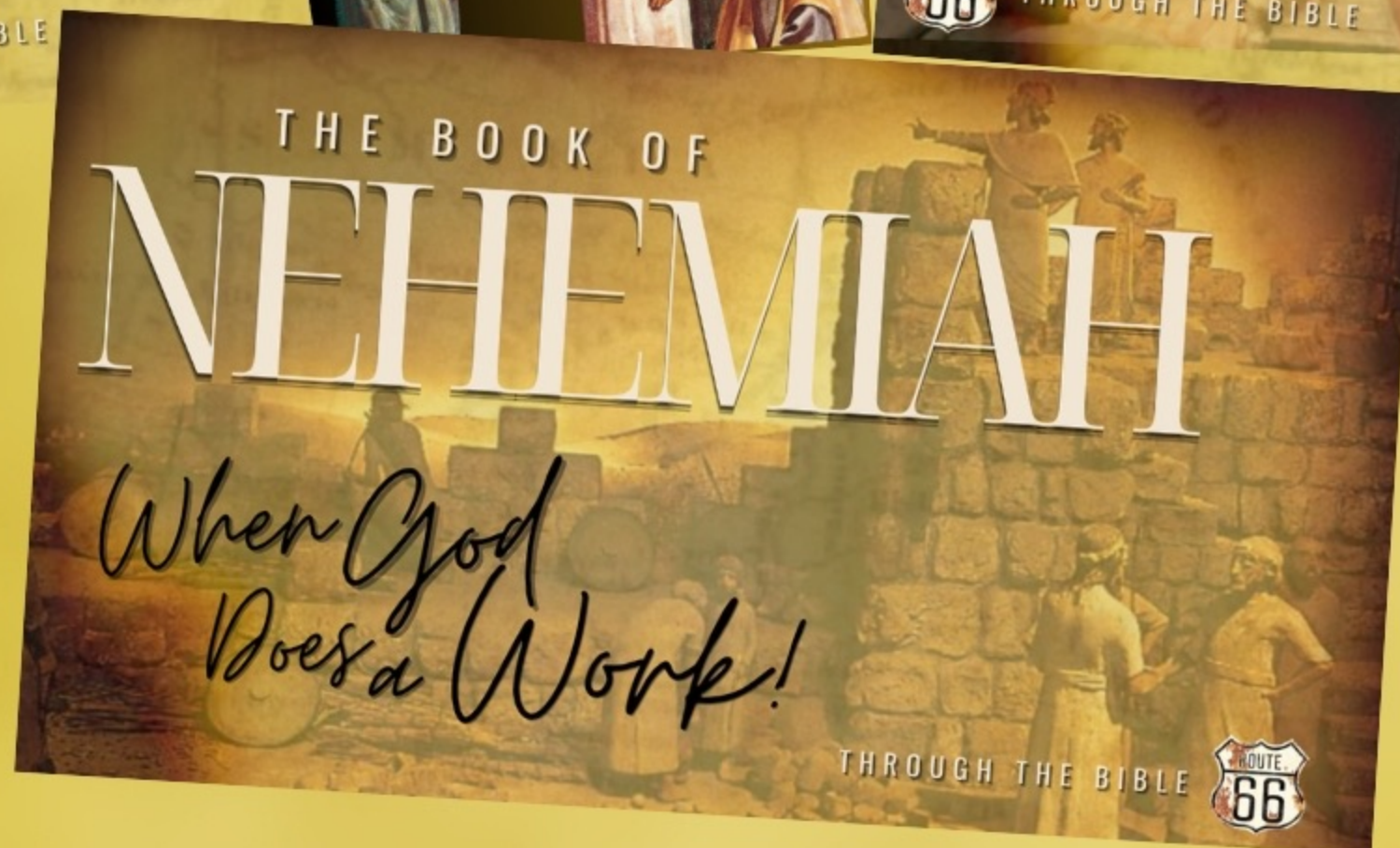


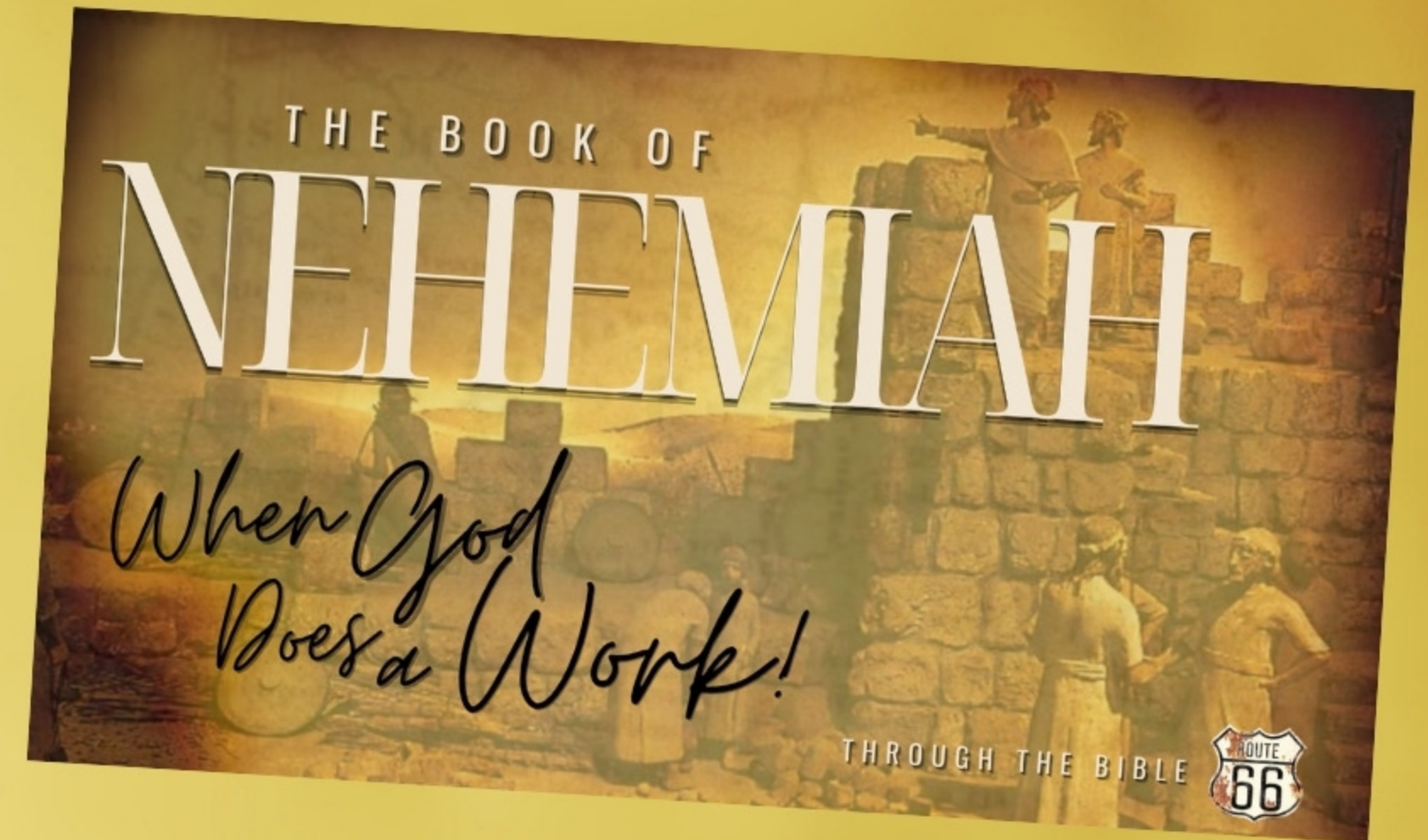
# ALL SET WITHIN/DURING the TIME of the PERSIAN EMPIRE





# The BOOK of NEHEMIAH takes place 15 YEARS AFTER the BOOK of EZRA

(Appx. 100 Years After the 1<sup>st</sup> Wave of Returning Exiles)



## NEHEMIAH LEADS a 3<sup>rd</sup> WAVE of RETURNING EXILES to REBUILD JERUSALEM'S WALLS



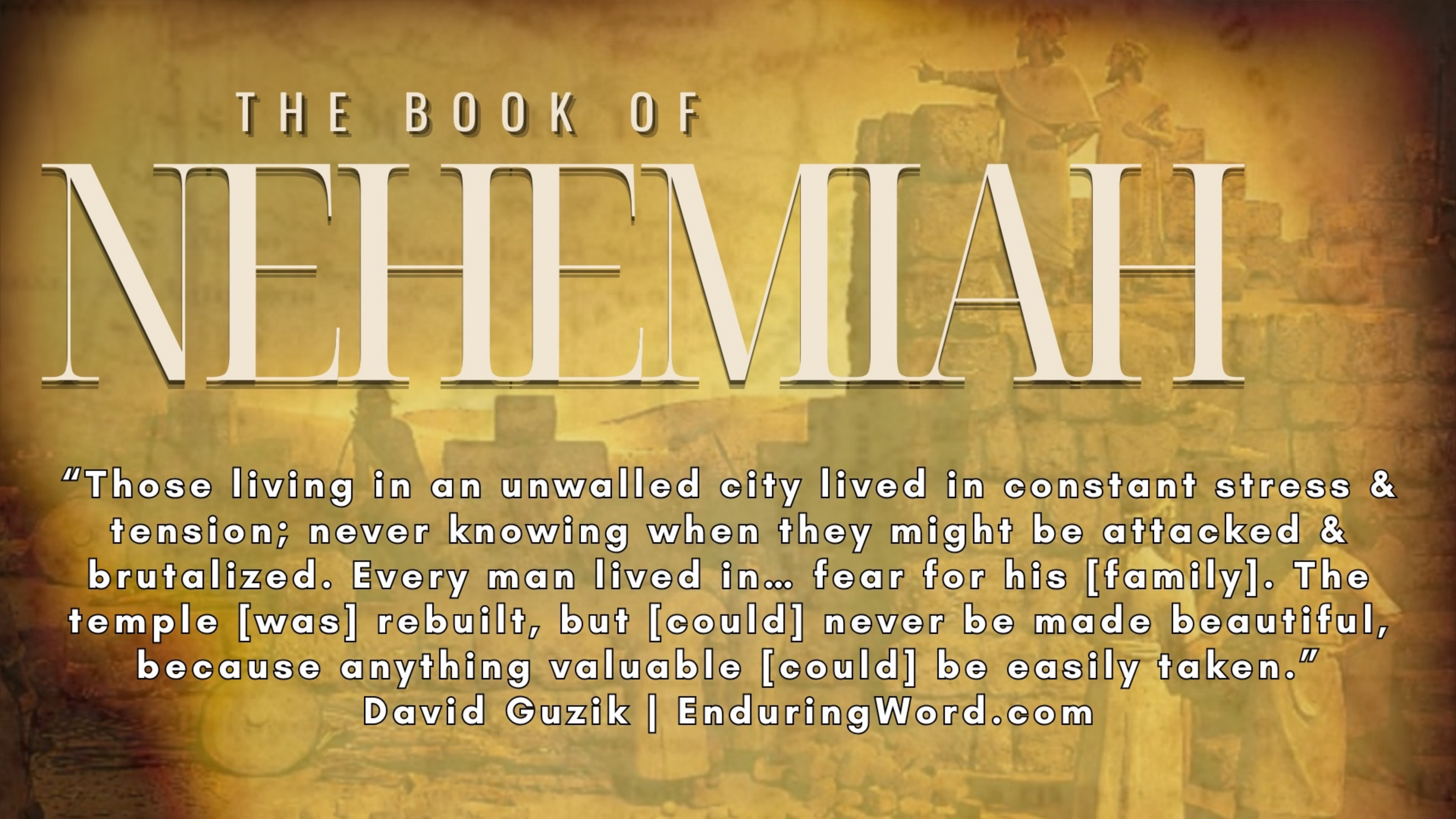
THE BOOK OF

# NEHEMIAH

THROUGH THE BIBLE





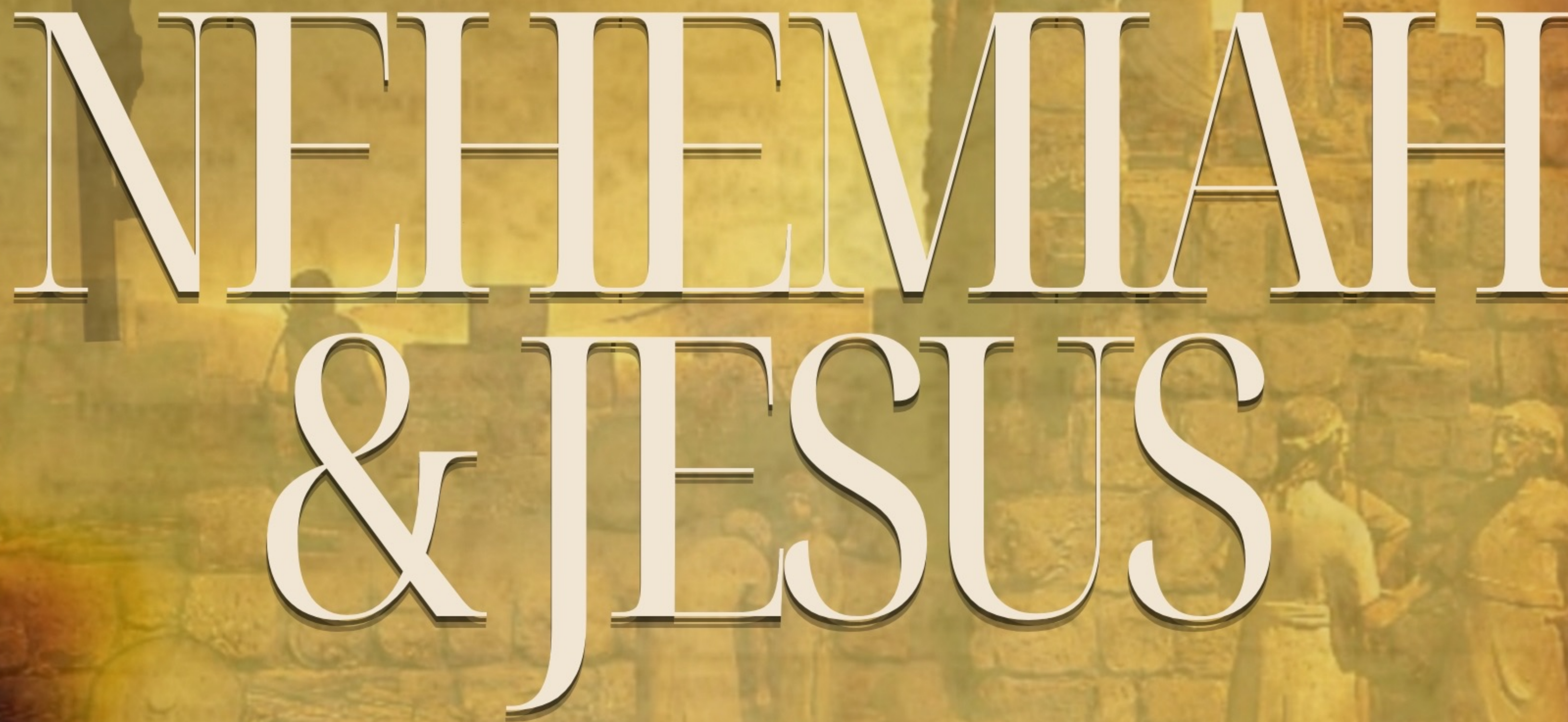
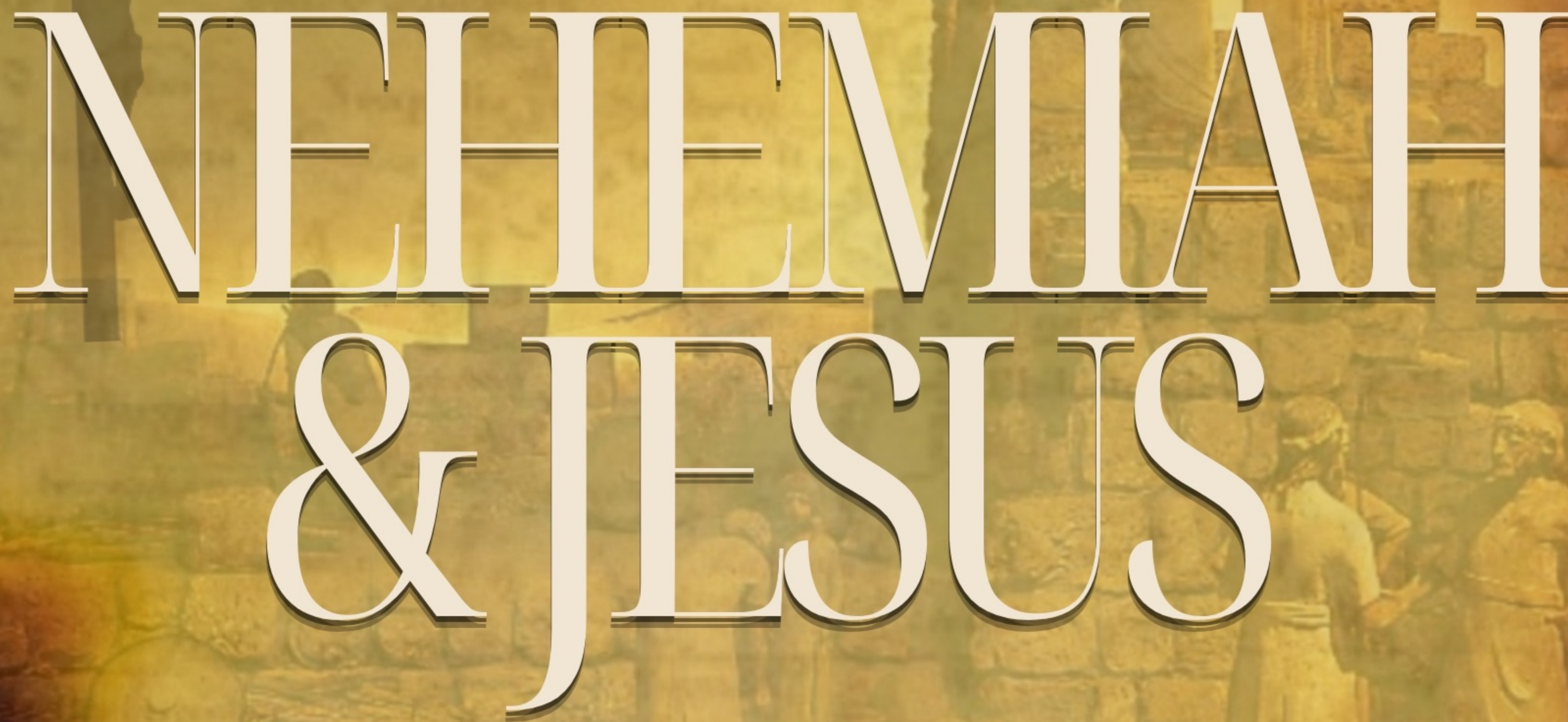


# THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

**"Those living in an unwalled city lived in constant stress & tension; never knowing when they might be attacked & brutalized. Every man lived in... fear for his [family]. The temple [was] rebuilt, but [could] never be made beautiful, because anything valuable [could] be easily taken."**

**David Guzik | [EnduringWord.com](http://EnduringWord.com)**





# NEHEMIAH & JESUS



# ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 1***

**Neh. 1:1: “The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel...”**

**WINTER  
CAPITAL  
OF PERSIA**

**FORTIFIED  
PALACE  
OF KINGS**



# ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 1***

**Neh. 1:1: "The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel..."**

**VS. 2-3: "that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, 'The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is... broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.'"**



# ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 1***

**Neh. 1:4: "...when I heard these words... I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven."**

**A PERSON OF FAITH DOES  
NOT JUST ACCEPT THAT THE  
WAYS THINGS ARE IS THE  
WAY THINGS HAVE TO BE**

***[READ NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER IN 1:5-11 SOMETIME!]***





## *THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 1*

# HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE WORLD TODAY?

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:7: "...the end of all things is at hand, therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."



## ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 2***

**Neh. 1:11: "For I was the king's cupbearer."**

**Neh. 2:1-2: "...it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before [the king]... I took the wine and gave it to the king. [And] I had never been sad in [the king's] presence before. Therefore, the king said to me, 'Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart.'"**

**"So I became dreadfully afraid..."**

**WHY?**



# *THE KING'S CUPBEARER*

*"A cup-bearer was... an officer of high rank in the royal courts... regarded as thoroughly trustworthy... His confidential relations with the king often gave him a position of great influence."*

*"The idea [is] that the king was such a wonderful person that... being in his presence [should] make you forget all your problems. When... Nehemiah knew the king noticed his sadness... [he] must have wondered if the [king's] next words would be, Off with his head!"*





## ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 2***

Neh. 2:3: **"May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city—the place of my fathers' tombs—lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?"**

VS. 4: **"Then the king said to me, 'What do you request?'"**





## *THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 2*

Neh. 2:4(b): **"So I prayed  
to the God of heaven."**

Neh. 2:5(a): **"And I said  
to the king..."**



**WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO DO BOTH  
THESE THINGS AT ONCE: PRAY TO GOD  
WHILE WE INTERACT WITH PEOPLE**



## ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 2***

**Neh. 2:7-8: "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy."**

**VS. 5: "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send ME to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."**

**"HERE  
AM I,  
SEND  
ME!"  
IS. 6:8**





*THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 2*

**PRAYER THAT  
LEADS TO ACTION!**

***[THIS REFLECTS THE HEART OF CHRIST]***



# ***NEHEMIAH: A PICTURE OF JESUS***

## **ISAIAH 59:1-15:**

**"Your iniquities have separated you from... God... your sins have hidden His face from you... your hands are defiled with blood... your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue... muttered perversity... Their feet run to evil... they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction are in their paths... We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We grope for the wall like the blind... as if we had no eyes... We look for justice, but there is none; For salvation, but it is far from us... Justice is turned back, righteousness stands afar off... Truth is fallen in the street... We are as dead men in desolate places."**



## ***NEHEMIAH: A PICTURE OF JESUS***

**ISAIAH 59:15-17:**

**"The LORD saw it, and it displeased Him... He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation... His righteousness, it sustained Him. For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak."**



## ***NEHEMIAH: A PICTURE OF JESUS***

**Nehemiah LEFT a ROYAL POSITION in Persia and PERSONALLY RESPONDED to the NEEDS of the people**

---

**Jesus LEFT His ROYAL POSITION in heaven... to PERSONALLY RESPOND to the SINFUL PLIGHT OF MAN**



## ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 2***

**Neh. 2:12-16: "I told no one what... God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem..." – "I went out by night... and viewed the walls... which were broken down and... burned with fire." – "the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not... told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work."**

**DISCERNMENT**

**Proverbs 29:11: "A fool utters all his mind... But a wise man holds them back."**



## *THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 2*

**NEHEMIAH TOOK TIME  
TO ALLOW GOD'S  
VISION TO CLARIFY**



## ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 2***

**Neh. 2:17-18: "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come... let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." - "[And] I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words... So, they said, "Let us rise up and build." [And] they set their hands to this good work."**



*THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 2*

**THERE COMES A  
POINT WHERE VISION  
NEEDS TO BE CAST**



## ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 2***

### **The People DIDN'T Say:**

*"Great idea, Nehemiah! We'll pray for you!"*

*"You build, and we'll watch!"*

*"That's YOUR ministry, Nehemiah! We're called to something else."*

### **NEHEMIAH CAST VISION AND THEY SAID:**

**"Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work." (Neh. 2:18[b])**



*THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: CHAPTER 3*

**A GREAT OLD  
TESTAMENT PICTURE  
OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**



# ***NEHEMIAH 3 AND THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH***

- Matt. 16:18: **"I will build My church..."**
- Eph. 2:20: **"...on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ... being the chief cornerstone..."**
- Eph. 4:12: **"...the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [BUILDING UP] of the body of Christ..."**

## **SOME OF THE CHURCH'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS:**

**Leading, Teaching, Giving, Serving, Prophecy, Healing,  
Mercy, Faith, Discernment, Speaking in Tongues,  
Interpretation of Tongues...**



# ***NEHEMIAH 3 AND THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH***

**Eph. 4:16: "From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what EVERY JOINT supplies, according to the effective working by which EVERY PART does its share... causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."**

*"Every Member a Minister"*





# ***NEHEMIAH 3 AND THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH***

**Church Leaders Play ONE PART...**

**The church is ONLY BUILT if OTHER  
PEOPLE use THEIR GIFTS to do THEIR PART...**

**Nehemiah Played One Part...**

**The wall would not be built if OTHER  
PEOPLE did not do THEIR PART...**

*"Every Member a Minister"*



## ***THE WALL COMPLETED!***

**Neh. 4:6: "...the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, [because] the people had a mind to work."**

**Neh. 6:15: "...the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days."**





# ***THE CHURCH CAN ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS***

*“We have such small ideas of how God can use us. God used a man named Nehemiah to set right a 100-year-old problem in less than two months – and the same God sits on a throne in heaven and [wants to] work through [us] today.”* **(David Guzik)**

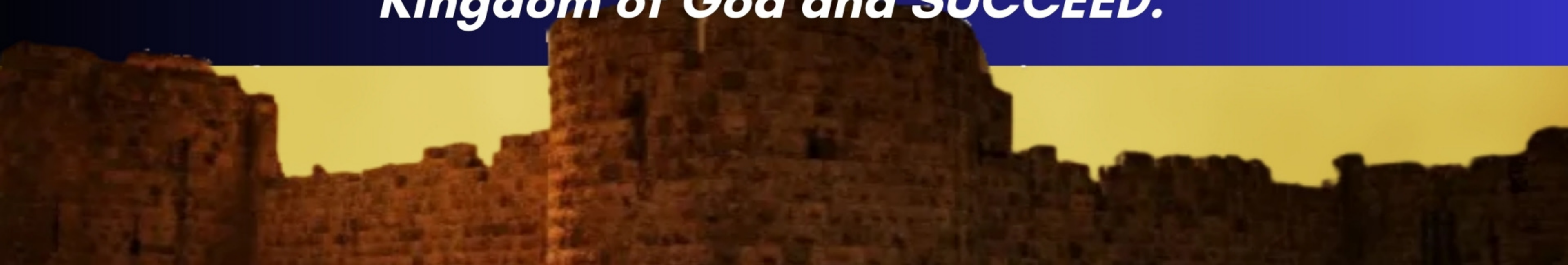




## ***GOD GOT THE GLORY***

**Neh. 6:16: “when... our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around... saw these things... they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.”**

***“It’s better to attempt GREAT THINGS for the Kingdom of God and FALL, than to attempt NOTHING for the Kingdom of God and SUCCEED.”***





## ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: OPPOSITION ARISES***

**Neh. 2:10: “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.”**

**VS. 19: “Sanballat... [and] Tobiah... and Geshem the Arab... laughed at us and despised us, and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?”**





## ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: OPPOSITION ARISES***

**Neh. 2:10: “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.”**

**VS. 20: “I answered them, and said...  
‘The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will  
arise and build...”**



## ***THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH: OPPOSITION ARISES***

**Neh. 4:1-3: "Sanballat... was furious... and mocked the Jews... and said, 'What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? [And] complete it in a day?' – "Tobiah... said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall."**

**Neh. 4:8: "ALL of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion."**



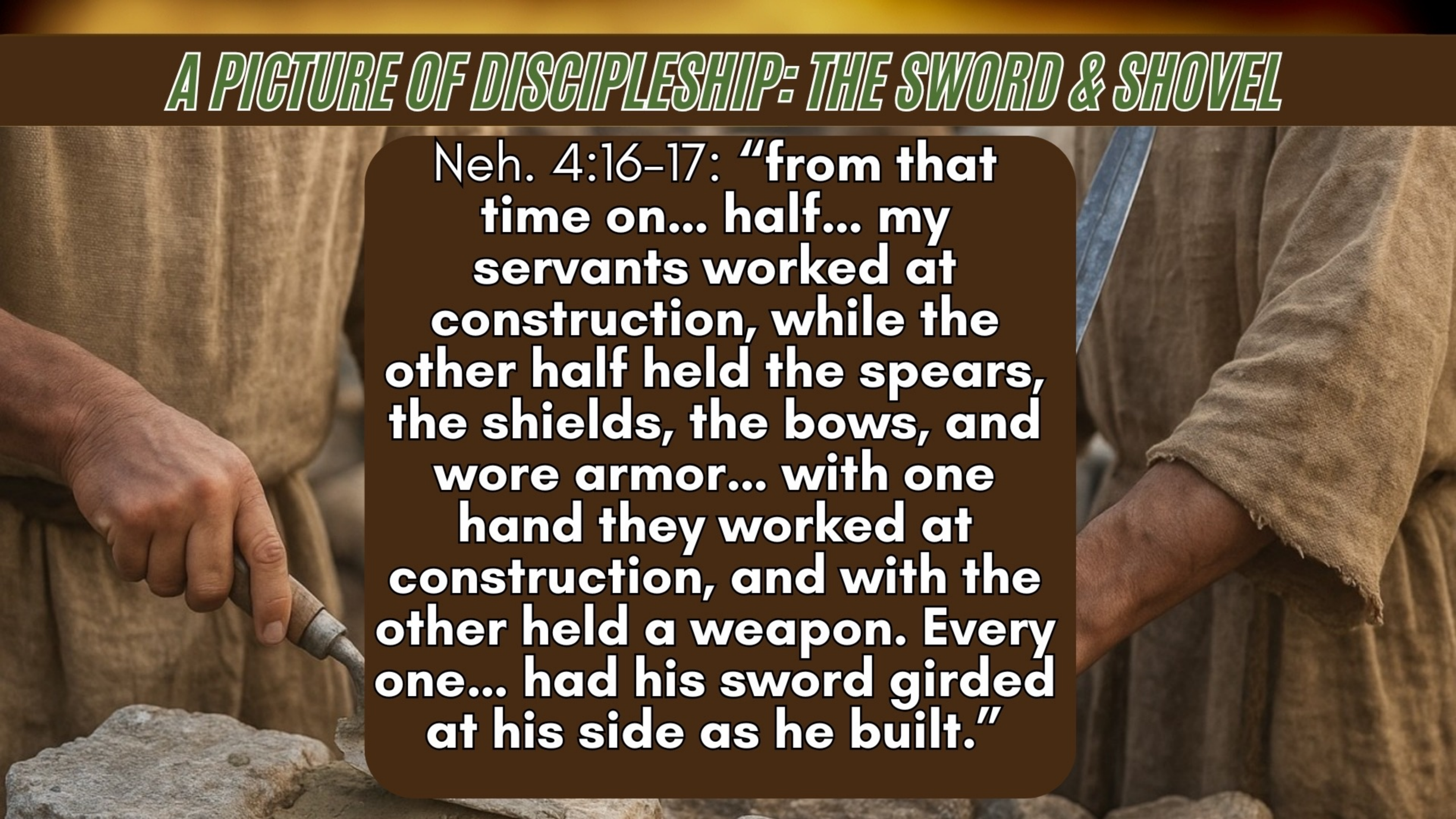
## ***NEHEMIAH RESPONDS TO OPPOSITION***

Neh. 4:9: **"We made our prayer to our God, AND... we set a watch against them day and night."** **VERY PRACTICAL!**

**VS. 13-14: "I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall... and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows." – "And... I said to... the people: "Do not be afraid... Remember the Lord, great and awesome, AND fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."**



## ***A PICTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP: THE SWORD & SHOVEL***

A person wearing a tan, textured robe is shown from the waist down, using a shovel to dig into the ground. The shovel has a wooden handle and a metal head. The person's right hand is on the handle, and their left arm is visible, also in the robe. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, suggesting a desert or construction site. The text is overlaid on a dark brown, rounded rectangular background in the center of the image.

**Neh. 4:16–17: “from that time on... half... my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor... with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. Every one... had his sword girded at his side as he built.”**



## ***A PICTURE OF CORPORATE WORSHIP***

**Neh. 4:22: "Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. [And] Our God will fight for us."**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Chron. 20:22: "...when they began to sing and... praise, the LORD set ambushes against [those]... who [came] against" God's people, "and they were defeated."**



## ***NEHEMIAH 6: THE WILES OF THE ENEMY***

**Neh. 6:2: "Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, 'Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono.'"**

***DISTRACTION!***

**VS. 3-4: "I sent messengers to them, saying, 'I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?' But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner."**



## ***NEHEMIAH 6: THE WILES OF THE ENEMY***

**Neh. 6:5-7: "Then Sanballat sent his servant to me... with [a letter] in his hand." It said: "It is reported among the nations... that you and the Jews plan to rebel... that you may be their king. And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you... saying, "There is a king in Judah!" Now, these matters will be reported to the king. So come... let us consult together."**

**INTIMIDATION!**



## ***NEHEMIAH STANDS AGAINST THE ENEMY***

**Neh. 6:11-13: "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!"**

**"Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him... that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me."**



## ***A CLASSIC RESPONSE***

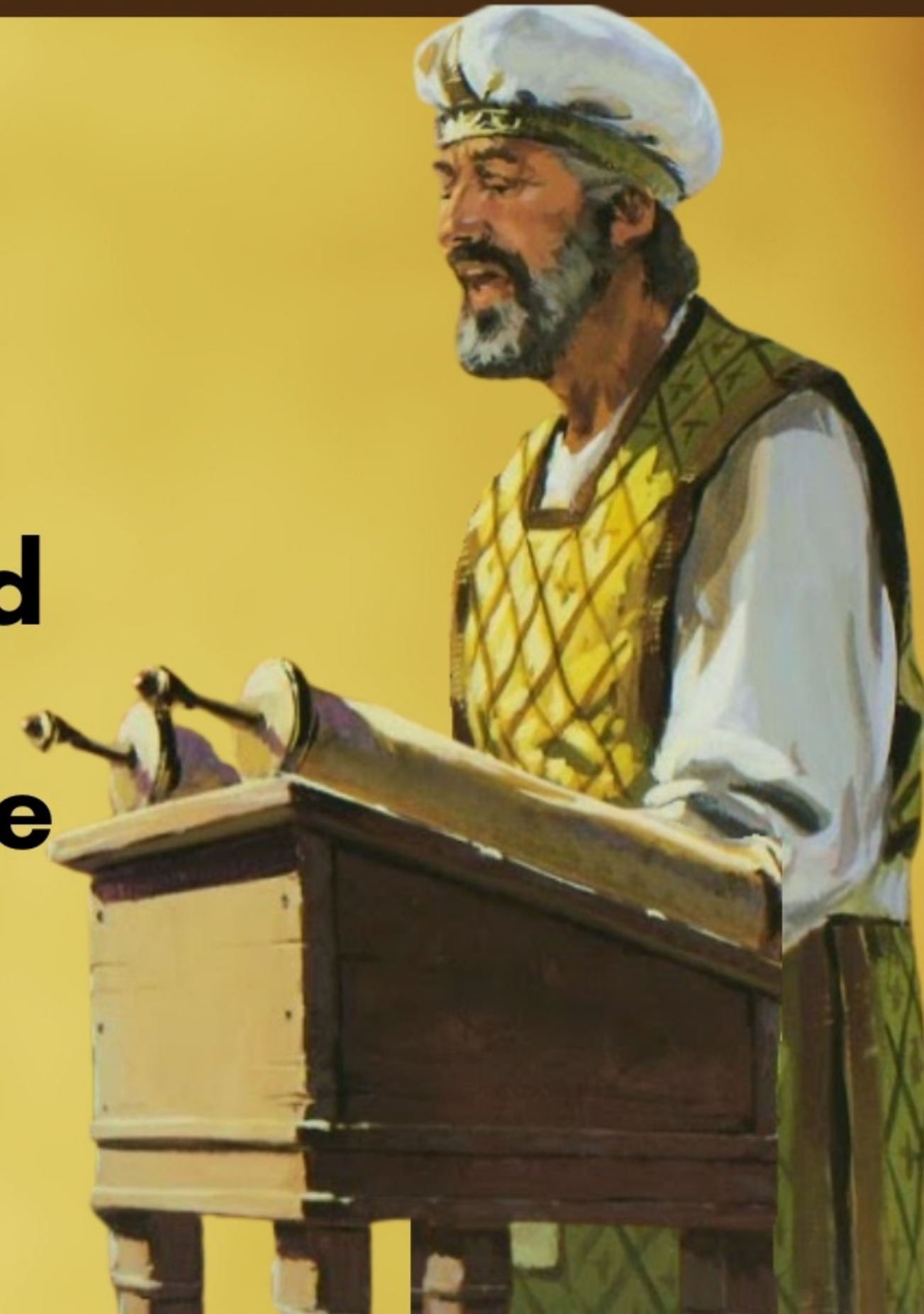
**Neh. 6:8: “No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart.”**

***ALISTAIR BEGG***



## ***NEHEMIAH 8: EZRA LEADS A REVIVAL***

**Neh. 8:2-10: "Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding..." And "he read from it... from morning until midday... and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law... And Ezra blessed the LORD..."**





## ***NEHEMIAH 8: EZRA LEADS A REVIVAL***

**Neh. 8:2-10: “the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground... So, they read distinctly from the book...” – “And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.”**





## ***NEHEMIAH 10: A COVENANT RENEWED***

### ***RELATIONSHIPS***

**Neh. 10:30: "We [will] not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons..."**

### ***THE SABBATH***

**Neh. 10:31: "If the peoples of the land [bring] wares or... grain to sell on the Sabbath day, we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath..."**

### ***THE TEMPLE***

**Neh. 10:32-39: "We shall bring the [grain] offering, of the new wine and... oil, to the storerooms... where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are... we will not neglect the house of our God."**



## ***NEHEMIAH 13: TEN YEARS LATER...***

**Neh. 13:6: "...in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I... returned to the king."**

---

*"Nehemiah left... after [a]... revival... But the real test of revival... is in the long term. It is seeing where we are with the Lord ten years after a season of great work."*



## ***NEHEMIAH 13: TEN YEARS LATER...***

**Neh. 13:4-5: "...Eliashib the priest, having authority over the storerooms of the house of our God, was allied with Tobiah. And... prepared for him a large room, where previously they had stored the grain offerings, the frankincense, the articles, the tithes of grain, the new wine and oil, which were commanded to be given to the Levites and singers and gatekeepers, and the offerings for the priests."**



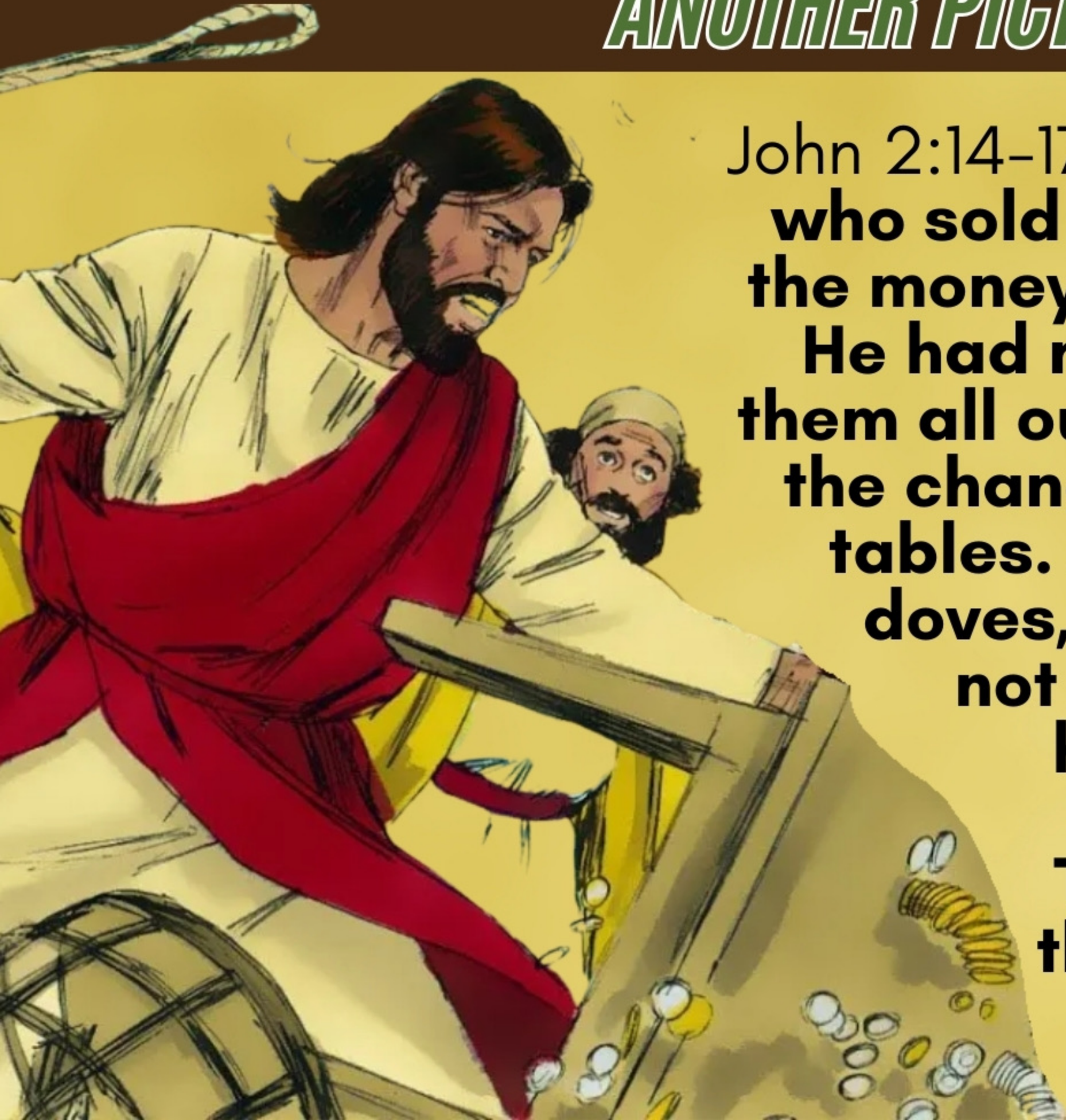
## ***NEHEMIAH 13: TEN YEARS LATER...***

Neh. 13:7-9: “[When] I...  
**discovered the evil that  
Eliashib had done for Tobiah,  
in preparing a room for him in  
the... house of God... it grieved  
me bitterly... [and] I threw all  
the household goods of Tobiah  
out of the room. Then I  
commanded them to cleanse  
the rooms; and I brought back  
into them the articles of  
the house of God...”**





## ***ANOTHER PICTURE OF JESUS?***



**John 2:14-17: "...He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple... and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"**

**Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."**



## ***ZEALOUS FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD***

**“Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”**

**“I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God...” (1 Tim. 3:15)**

**“...the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God...” (1 Pet. 4:17)**

***WE SHOULD NOT ‘ACCOMMODATE’ THAT WHICH WILL WEAKEN - OR COMPROMISE - THE HOUSE OF GOD***



# ***THE PRIESTS AND THE SABBATH***

**NOT HONORING  
THE HOUSE OF GOD**

**Neh. 13:10-11: "...the portions for the Levites had not been given them... So I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?"**

**WORKING ON THE  
SABBATH**

**Neh. 13:15-22: "I saw people in Judah treading-out the wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys..." - "I said to them: 'What evil thing is this... [that] you bring... wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath.'"**



# ***MARRYING PAGAN PEOPLES!***

**UNGODLY  
RELATIONSHIPS**

Neh. 13:23-24: "I... saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab." –  
"Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people."

---

Deut. 7:3-4: "...you [shall] make [no] marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly."

**EZRA DEALT WITH THIS 15 YEARS EARLIER!**



## *WHY SUCH A BIG DEAL???*

**“Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.”**

**BECAUSE OF THESE  
RELATIONSHIPS, GOD'S PEOPLE  
WOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO  
UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD**



## ***WHY SUCH A BIG DEAL???***

**“Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.”**

**Ezra 9:2: “...they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands...”**

**“DO NOT BE UNEQUALLY YOKED”**



## ***WHY SUCH A BIG DEAL???***

**2 Cor. 6:14-16: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers: For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For [we] are the temple of the living God..."**



## *WHY SUCH A BIG DEAL???*

2 Cor. 6:14-16: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what communion has light with darkness? Or what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what agreement is there between the temple of God with idols? For [we are] the temple of the living God..."

**THIS STARTS US  
DOWN A PATH OF  
COMPROMISE**



## ***WHY SUCH A BIG DEAL???***

**1 Cor. 2:14: "...the natural man ["un-born-again," non-Christian] does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually [understood]."**



## ***WHY SUCH A BIG DEAL???***

**“Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.”**

**Ezra 9:2: “...they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands...”**

**THEY WERE RAISING A GENERATION WHO  
WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD!**



## ***WHY SUCH A BIG DEAL???***

**“Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.”**

**Ezra 9:2: “...they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands...”**



**THIS WAS SATAN TRYING TO 'DEAFEN'  
THEM TO THE TRUTH OF GOD'S PROMISES!**



***THIS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE!***

***THIS LED TO THE DIVISION  
OF THEIR KINGDOM***

**Neh. 13:26: "Did not [even] king [Solomon]... sin by these things? [Even though]... there was no king like him, who was beloved of... God... Pagan women caused even him to sin."**

**EZRA DEALT WITH THIS 15 YEARS EARLIER!**



## ***DIFFERENCES IN LEADERSHIP***

***Nehemiah  
pulled out  
THEIR hair!***

Nehemiah 13:25: "I contended with them and cursed them... [I] struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons..."

***Ezra pulled  
out HIS hair!***

Ezra 9:3: "I tore my garment... and plucked out some of the hair of MY head and beard..."



DIFFERENCES IN

Nehemiah  
pulled out  
THEIR hair.

WHO WAS  
RIGHT, AND  
WHO WAS  
WRONG?

Ezra pulled  
out HIS hair!

...and plucked  
out so that he had a beard..."



DIFFERENCES

Nehemiah  
pulled out  
THEIR hair!

Ezra pulled  
out HIS hair

9:3: "and plucked  
out of the beard..."

WE NEEDED  
BOTH TYPES  
IN THE BODY  
OF CHRIST





***REMEMBER ME, O GOD!***

Nehemiah 13:30 & 31:  
**"Thus, I cleansed them  
of everything pagan." –  
"Remember me, O my  
God, for good!"**



## ***IN CONCLUSION***

*“At the end of it all, Nehemiah knew [that] he did his best to make the people of God strong, safe, secure... pure, worshipful, and obedient. But Nehemiah [also] carried a sense of failure... The people made a solemn covenant... that they would not do three things. This makes a point vividly clear: the law – rules, vows, promises – are all powerless to stop sin. The Old Testament... illustrates this. When the nation was... born at the Exodus, despite miracles, displays of God’s glory, and revelation of the law, the people sinned, by crediting a gold calf with their deliverance from Egypt...”*



## ***IN CONCLUSION***

*“Now—at the END of the Old Testament... Nehemiah [is] pulling [his] hair out... because they couldn’t keep their promises to God. If we could be saved by our own promises, by our own commitment to Jesus, then His death would be... unnecessary. We aren’t saved by a vow we make, or a leaf we turn over, but by trusting in Jesus... Only the grace of God, alive and flowing in our lives, can give us the power to overcome sin.”*

**(David Guzik | EnduringWord.com)**



CELEBRATE

# Christmas

AT

CALVARY CHAPEL  
Y U B A C I T Y

[ccyubacity.com](http://ccyubacity.com)



5 3 0 - 6 7 4 - 5 2 9 6



**NEXT SUNDAY!**

THE BOOK OF

# MALACHI



THROUGH THE BIBLE

**LAST BOOK OF THE  
OLD TESTAMENT!**