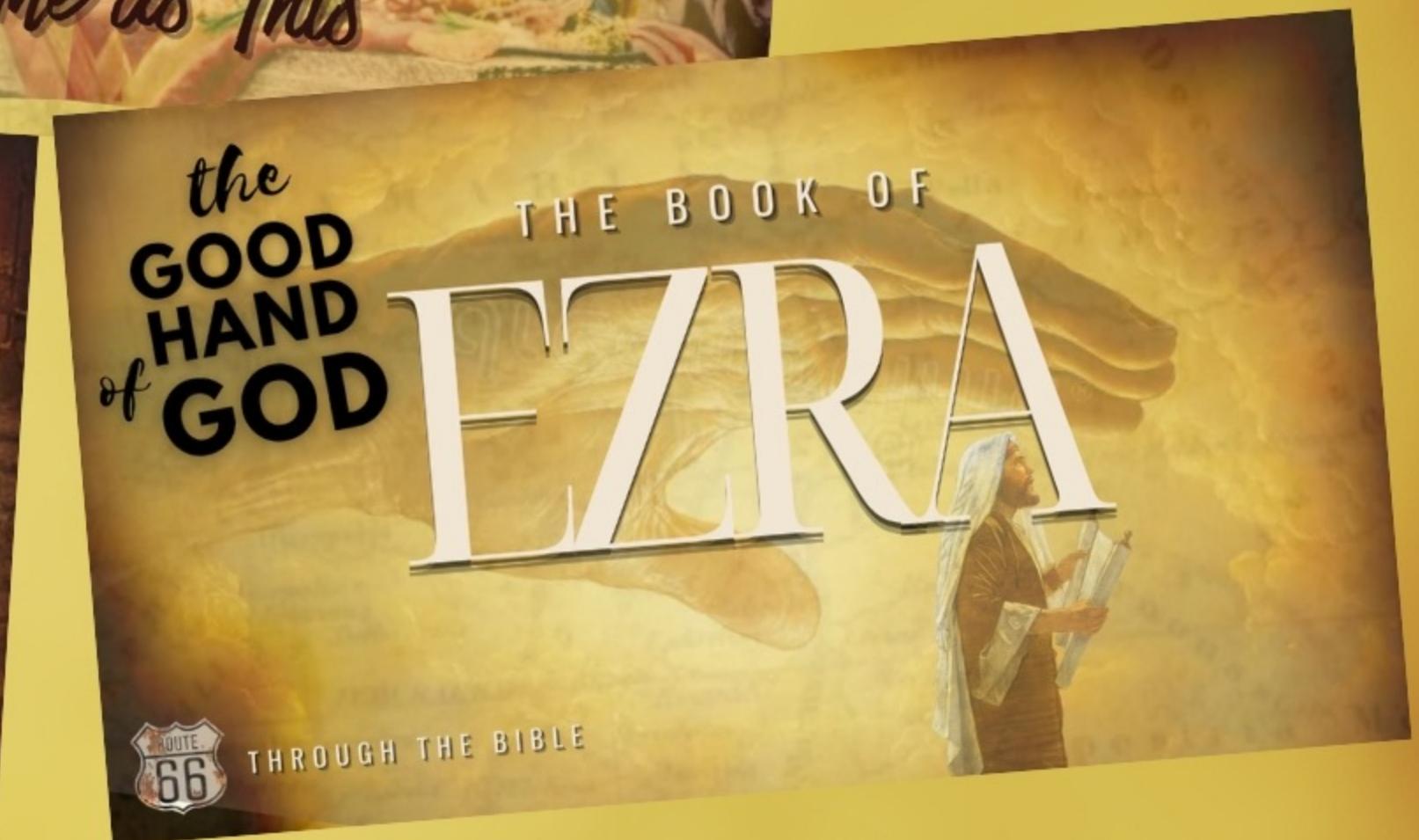
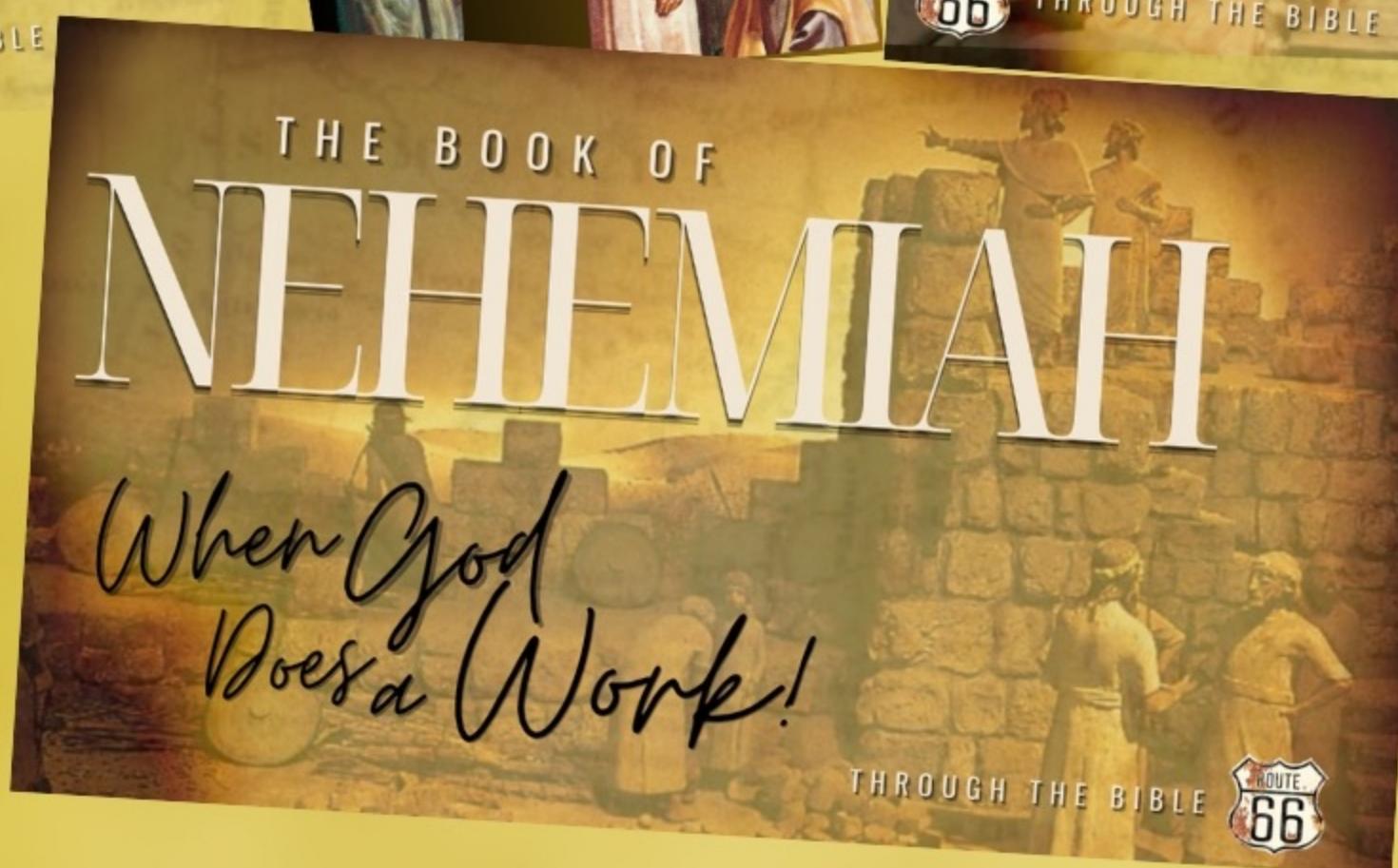
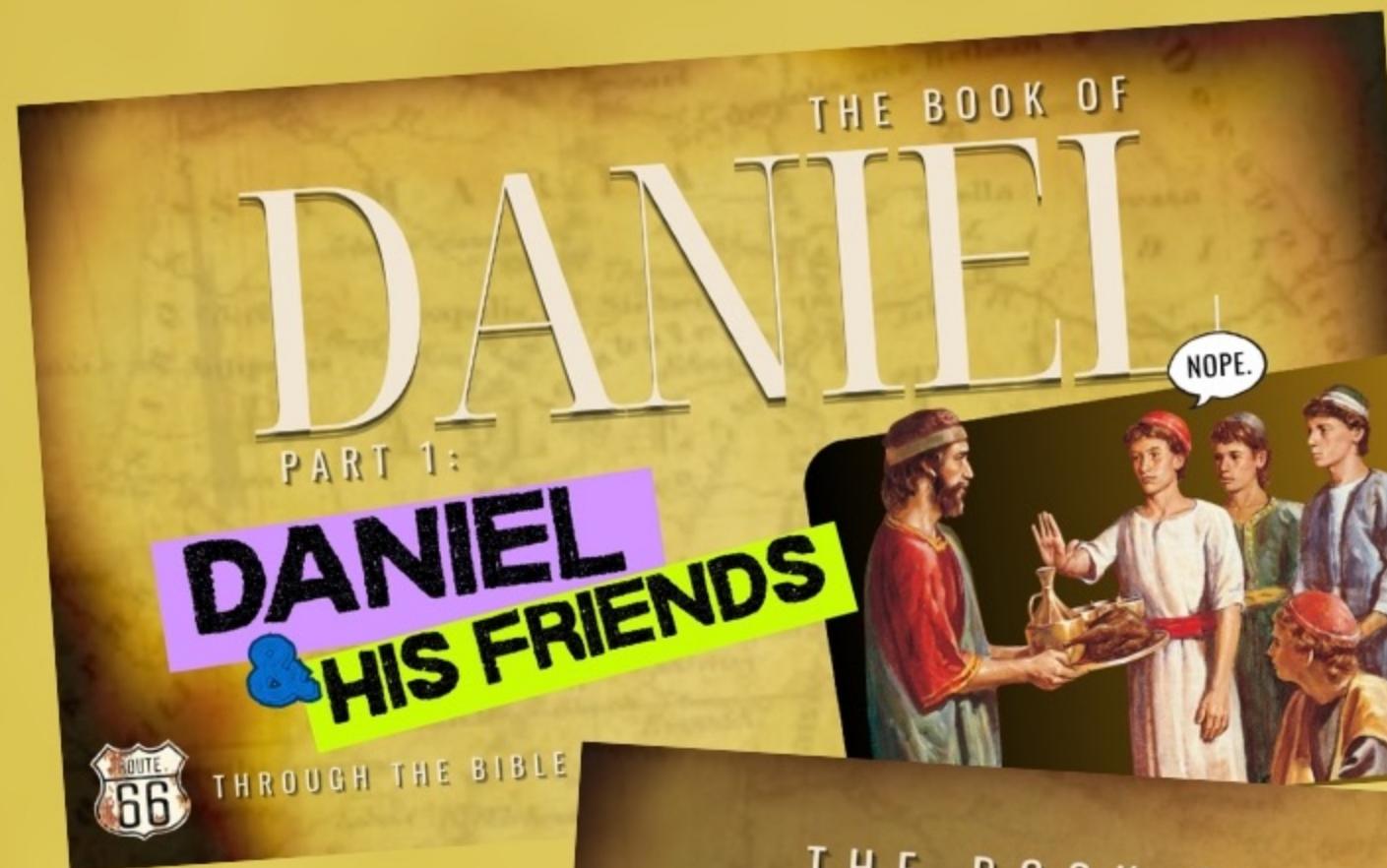
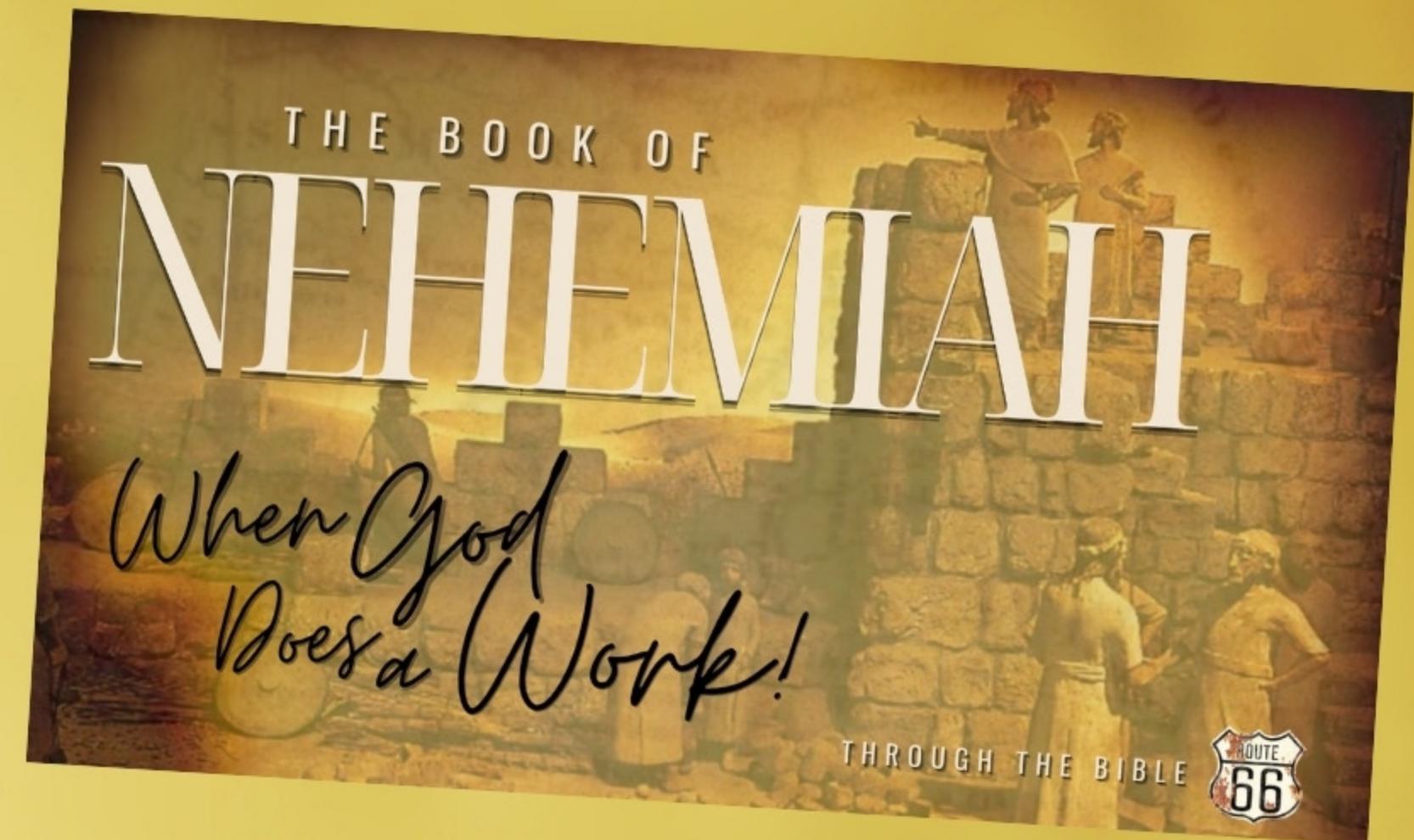
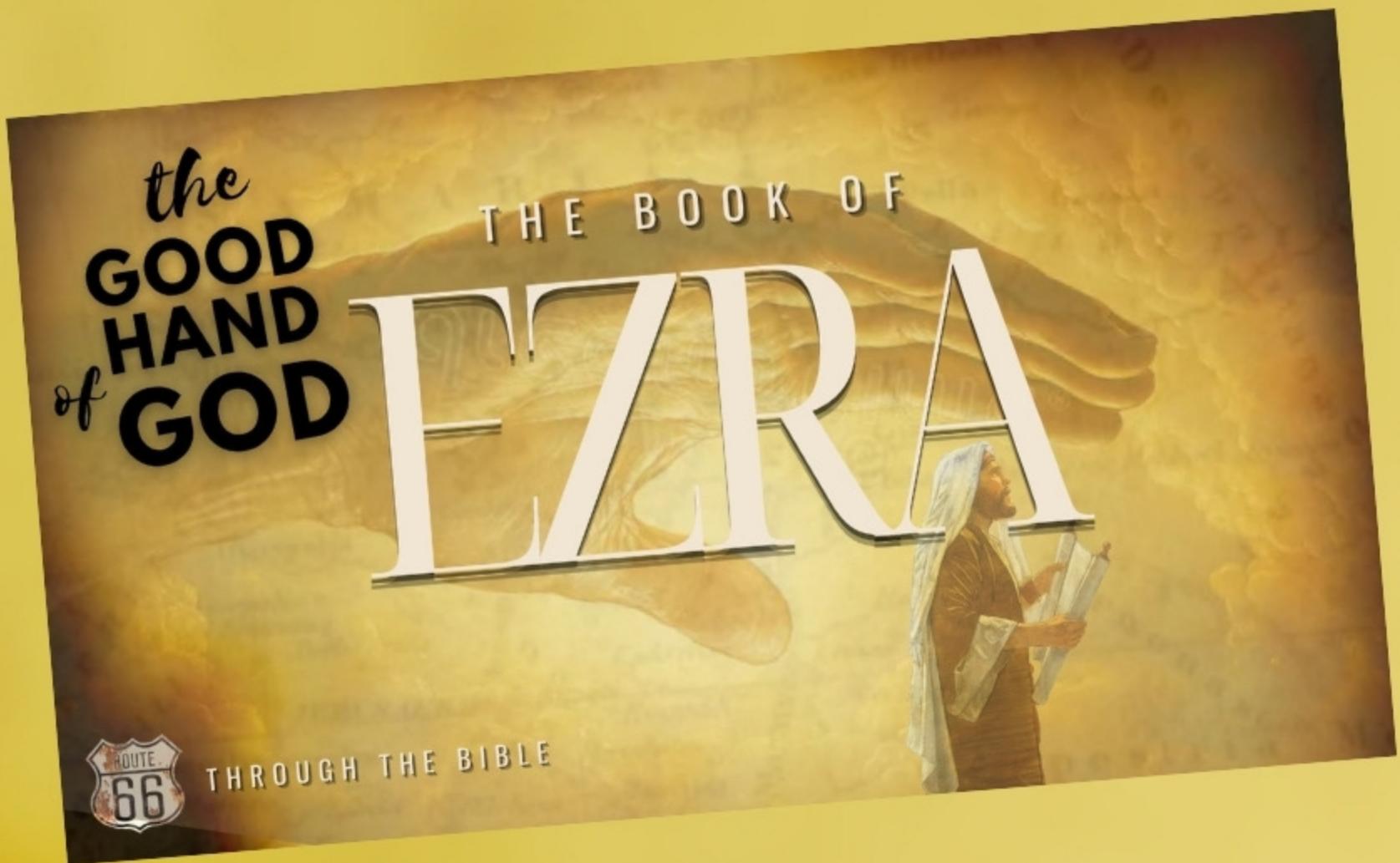


ALL SET WITHIN/DURING the TIME of the PERSIAN EMPIRE



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

(Appx. 100 Years After the 1st Wave of Returning Exiles)

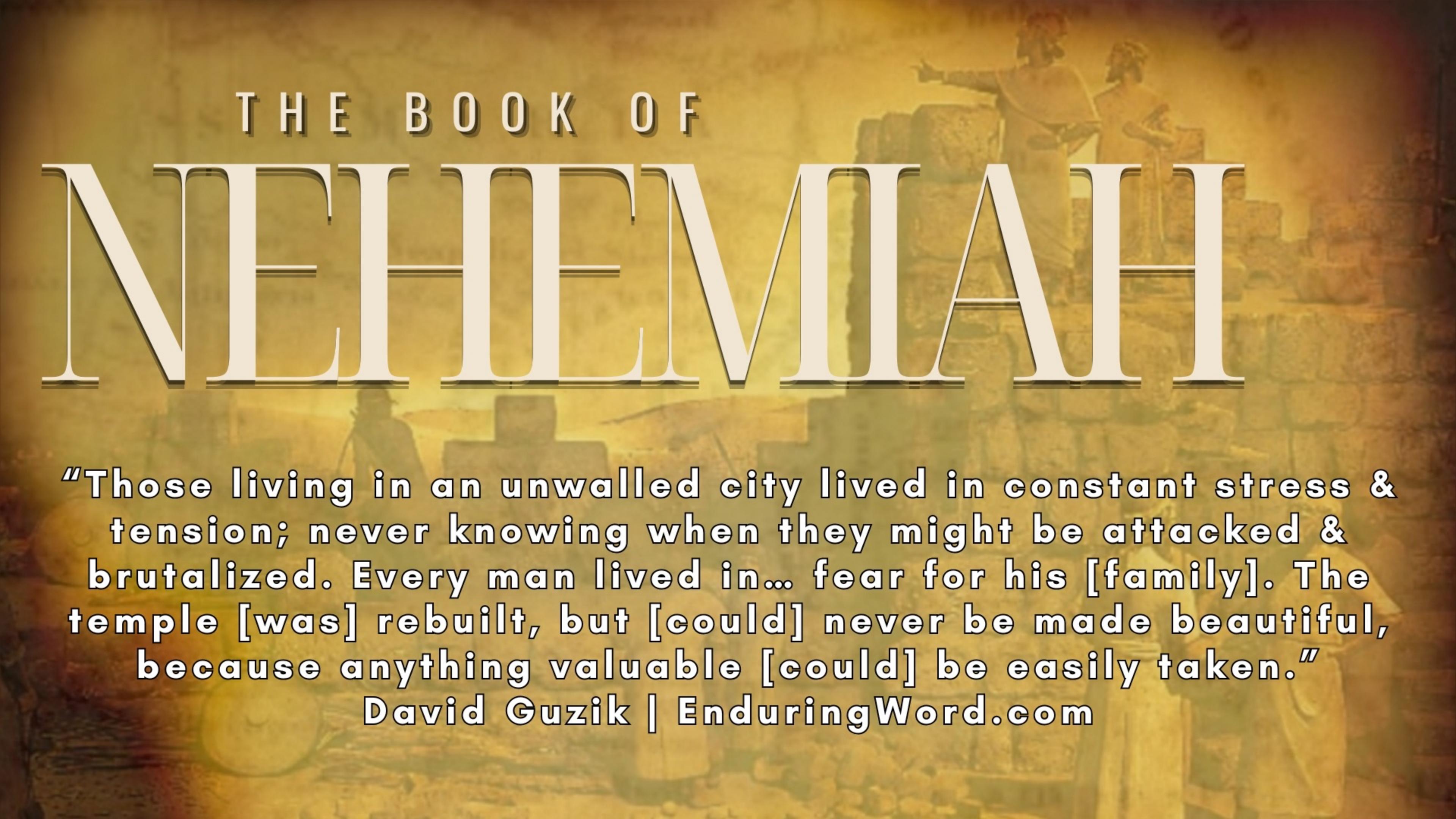


NEHEMIAH LEADS a 3rd WAVE of RETURNING EXILES to REBUILD JERUSALEM'S WALLS

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

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?

1st 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.”**

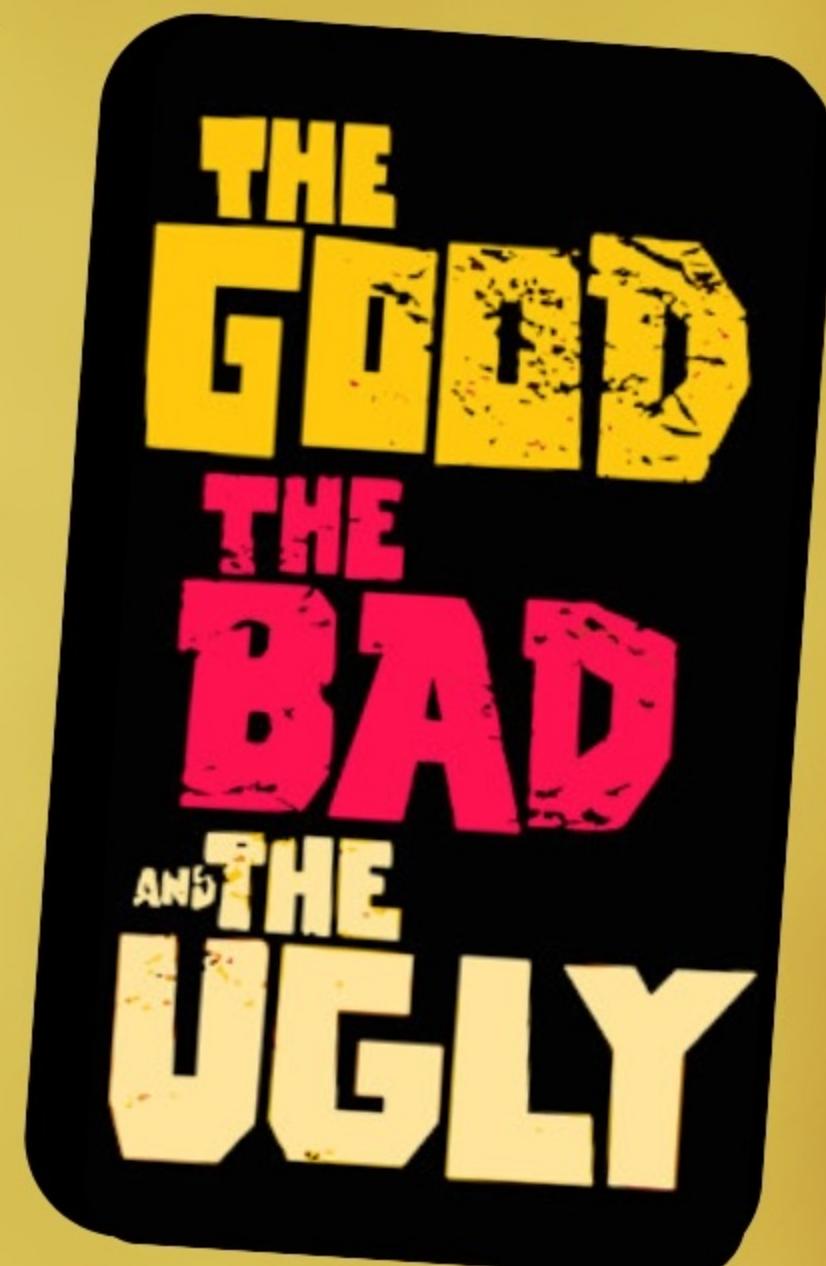
“It’s better to attempt GREAT THINGS for the Kingdom of God and FAIL, than to attempt NOTHING for the Kingdom of God and SUCCEED.”



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 OPPPOSITION

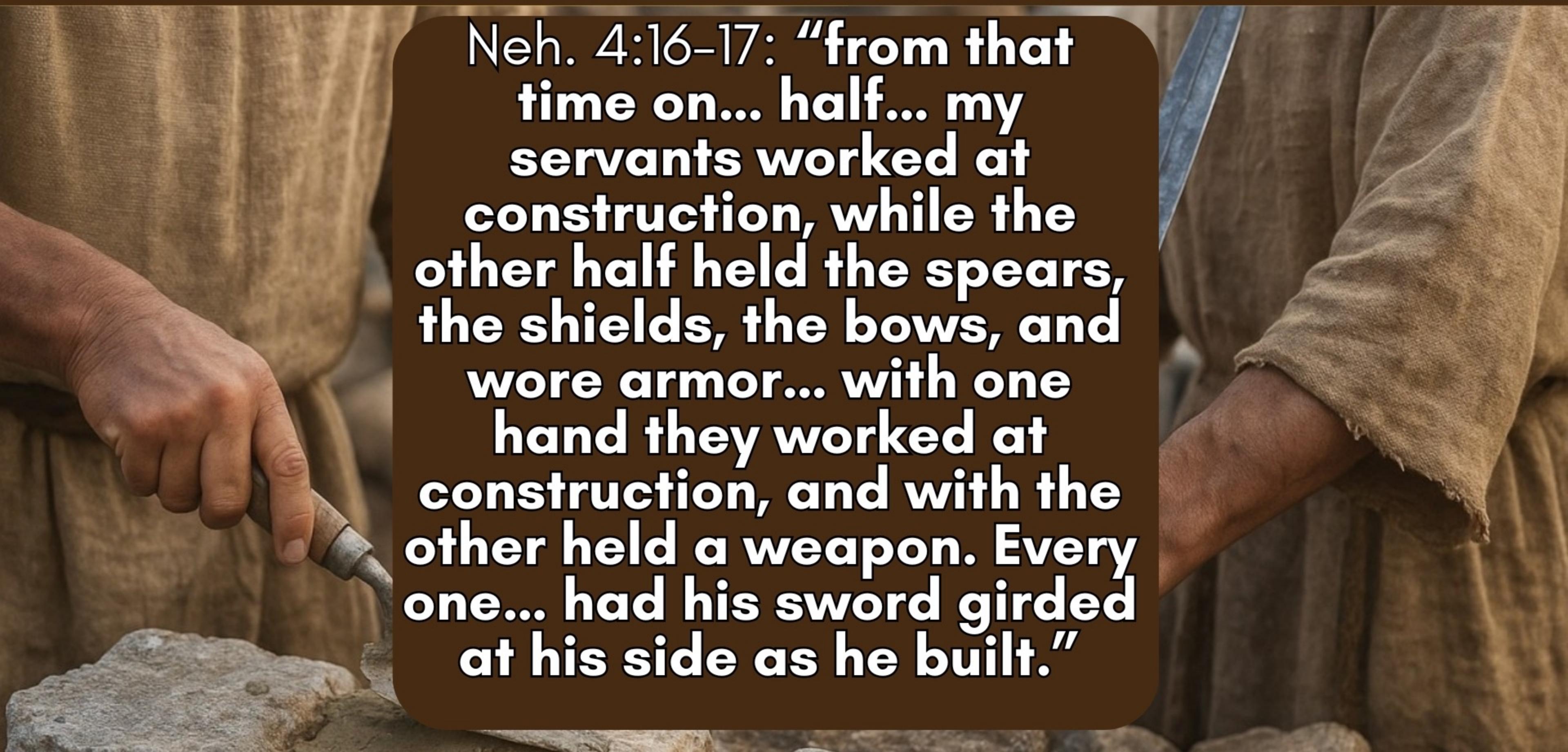
Neh. 4:9: “**We made our prayer to our God, AND... we set a watch against them day and night.**”

**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

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.”**



2nd 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

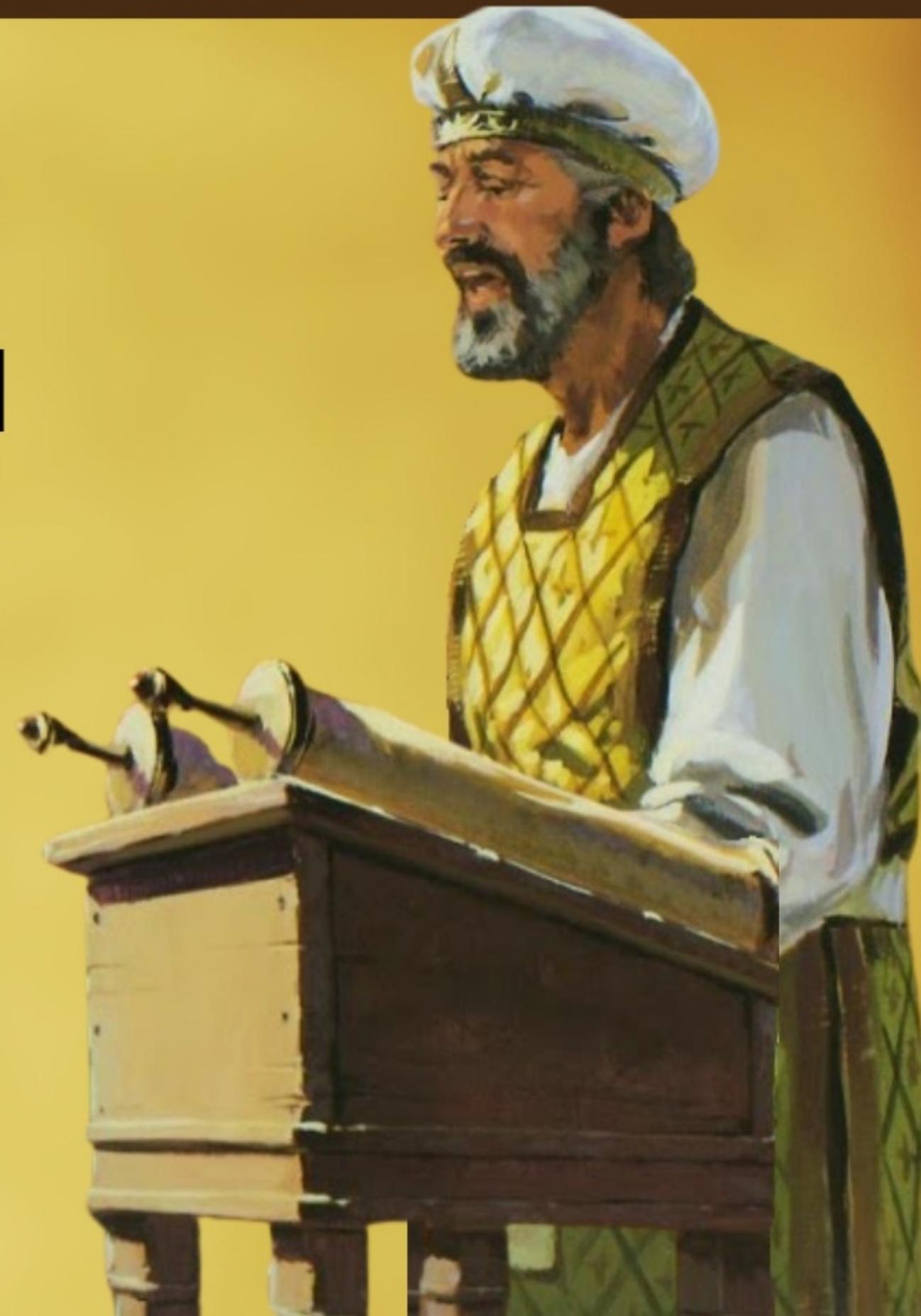
NEHEMIAH 8: EZRA LEADS A REVIVAL

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...

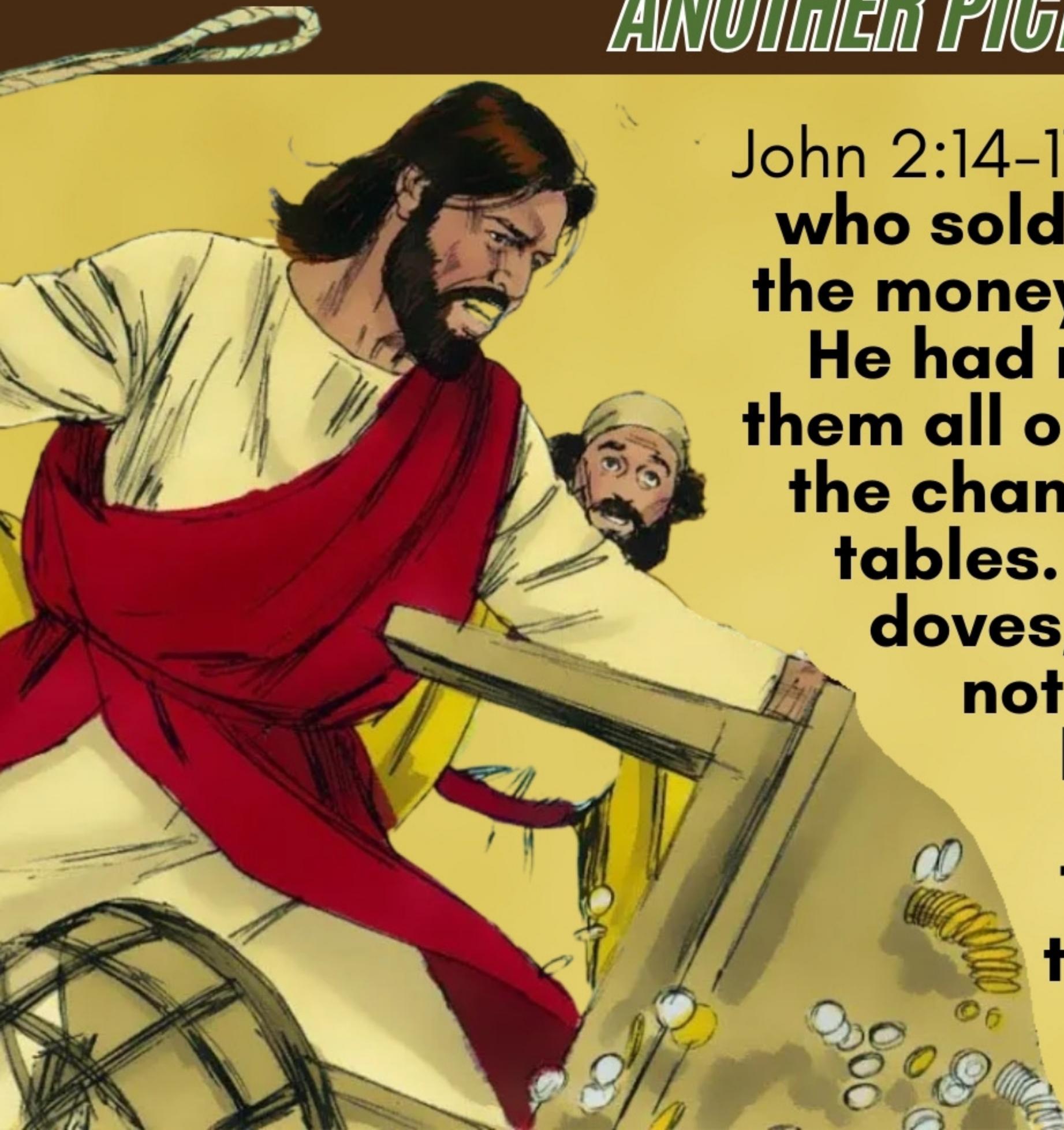
Neh. 13:4-5: “**...Eliashib the priest, having authority over the storerooms of the house of our God, was allied with Tobiah. And... prepared for him a large room, where previously they had stored the grain offerings, the frankincense, the articles, the tithes of grain, the new wine and oil, which were 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 ‘ACCOMODATE’ 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. For what fellowship has light with darkness? What agreement has Christ with Believers? What has agreement with what is evil? And what concord has Christ with Believers? For [we are] not to be unequally yoked with idols? For [we are] to be imitators 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 WORDS

WHO WAS
RIGHT AND
WHO WAS
WRONG?

Nehemiah pulled out THEIR hair!

Ezra pulled out HIS hair!

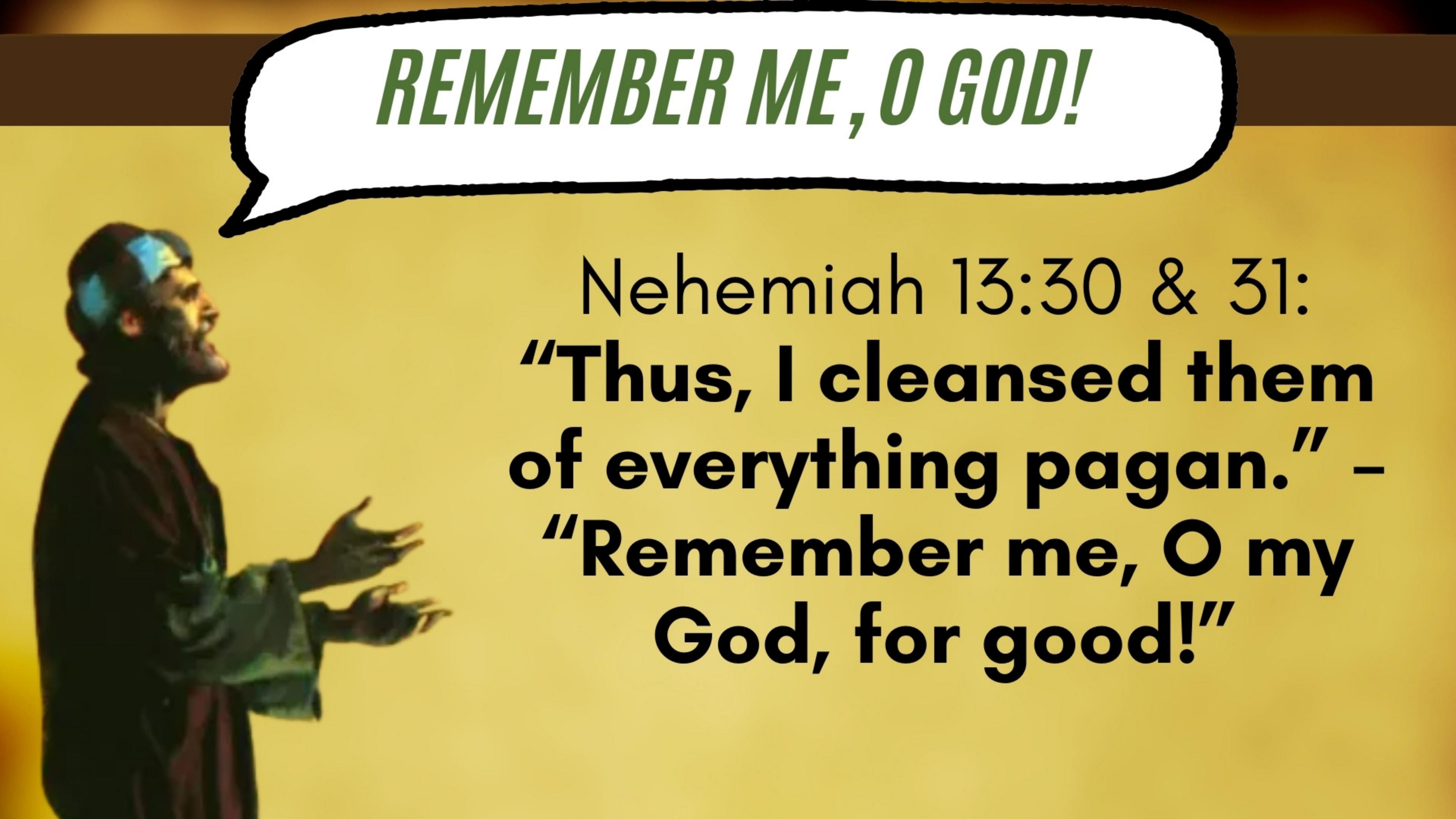
out some hair... and plucked and beard..."

**WE NEEDED
BOTHTYPES
ON THE BODY
OF CHRIST**

*Nehemiah
pulled out
THEIR hair!*

*Ezra pulled
out HIS hair*

*tucked
out his hair...*



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)

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NEXT SUNDAY!

THE BOOK OF

MAJALACHI



THROUGH THE BIBLE

LAST BOOK OF THE
OLD TESTAMENT!