

IT IS FINISHED ?? ~ Nehemiah 6:1-7:4

→ Read Psalm 121:1-5 & 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

NO TO COMPROMISE ~ Nehemiah 6:1-4

[1] When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it--though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates-- [2] Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; [3] so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" [4] Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.

NO TO SLANDER OR BLACKMAIL ~ Nehemiah 6:5-9

[5] Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter [6] in which was written: "It is reported among the nations--and Geshem says it is true--that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king [7] and have even appointed prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: 'There is a king in Judah!' Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us confer together." [8] I sent him this reply: "Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head." [9] They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." [But I prayed,] "Now strengthen my hands."

Nehemiah's Response: (Wiersbe)

- Denied the Accusations
- Prayed for Strength
- Continued to Work

NO TO INTIMIDATION ~ Nehemiah 6:10-14

[10] One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, "Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you--by night they are coming to kill you." [11] But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or should one like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!" [12] I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. [13] He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me.

God Would NOT Ask him to...

- Give in to Fear
- Break OT Law

→ Any Prophet who said something Untrue or Contrary to God's Law was a FALSE Prophet

[14] Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, because of what they have done; remember also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who have been trying to intimidate me.

APPLICATION

Nehemiah understood that...

- he could not seek to Honor God and Compromise with Evil
- we Cannot seek to Honor God and Compromise with Evil

THE COMPLETED WALL ~ Nehemiah 6:15-19

[15] So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in FIFTY-TWO DAYS. [16] When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. [17] Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. [18] For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shecaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. [19] Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

APPLICATION

***Psalms 127:1 (NLT)** Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the Lord protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good.*

GUARDING THE GATES ~ Nehemiah 7:1-4

[7:1] After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed. [2] I put in charge of Jerusalem my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah the commander of the citadel, because he was a man of integrity and feared God more than most men do. [3] I said to them, "The gates of Jerusalem are not to be opened until the sun is hot. While the gatekeepers are still on duty, have them shut the doors and bar them. Also appoint residents of Jerusalem as guards, some at their posts and some near their own houses." [4] Now the city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt.

SO WHAT ??

When a Person Accepts that God...

- Exists Heb. 11:6
- has spoken through the Bible Heb. 1:1
- has spoken through Jesus Heb. 1:2
- offers Forgiveness of sins Rom 6:23

They Needed to Grow in their...

- Knowledge of God
- Love for God
- Obedience to God
- Celebration of God's Goodness
- Desire to Honor God in ALL their lives

***1 Corinthians 9:24-27** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. [25] Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. [26] Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. [27] No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

➔ **Discipleship is a Life style**

➔ **Following Jesus is a Way of Life**