

The Walls Are Down & We Are In Ruin

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Nehemiah is the story of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, which took place in the fifth century before Christ. It is part of the long history of that troubled city which today is still in the news, and still in trouble.

Jerusalem in ruins is a picture of a life that has lost its defenses against attack and lies open to repeated hurt and misery.

If we take Jerusalem as a symbol of our own lives, we can look at our lives and see where the walls have been broken down. The broken walls leave us with no ability left to resist destructive attacks. We have fallen victim to sinful habits that we now find difficult, if not impossible, to break. That is the kind of ruin that is described by the broken walls in the book of Nehemiah.

We have gone along with the ways of the world, and have fallen into practices that the Bible says are wrong. We know they are wrong, but have difficulty stopping them. Our drift began innocently, we did not realize we were forming a habit, but now we no longer can stop it. Our defenses are gone. The walls of our city, (our lives) are broken down. Perhaps also our gates are burned. Gates are ways in and out. They are the way by which other people get to know us as we really are. Perhaps our gates have been destroyed, again by wrong habits. We no longer allow people in our lives that can help us correct our ruined lives. We want to run and hide and allow no one to reach us. We have been so badly burned that we are now touchy and inaccessible.

In Nehemiah we learn the way to be restored is to understand that God has to be a necessary part of the process.

As we examine the walls and the gates of our lives, we find much of it in ruins. How do we handle life and its devastation? The Bible has the answer.

The Reason The Walls Are Down

Nehemiah 1:3 And they said to me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. 6 Let your ear now be attentive, and your eyes open, that you may hear the prayer of your servant, which I pray before you now, day and night, for the children of Israel your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against you: both I and my father's house have sinned. 7 We have dealt very corruptly against you, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which you commanded your servant Moses.

In Deuteronomy, Chapters 28-30. Moses prophetically outlines the entire history of Israel. He said they would disobey God; they would be scattered among the nations; they would go into exile. But if they would turn again and acknowledge their evil, God would restore them and bring them back to the land.

The Reason is Sin

The Northern Kingdom Sinned 2Kings 17:5-8

2 Kings 17:5 Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. **6.** In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. **7.** For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, **8.** And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

The Southern Kingdom Sinned Jeremiah 25:1-11

2 Kings 25:1 And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about. **2** And the city was besieged.

Jeremiah 25:4 And the LORD has sent to you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but you have not listened, nor inclined your ear to hear. **5** They said, Turn you again now everyone from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, **9.** Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, said the LORD, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

We are suffering and our lives are in ruin for the same reason the Jews were in the days of Nehemiah.

We are choosing our plan instead of God's plan for our lives.

Our lives are in shambles, and the reason is always sin, it might be our sin or another's, but sin affects everyone.

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man: **14** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. **15** Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.

In the weeks ahead as we study the book of Nehemiah and examine the condition of our lives, we will see that God has a plan to restore our lives if we will take time to know Him & follow His guidelines.

**Our lives can be fully restored and sustained.
Life in Him can surpass all you can imagine.**