

BUILDING TOGETHER: THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Summit Christian Athletics 2021-2022

CHAPTER 1

¹ The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

³ They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”

⁴ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said:

“LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you. ⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

⁸ “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’

¹⁰ “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

¹¹ Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” I was cupbearer to the king.

COACHES: READ COLOSSIANS 3:12

HOW CAN WE HAVE A HEART FOR OUR PLAYERS LIKE NEHEMIAH HAD FOR HIS PEOPLE?



PLAYERS: READ GALATIANS 6:2

HOW CAN YOU HAVE COMPASSION ON A TEAMMATE WHEN THEY HAVE A STRUGGLE, CHALLENGE, OR BURDEN AS NEHEMIAH WAS TO THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM?

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CHAPTER 2

1 In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, ² so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much afraid, ³ but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴ The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.” ⁶ Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. ⁷ I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? ⁸ And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. ⁹ So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me. ¹⁰ When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

¹¹ I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days ¹² I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. ¹³ By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. ¹⁴ Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King’s Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; ¹⁵ so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. ¹⁶ The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. ¹⁷ Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” ¹⁸ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work. ¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” ²⁰ I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”

COACHES:

KING ARTAXERXES PROVIDED NEHEMIAH WITH EVERYTHING HE NEEDED FOR HIS JOURNEY. ARE WE PROVIDING OUR PLAYERS WITH THE SKILL SETS, LIFE LESSONS, & MENTAL TOUGHNESS THEY NEED? ALSO, NEHEMIAH TOOK TIME AND EXAMINED JERUSALEM BEFORE HIS MISSION STARTED. ARE WE EXAMINING OUR TEAM? WHAT ARE SOME “BROKEN DOWN WALLS” OR “BURNED GATES” THAT NEED OUR ATTENTION? CAN WE SCOUT TEAMS WE ARE GOING TO PLAY, LIKE NEHEMIAH DID WITH JERUSALEM?



PLAYERS:



WHEN NEHEMIAH WAS SAD, THE KING KNEW IT MUST BE SERIOUS, BECAUSE NEHEMIAH HAD NEVER SEEMED SAD BEFORE. WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE USUALLY LIKE AROUND YOUR TEAMMATES & COACHES? CAN IT IMPROVE IN ANY WAY?

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Summit Christian Athletics 2021-2022

CHAPTER 3:1-24

1 Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. ²The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them. ³The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. ⁴Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. ⁵The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors. ⁶The Jeshanah Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. ⁷Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah—Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth—places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. ⁸Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. ⁹Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section. ¹⁰Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him. ¹¹Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹²Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

¹³The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. They also repaired a thousand cubits^[c] of the wall as far as the Dung Gate. ¹⁴The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Rekab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. ¹⁵The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun son of Kol-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam,^[d] by the King's Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David. ¹⁶Beyond him, Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of a half-district of Beth Zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tombs^[e] of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Heroes. ¹⁷Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district. ¹⁸Next to him, the repairs were made by their fellow Levites under Binnui^[f] son of Henadad, ruler of the other half-district of Keilah. ¹⁹Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section, from a point facing the ascent to the armory as far as the angle of the wall. ²⁰Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it. ²²The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region. ²³Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house. ²⁴Next to him, Binnui son of Henadad repaired another section, from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner...

COACHES: READ ROMANS 12:4-8

SOME PEOPLE BUILT GATES, OTHERS BUILT WALLS, MADE REPAIRS, HUNG DOORS, ETC. SOME WERE IN CHARGE OF MAJOR PORTIONS WHILE OTHERS SIMPLY TOOK CARE OF THE SECTION IN FRONT OF THEIR HOUSE. DO YOUR PLAYERS KNOW THEIR ROLE? ARE SOME CAPABLE OF MORE OR LESS THAN WHAT YOU ARE ASKING OF THEM? PRAY OVER THESE THINGS.



PLAYERS:

VERSE 5 MENTIONED A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO "DID NOT PUT THEIR SHOULDERS TO THE WORK." IS THERE ANY AREA IN WHICH YOU ARE GUILTY OF THIS? LEARNING THE PLAYS, RUNNING YOUR FASTEST, BEING

COACHABLE? HOW CAN YOU PUT MORE OF YOUR "SHOULDER IN THE WORK" THIS WEEK?

BUILDING TOGETHER: THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Summit Christian Athletics 2021-2022

CHAPTER 4

1 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?” 3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!” 4 Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. 6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. 7 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. 9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat. 10 Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.” 11 Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.” 12 Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.” 13 Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. 14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.” 15 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work. 16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah 17 who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, 18 and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me. 19 Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. 20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!” 21 So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. 22 At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.” 23 Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

COACHES: READ HEBREWS 4:12

ARE WE COACHING WITH THE SWORD (WORD OF GOD) IN ONE HAND AND OUR BUILDING TOOLS (PLAYBOOK, WHISTLE, ETC.) IN THE OTHER? WHAT CAN WE DO TO STRENGTHEN ONE OR BOTH OF THESE HANDS AS WE LEAD OUR ATHLETES?



PLAYERS: READ PHILIPPIANS 1:6

HOW CAN YOU STAY POSITIVE WHEN THINGS YOU ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE ARE NOT GETTING “BUILT IN A DAY?” (VERSES 1-3).

ALSO, WHAT ARE YOUR TEAM’S WEAKNESSES RIGHT NOW, AND HOW CAN YOU POSITION YOUR SELF TO MAKE THEM STRONGER LIKE THE MEN IN VERSE 13?

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Summit Christian Athletics 2021-2022

CHAPTER 5

1 Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. 2 Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.” 3 Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.” 4 Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards. 5 Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.” 6 When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. 7 I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them 8 and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

9 So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? 10 I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! 11 Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.” 12 “We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.” Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. 13 I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!” At this the whole assembly said, “Amen,” and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised. 14 Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year—twelve years—neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. 15 But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels[a] of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. 16 Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land. 17 Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. 18 Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people. 19 Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people.

COACHES:

NEHEMIAH HAD TO DEAL WITH HIS OWN PEOPLE TREATING EACH OTHER WRONG. HOW IS OUR TEAM CHEMISTRY? DO WE NEED TO ADDRESS ANYTHING ON OUR TEAM LIKE NEHEMIAH DID HERE?



PLAYERS: READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

NEHEMIAH GAVE UP HIS ABUNDANCE IN ORDER FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE TAKEN CARE OF. WHAT CAN YOU SACRIFICE TO HELP YOUR TEAMMATES SUCCEED?

BUILDING TOGETHER: THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Summit Christian Athletics 2021-2022

CHAPTER 6

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. 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 meet 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.” 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 someone 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. 14 Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, my God, because of what they have done; remember also the prophet Noadiah and how she and the rest of the prophets have been trying to intimidate me. 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 Shekariah 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.

COACHES:

NEHEMIAH SHOWS TREMENDOUS WORK ETHIC (VERSES 3 & 4), AS WELL AS RELIANCE ON GOD (VERSE 9)...IT TOOK BOTH TO FINISH THE WALL! HOW CAN WE DISPLAY BOTH? DO OUR PLAYERS SEE US GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO WIN? CAN THEY TELL OUR DESIRE TO WIN IS FROM THE SPIRIT AND NOT THE FLESH?



PLAYERS:

NEHEMIAH REFUSED TO BE DISTRACTED OR INTIMIDATED BY THOSE WHO WANTED TO STOP HIS WORK. DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH EITHER ONE OF THESE THINGS? ARE YOU DISTRACTED BY THINGS IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE, TELEVISION, OR SOCIAL MEDIA? ARE YOU INTIMIDATED DURING PRACTICE OR GAMES? IF SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO OVERCOME THIS?

BUILDING TOGETHER: THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Summit Christian Athletics 2021-2022

CHAPTER 7:1-7

1 After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers, the musicians 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 people 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. 5 So my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials and the common people for registration by families. I found the genealogical record of those who had been the first to return. This is what I found written there: 6 These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town, 7 in company with Zerubbabel, Joshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum and Baanah):

The rest of chapter 7 lists the men of Israel, the priests, the Levites, the musicians, the gatekeepers, the temple servants & their descendants, as well as their goods. Chapter 8 describes Ezra reading God's word to the people in Jerusalem. They initially mourn, because they realize they have not kept God's word. However, they begin teaching each other, encouraging each other, and living out the commandments and feasts described by God as a people!

CHAPTER 8 (SELECTED VERSES)

1 Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded Israel.

8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. 9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. 10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

18 Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

COACHES:

NEHEMIAH CHOSE HIS LEADERS BECAUSE THEY HAD INTEGRITY AND FEARED GOD. HE THEN GAVE THEM SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT TO DO. ARE WE DOING THIS AS WELL? DO WE HAVE CAPTAINS & UPPERCLASSMAN WHO ARE READY FOR LEADERSHIP ROLES? DO THEY KNOW WHAT WE EXPECT OF THEM IN THESE SITUATIONS?



PLAYERS:

IN CHAPTER 8, THE PEOPLE ARE DESCRIBED AS...

1. GATHERING "AS ONE MAN"
2. HELPING EACH OTHER'S UNDERSTANDING
3. ENCOURAGING & STRENGTHENING EACH OTHER

THINK OF REAL/PRACTICAL WAYS YOU CAN DO ALL THESE THINGS FOR YOUR TEAMMATES!

BUILDING TOGETHER: THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Summit Christian Athletics 2021-2022

CHAPTER 9 (SELECTED VERSES)

Chapter 9 is basically a prayer from the people of Israel to the Lord that emphasizes the people's stubbornness and God's faithfulness...

⁷“You are the LORD God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him Abraham.

⁹“You saw the suffering of our ancestors in Egypt; you heard their cry at the Red Sea. ¹⁰ You sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day. ¹¹ You divided the sea before them, so that they passed through it on dry ground, but you hurled their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters. ¹² By day you led them with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire to give them light on the way they were to take. ¹⁵ In their hunger you gave them bread from heaven and in their thirst you brought them water from the rock; you told them to go in and take possession of the land you had sworn with uplifted hand to give them.

¹⁶“But they, our ancestors, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and they did not obey your commands. ¹⁷ They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them...But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them, ¹⁸ even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, ‘This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt,’ or when they committed awful blasphemies.

¹⁹“Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the wilderness. By day the pillar of cloud did not fail to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. ²⁰ You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. ²¹ For forty years you sustained them in the wilderness; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen.

²⁶“But they were disobedient and rebelled against you; they turned their backs on your law. They killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you; they committed awful blasphemies. ²⁷ So you delivered them into the hands of their enemies, who oppressed them. But when they were oppressed they cried out to you. From heaven you heard them, and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies. ²⁸“But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in your sight. Then you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies so that they ruled over them. And when they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven, and in your compassion you delivered them time after time.

COACHES: READ 2 PETER 3:9

ARE WE DEMONSTRATING THIS SAME HEART TOWARDS OUR PLAYERS? ARE THERE CONCEPTS, PLAYS, & DECISIONS THAT OUR PLAYERS MAKE THAT NEED OUR PATIENCE?



PLAYERS: READ ACTS 7:51

IN THIS CHAPTER, THE ISRAELITES REFER TO THEIR ANCESTORS AS “STIFF-NECKED.” IS THERE SOMETHING YOU & YOUR TEAMMATES ARE BEING “STIFF-NECKED” ABOUT? ARE THERE MISTAKES OR BAD ATTITUDES THAT KEEP COMING UP? PRAY AND MAKE A PLAN TO CHANGE THIS TOGETHER!

BUILDING TOGETHER: THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Summit Christian Athletics 2021-2022

CHAPTER 10:30-33

In this chapter, Nehemiah & the priests sign a covenant with God to obey him in 3 main areas...

1. Not marrying unbelievers
2. Honoring the Sabbath over making money
3. Contributing to the ministry

³⁰“We promise not to give our daughters in marriage to the peoples around us or take their daughters for our sons. ³¹“When the neighboring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on any holy day. Every seventh year we will forgo working the land and will cancel all debts. ³²“We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give a third of a shekel^[b] each year for the service of the house of our God: ³³ for the bread set out on the table; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, at the New Moon feasts and at the appointed festivals; for the holy offerings; for sin offerings^[c] to make atonement for Israel; and for all the duties of the house of our God.

CHAPTER 11:1-4

In this chapter, the Israelites begin to repopulate Jerusalem. Life was more comfortable in the established areas around Jerusalem, but filling Jerusalem with life, worship, and sacrifice was essential to completing their mission!

1 Now the leaders of the people dwelt in Jerusalem. The rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten of them to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns. 2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell in Jerusalem.

COACHES: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

RE-ESTABLISHING JERUSALEM WAS HARD...MOST PEOPLE WOULD RATHER CONTINUE TO DWELL IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS AND FIELDS. WE SEE IN VERSE 1 THOUGH, THAT THE LEADERS DWELT IN JERUSALEM.



WHAT ARE SOME HARD THINGS THAT WE COULD DO, TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OUR PLAYERS?



PLAYERS: READ COLOSSIANS 3:23

APPLY THE 3 FOCAL POINTS OF CHAPTER 10 TO YOUR LIFE...

ARE YOU OBEYING THE LORD AS WELL AS YOUR PARENT'S RULES CONCERNING DATING OR RELATIONSHIPS IN GENERAL?

ARE YOU GOING TO CHURCH WITH A GOOD ATTITUDE?

ARE YOU GIVING YOUR ALL TO THE MINISTRY OF SUMMIT ATHLETICS?

BUILDING TOGETHER: THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Summit Christian Athletics 2021-2022

CHAPTER 12:27-30 & 43

27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres. 28 The musicians also were brought together from the region around Jerusalem—from the villages of the Netophathites, 29 from Beth Gilgal, and from the area of Geba and Azmaveth, for the musicians had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem. 30 When the priests and Levites had purified themselves ceremonially, they purified the people, the gates and the wall. 31 I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks...

43 And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.

CHAPTER 13 (SELECTED VERSES)

Nehemiah has returned to Jerusalem after being away. In his absence, the people have been breaking the covenant they made with God back in chapter 10.

Concerning rooms in the temple being used by Tobiah, a pagan enemy of Nehemiah's work: ⁸ I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's household goods out of the room. ⁹ I gave orders to purify the rooms, and then I put back into them the equipment of the house of God, with the grain offerings and the incense.

Concerning God's workers not being provided for: ¹⁰ I also learned that the portions assigned to the Levites had not been given to them, and that all the Levites and musicians responsible for the service had gone back to their own fields. ¹¹ So I rebuked the officials and asked them, "Why is the house of God neglected?" Then I called them together and stationed them at their posts.

Concerning the Israelites breaking the Sabbath: ¹⁷ I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this wicked thing you are doing—desecrating the Sabbath day?"

Concerning the Israelites marrying pagans: ²⁵ ...I made them take an oath in God's name and said: "You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves."

COACHES:

SOMETIMES WE ARE TEMPTED TO IGNORE PROBLEMS INSTEAD OF DEALING WITH THEM.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM NEHEMIAH IN CH. 13? HOW CAN WE APPLY THIS TO PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE WITH OUR TEAMS?



PLAYERS:

MUSIC WAS A BIG PART OF THE WALL'S DEDICATION. WHAT DOES YOUR PRE-GAME MUSIC SOUND LIKE? IS IT HONORING TO GOD?

