



The State Of The City Nehemiah 2:9-20

Review

- Humility, always.
- Pray continuously.
- Grow where planted.
- Ask big when the moment comes.

“We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.” Winston Churchill to the House of Parliament, June 4, 1940

Nehemiah 2:9 Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

Psalms 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

- The cup isn't just full...it overflows when you are on God's mission!

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He will.

Nehemiah 2:10 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

- According to an Elephantine Papyrus, Sanballat was governor of Samaria in 408 b.c. Since his sons were acting for him at that time, he probably was elderly. These verses imply that he already was governor of Samaria in Nehemiah's time. Sanballat, called a Horonite, was probably from Horonaim, a city of Moab.
- “Tobiah the Ammonite official” was likely governor of Ammon, although he may have been an Ammonite official under Sanballat's authority. Tobiah is a Jewish name and not Ammonite, but the Tobiad family was to have influence in Ammon for a long time.²⁸ These Tobiads may have been descendants of the Tobiah who in Ezra 2:60 was rejected from the Jewish community because “they could not show that their families

were descended from Israel.” If so, their long-standing enmity against the Jewish community may have begun at that time. Tobiah had control of the temple storerooms and used them for his own use.

- The Horonites and Ammonites were two of the people groups God had driven from the Promised Land for the Israelites. Sanballat and Tobiah were regional governors serving under the king of Persia. Tobiah the Ammonite was governing an area east of the Jordan River.

Pastor Mike: “God has a plan for sure--but let’s not forget the enemy is planning also.”

Nehemiah 2:11-16 So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. 12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. 13 I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. 14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. 15 Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work.

- This is the trip to see--how bad is it? In depth analysis of just how bad things are.
- Why not tell the Jews, the priests...? Everyone has an opinion. Needed to control the message.

Ephesians 4:11-12 And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

- Best if we are focused as a church in a few critical areas, where we can have a huge impact. Using our different gifts.

Romans 12:4-5 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

- City is in bad shape.
- History of defeat.

Nehemiah 2:17-20 Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision.” 18 **And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good**, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, “Let us rise up and build.” So they strengthened their hands for the good work. 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” 20 Then I replied to them, “The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.”

- Nehemiah believes. WE are in trouble. He is all in.

- This is God's mission, and then by obedience it has become Nehemiah's.
- **“And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good.”** This seems to be
- They believe. They trust God, and that Nehemiah is on mission for God! The people get behind Nehemiah's vision!
- “Let's get to work and build!” Let's do it!
- Nehemiah's answer:
 - Trust not in his power or the king's, but in “God of heaven”.
 - “Nehemiah advised his people to ignore the ridicule and threats and simply *work*”--Mervin Breneman
 - He refused to compromise. They will get no glory. This is God's city. All glory will go to Yahweh.

What is the state of Harlingen?

What do we know?

- We know what God has done in the past.
- We know what God has done in our lives.
- We know what God expects of His redeemed people.

Here's what we don't know

- What WE will do. How we will respond.

Let's declare:

- We're in. We're answering the call.
- We are unique, and we are together.
- This is not a fad. This is who we are! This is who we will be. This is a lifestyle.