"BUILDING WITH GOD" Book of Nehemiah

INTRO: A.-Key Ingredients To BUILDING:
1-A problem situation needing solution
2-A useable leader
3-A willing people
4-A GREAT GOD

B.-Prominent Features In Book Of Nehemiah:
1-God's man because he's doing God's work
2-Faithful believers who really SHARED THE LOAD
3-God's supernatural sustaining & enabling
4-Oppostion & conflict

C.-This Message:
1-OUTLINE: I.-The BURDEN For Building (Chs. 1-3)
II.-The BARRIERS To Building (Chs.2-6)
III.-The BLESSINGS From Building (Chs.7-13)
2-Prop: --Learn from History ("Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.")
--PREPARE FOR OUR OWN EXPERIENCES as we seek to build for and with God
--Anticipate the inevitable:
** Barriers & oppositions
** Sufficiency & blessing of God

I.-THE BURDEN FOR BUILDING:

A.-The Man God Used: (Neh. 1)--Identification between Nehemiah and the people---"WE"

B.-The Ministry God Called To: (Neh. 2)

C.-The Men (& Women) God Rallied: (Neh. 2:17-19; 3:1-32)
IT TAKES WORK

II.-THE BARRIERS TO BUILDING:

A.-Barrier Of Scorn:
1-Neh. 2:19
2-Answer:--POLICY STATEMENT (2:20)
--Expected God to help them

B.-Barrier Of Ridicule:
1-Neh. 4:1-3 (Devastating technique)
2-Answer:--Prayer (4:4-5)
--AND working together (4:6)

C.-Barrier Of Conspiracy:
1-Neh. 4:7-8
2-Answer:--Prayer (4:9a)
--AND a guard was set (4:9b)

D.-Barrier Of Propaganda:
1-Neh. 4:10-12--Some of it is from INSIDE the ranks
--"WE CAN'T" is a sad, sad song
--"They say" is prominent
--Discouragement grows
2-Answer:--4:13-20
--Remedy of work & fight to protect own families
** REMEMBER THE LORD !!
** 2 Tim. 2:8 -
--Encour
--Encouragement from God (4:15)
--Work at "BATTLE-READY" (4:17

E.-Barrier Of Self-Interest:
1-Neh. 5:1-3--WOMEN with a selfish & complaining spirit
--Self-centered interests ahead of spiritual values
--ALWAYS seem to be some of these around
2-Answer--5:7--RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION
--5:14-16 Nehemiah's personal example

F.-Barrier Of Compromise:
1-Neh. 6:1-2
2-Answer--6:3
--Repeated solicitations (6:4)
--Refusal to be sidetracked

G.-Barrier Of False Accusation:
1-Neh. 6:5-7 --False charges when craftiness fails
--Renewed solicitation=====BLACKMAIL !!
2-Answer--6:8; Simple, straightforward answer
--6:9; Prayer
--6:11-12; SOLID STAND !!

III.-THE BLESSINGS OF BUILDING:

A.-Physically Speaking:
1-Neh. 6:15
2-The "WALL WAS FINISHED"
3-Accomplished task

B.-Spiritually Speaking:
1-Blessing of ORGANIZATION (Ch. 7)
2-Blessing of the WORD MINISTERED (Ch. 8)
3-Blessing of REVIVAL and COMMITMENT (Ch. 9 & 10)
4-Blessing of SEPARATION (13:3)

CONCLUSION:

A.-What Results From "BUILDING WITH GOD"?
1-Reconstruction of WALLS of Jerusalem (Chapters 1-6)
2-Reconstruction (& RE-INSTRUCTION) of the PEOPLE of Jerusalem (Chapters 7-13)
3-God uses the physical as "TOOLS" to accomplish the spiritual goals He desires----------IN us
--THRU us

B.-What Lessons From "BUILDING WITH GOD"?:

1-"WE" participation is essential
--By the leader
--By the people

2-Opposition is inevitable

3-Only cure for discouragemtn is PRAYER and MUTUAL ENCOURAGEMENT

4-Expect the blessings of God to come as we serve Him

Westbrae--4/11/71----# 199--I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say"
468--Launch Out
Back Cover---God Be With You

"Building With God" Nehemiah 2:17-20; 4:1-9

Intro. --ILLUS-- A man was standing on a highway cloverleaf, one of those mazes of overpasses & underpasses, trying to hitchhike a ride back to his base, when a flashy car went by. He didn't pay much attention until it came back around again. It came around the 3rd & 4th times. On the 5th timea woman opened the car door & called out, "Sailor, my husband said never to pick up a hitchhiker, but if you'll just show me how to get off of this thing, I'll take you anywhere you want to go."

--Help can be badly needed for almost anything. Some for man, & some for God. Let's talk about a need for helping in the work of God.

I.- NEED TO BUILD JERUSALEM'S WALL

A.-The facts:

1-Report of the condition--1:3 — Very sad condition — Effect in the Heart

2-Reaction of a troubled heart--1:4 — See attitude then in 1:6 — "WE"

3-Commission by the King--2:5-6

B.-Private Survey --2:11-16

- Good Testimony
- Engineer
- Pleased the King
- Support too

1-Reconnassance expedition — See situation "Status Quo" — The mess we's in + nothing to QUE about

2-Night trip — private survey

3-Ruin of the defenses & provisions

C.-The Need Presented:

1-To improve & remove a reproach--2:17

2-Willingness of leader to cooperate--2:18 — identified self with need "WE"

3-Reaction of agreement--2:18 b. — Let US

II.-ACTUAL BUILDING FOR GOD OF THE WALL

A.-Who built???

Read whole of Ch 3

1-3:5--God notices who just watched--Sidewalk Supts.

2-3:8--White collar workers pitched in.--God records it.

3-3:12--Some of the women joined ranks & did man's work.

4-ILLUS--Lk. 19:13--all can serve-- "And He called his ten servants and delivered them ten pounds & said unto them, Occupy until I come." Some to each Servant

5-ILLUS--The value of the individual--The story is told that once, when Sir Michael Costa was having a rehearsal with a vast array of voices, as the choir rang out with the accompanying instruments one man who played the piccolo far up in the corner ceased to play, probably thinking that in all that din his instrument would not be missed. Suddenly the great conductor threw up his hand and all was still. Then he cried out, "Where is the piccolo?" The quick ear of the master musician missed it, and the chorus was spoiled because it failed in its part. God expects every Christian today to do His Part.

B.-Where did they build?

1-3:10, 28--"over against his house"--place nearest his own heart

2-Job easily accessable to him & hard for someone else. Each to have a job.

C.-How did they build?

1-3:5--God notices the slackers

2-Illus of poor service.--I heard of a well that was said to be very good, except it had 2 faults: it would FREEZE UP in the winter & it would DRY UP in the summer---a most extraordinarily fine well---Couldn't be beaten-- . . . . . or used

3-3:20--"earnestly"

4-3:27--some did a double portion 3:24

5-Leader's example of selflessness--5:14-19

6-People's attitude--4:6--ILLUS--see other side

ILLUS --Two boys sat talking in leisurely conversation. One, a city lad, had come to visit his friend on the farm. Said on, "What do you say, let's go to the barn & look at the horses." "Its O.K. with me the other replied & off they went. In the stall stood a team of beautiful black horses, which the boys petted, discussing their choices in a general way. The city lad, knowing little of the true value or marks of a good work horse, said, by way of comparison, "I'd rather have this one; there's not a blemish on 'im." But the other replied, "Boy, you wouldn't if you had to work 'im. He's the best lookin' but this one is the best horse on the farm," giving his favorite horse a tug on the mane & a hug. "He'll pull till he's almost stretched out flat, on a hard pull; his collar doesn't fit any too well, but he'll pull anyhow, that's why he's got the scafs on his shoulders. The other'n won't come up against the collar when the pullin gets tough. LOOKS DON'T COUNT IN A TIGHT PLACE."

Because of SEPARATION Position,

III.-OPPOSITION TO THE BUILDING OF JERUSALEM'S WALL.

A.*How Opposed & How Overcoming Opposition

1-Ridicule in 4:1-3 ---Overcome by PRAYER in 4:4-6--ILLUS--Dr. H. Clay Trumbull wrote of a friend of his who was away from home. The wife & children with an invalid friend were in the house alone. In the dead of night the wife was awakened by the hearing of the window bolt thrown back. She realized that in intruder or burgler was forcing an entrance. What should she do? It was about that time that Prof. Huxley had been lecturing & writing on the folly of expecting direct answers to prayer. She thought of this, but it was immediately followed with the thought, "God can help me now, & I will pray to Him." So the following prayer was fervently uttered: "Lord, send me a polideman to our rescue." Pistol shots were heard in the yard. Running to the window, she saw a man slipping away in the darkness, & a little * later a policeman called for admission to the house. On being admitted, he said he had passed the house & saw nothing out of the way, but after passing something told him to turn around & look again.

2-Fighting in 4:8---Overcome by PRAYER in 4:9--ILLUS--"And how do you explain it?" asked one who had heard an old saint of a wonderful answer to prayer. "I don't," she answered promptly & simply, "it does not need explaining. I just took the Lord at His word & He took me at mine."

3-Discouragement--4:10-12--Overcome by Trust in the Lord in 4:14, 20

4-Oppression from Brethren in 5:1-11---overcome by Brotherly Love & Kindness in 5:12-13--ILLUS--There are 2 ways of being united--one is by being frozen together, & the other is being melted together. What Christians need is to be united by being melted together in brotherly love & then they'll have power.

5-Craft & Subtlty in 6:1-7---Overcome in 6:8-14 by the manifestation of a STEADFAST PURPOSE---ILLUS--Luther at Worms, "Here I stand."

Concl.---6:15-16--WILL YOU HAVE YOUR PART???????????ILLUS--When Henry Ward Beecher expressed his admiration for a horse he was hiring, the liveryman responded enthusiastically, "He'll work any place you put him & will do all that any horse can do." Beecher regarded the horse with greater admiration than before & said wistfully, "I wish he were a MEMBER of my church."

BUILDING?? LEADING?? SERVING?? PRAYING?? TRUSTING?? — Remedy — 4:13-14 - REMEMBER

LET US COUNT ON GOD'S HELP----AND THEN JOIN TO HELP ONE ANOTHER.

Eph. 2: 19-22

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE

Neh. 8:1-13

Read 2 Tim 2:1-26

Intro Scr — Neh. 8:5, 6, 8, 12

Attached are 2 illustrations used in this message + an insert for Bulletin

Message itself is in my Bible

Hymns: Blessed Be The Name
Come, Thou Almighty King (1+2)
Go To The Deeps Of God's Promise

Westbrae — 5/16/65
7/26/70

"Interpretation Of God's Word"

1 Cor. 2:13b
2 Pet. 1:20

Intro: A.-ILLUS of modern attitudes toward "accepting anything", but then interpreting it away.



I.-NEED FOR INTERPRETATION:

A.-God Has Spoken:
1-What has He said?
2-Correct answer determines doctrine, practice, hope, etc
3-Isa. 8:20
4-Need correct methods of interpretation to distinguish the voices of GOD and MEN.

B.-Bridging The Gap:
1-Language differences
2-Culture differences
3-Geography differences
4-History differences
5-Spanning 16 centuries of writing
6-Spanning 19 centuries since writing

C.- Calvin on Interp.

II.-QUALIFICATIONS OF THE INTERPRETER:

A.-Spiritual
1-Must be born again--Jn. 3:3 "see"; 3:5 "enter"
2-Passion to know God's Word--Psa. 1:2
3-Deep reverence for God--Heb. 12:28-29
4-Utter dependence upon the Spirit to teach & guide--Gal. 5:16
5-~~Spiritual Dependence~~ — Jn. 16:13. 1 Jn. 2:27

In Fellowship

B.-Educational (Either Formal or Personal)
1-Helpful & useful; wide background opens wider vistas
2-Specific disciplines needed
3-Serve with HEART, SOUL & MIND
4-May be FORMAL or PERSONAL education

C.-Intellectual----may hamper or enlarge usefulness.

III.-HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE:

A.-Nehemiah 8:1-8
B.-Luke 10:26; 24:27
C.-Acts 17:2-3; 11
D.-Oft repeated phrase, "Which being interpreted, is"----- Emmanuel---God with us.

IV.-RULES OF INTERPRETATION:

A.-Literal sense
1-Plain sense to be followed when it makes good sense; no need to look for any other, UNLESS a specific usage elsewhere in the N. T. warrants a typical meaning
2-Read the Bible as you do your newspaper---the evident sense of the words in basic, customary, social designation of the word, phrase, sentence or passage

Eternal life means just that.

B.-Cultural Background
1-Search for clues which will make meanings clear.
2-At least 5 cultures in Bible---Mesopotamian, Palestinian, Egyptian, Greek, & Roman
3-ILLUS---Egyptian--"Country is one river wide". Also, understanding of Exodus Plagues is based on The River, & Their Gods.

C.-Historical Setting
1-Throw much light on the text. Chronology----Archaeology
2-ILLUS--Theocracy in Judges made possible Jud. 17:6

D.-Grammatical sense
1-To be preserved & not forced to make some interpretation.
2-Let the Bible say what it means & accept it as meaning what it says.
3-ILLUS--1 Cor. 15:3--"Christ died for our sins"---let it literally & grammatically indicate that without His blood sacrifice for our sins we would have no redemption. Not merely an example or a moral influence.

E.-Geographical considerations:
1-Bound to influence interpretation & understanding
2-ILLUS---Wilderness Journies of Israel under Moses. Requires knowing of the conditions of the desert of Sinai
3-ILLUS---Travels of Jesus----EX. John 4:4---"And He must needs go through Samaria"---Why?----No other way???----Other way was the NORMAL way, but He needed to go this way to see this woman at the well.

F.-Most Justifiable — Illus - Eternal Security
1-In relation to 2 interpretations equally possible.
2-Most justifiable in the light of the 1 passage
3-Most justifiable in the light of the whole Bible teaching.

G.-Comparative Usage:
1-Scriptural prinicple---1 Cor. 2:13 & 2 Pet 1:20
2-Verbal similarities---usage of the same term
3-Conceptual similarities---teaching on the same doctrine--INSP.
4-Parallel accounts---Kings & Chronicles.

H.-Distinctive Contributions: (THEME)
1-Prov. 1:7
2-Josh. 24:14-15
3-Jude 1:3-4
4-1 John. 5:13
5-John. 20:31
6-Mt. is Gospel of the King
7-Mk. is Gospel of the Servant
8-Lk. is Gospel of the Perfect Man
9-Jn. is Gospel of the Son of God.
10-Eccles — Vanity

I.-Contextual Interpretation:
1-Mt. 16:28 w/ 17:1-8
2-1 Cor. 2:9w/ 2:10
3-1 Cor. 9:27 w/ 9:24-26
4-Acts 21 w/ Ch. 18, 20, & 22.

Acts 17:11