



RESTORATION:

The Nehemiah Project

Part 1 – May/June 2023

Isaiah 58:12

Your people will rebuild the
ancient ruins and will raise
up the age-old
foundations; you will be
called Repairer of Broken
Walls, Restorer of Streets

Week 1 - Introduction

For the next four months we will be looking at the book of Nehemiah, focussing on how God used Nehemiah to address the great and desperate need to establish a secure, strong, faithful, unified people of God in Jerusalem, despite it initially being found a ravished, and defeated community. It faced fierce opposition on all sides and was a barely surviving minority that had largely lost its hope and foundations. Sound familiar?

Our vision is that, in obedience to what the Spirit is showing us, we give the Holy Spirit opportunity as leaders and a whole church to be restored to being on solid foundations – a building with strong walls, in Christ, that will not only survive but will extravagantly minister truth, life, love and expectant hope to a desperately lost and blind world.

Part 1. **“Survey”**

Part 2. **“Foundations”**

Part 3. **“Walls”**

Part 4. **“Occupancy”**

Our **Survey** Prayer:

“Dear Lord, thank you that you see everything.

Despite my sin and failures and those of the generations before me, I praise you that you remain faithful to your covenant of love.

Thank you that there is nothing in me, my family, or our church that you do not know and which you cannot overcome.

Lord, would you increase in me, in my family and our church more of your love.

With your greater love comes an increase of discernment of what is good and pure. Lord, would you open the eyes of our heart that we can clearly see where you are calling us to love you through obedient trust. Amen.”

Spend time praying for each other and our church.

PART 1. THEME: SURVEY

Week 2: May 14

BACKGROUND & VISION - THE NEED UNDERSTOOD

Nehemiah 1:3-4 “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. When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.”

Romans 13:11-12 “And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

Consider the Nehemiah Response:

Weeping in prayer over the devastation: Grief, Shame, Anguish.

Longing for a restoration: Hope, Desperation, Calling.

Action response: Commitment, Plan, Purpose, Strategy, Engagement.

QUESTIONS: What is the Holy Spirit moving you to deeply care about and pray for?

Are you willing for conviction of need to become an action response?

In all honesty and frailty Why? Why not ?

PRAY, HEAR, and SHARE the response of the Holy Spirit.

FOR MASTER BUILDERS: 1 Chronicles 12:32

Week 3: May 21

RESTORATION STAGES

Nehemiah 1:2-11

Isaiah 42:9 “See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

Jeremiah 29:11-14 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity.”

Nehemiah: Prophetic groundwork laid down. Three Kings set up by God – Cyrus → Darius → Artaxerxes. Read Ezra 6:1-5

Four returns to Jerusalem: 1. Return to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel – Temple rebuilt. 2. Return to Jerusalem under Ezra – Worship established. 3. Return to Jerusalem under Nehemiah – City rebuilt. 4. Return to Jerusalem by Nehemiah – Reforms effected.

Modern Restorations by the Holy Spirit: Seasons of revival in the world, in Australia, in Victoria, in Geelong and region – Refer to hand-out “Movements of the Holy Spirit.”

QUESTIONS: Have you experienced a quickening by the Holy Spirit? ... Ancient history or recently?

Do you eagerly desire to seek Him in all His fulness, today, for the Father’s glory, for your growth and restoration, for your family and community’s salvation?

PRAY, HEAR, and SHARE the response of the Holy Spirit.

FOR MASTER BUILDERS: Daniel 9:25, Zechariah 4:6-10, Hosea 10:12, 1 Corinthians 4:5

Week 4: May 28 THE WORK SITE

Nehemiah 2:1-10

What we are up against and the extent of erosion.

Belief & Moral Systems and their influence on the Faith community.

Socio-Political Landscapes and their influence on the Faith community:
Religious & Social Freedoms, Lifestyles, Work, Mental & physical health.

2 Timothy 4:3-5 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations ...

2 Timothy 2:15 Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analysing and rightly and skilfully teaching the Word of Truth (Amplified Bible).

QUESTIONS: Is my life firmly established on the Rock of Jesus, the Word and the Truth?

Do the checklist – ‘Building Design Elements – A Survey of Personal & Church Strengths & Weaknesses’ -available separately)

PRAY, HEAR, and SHARE the response of the Holy Spirit.

MINISTER TO EACH OTHER with compassion and grace in the Holy Spirit

FOR MASTER BUILDERS: 2 Corinthians 7:10, Titus 2:11-12, 1 Timothy 4:16, 1 Corinthians 3:3, 2 Peter 2:2

Week 5: June 4 RESOURCES, OBSTACLES, THE PROJECT PLAN

Nehemiah 2:11-20

RESOURCES: Romans 12:5-7 So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;

Ephesians 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows, and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

OBSTACLES: Apathy, Fear, Opposition, Persecution

Hebrews 12:3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

THE PROJECT PLAN – Agreeing on a unified course of faith, purpose, and resources.... then doing it!

Luke 14:28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate if you have enough money (*and resources, and will, and cooperation*) to complete it?”

QUESTIONS: Are you willing to be made willing, to spend and be spent for the sake of the Holy Spirit’s purposes?

What strengths, giftings, and resources can you bring for the Spirit’s work?

What strengths, giftings, and resources do you see in each other?

PRAY, HEAR, and SHARE the response of the Holy Spirit.

FOR MASTER BUILDERS: Acts 20:32 1 Peter 4:19

A Written Exercise for Forwarding: “Dear (___), I see, appreciate and encourage these strengths and giftings in you: