

## RISE UP AND BUILD

NEHEMIAH 2:11-18

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED ABOUT NEHEMIAH.  
NEHEMIAH WAS <sup>ONE OF THE PEOPLE FROM ISRAEL WHO WERE</sup> IN CAPTIVITY. NEHEMIAH WAS IN CAPTIVITY IN THE PART CALLED SHUSHAN.

NEHEMIAH HAD A VERY IMPORTANT JOB. HE WORKED FOR THE KING. HE WAS THE KING'S CUP BEARER. NEHEMIAH WAS THE ONE WHO CHECKED EVERYTHING THE KING WAS GOING TO DRINK, TO MAKE SURE NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH THE DRINK. WHENEVER KING ARTAXERXES WAS THIRSTY, NEHEMIAH BROUGHT HIM SOMETHING TO DRINK IN THE VERY SPECIAL CUP THAT ONLY THE KING COULD DRINK OUT OF.

<sup>ONE DAY</sup> WHILE NEHEMIAH WORKED FOR KING ARTAXERXES, SOME MEN FROM ISRAEL CAME TO SEE NEHEMIAH. HE ASKED THEM ABOUT THE PEOPLE STILL LEFT IN ISRAEL (THAT HAD NEVER BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE) AND HE ASKED ABOUT HOW JERUSALEM WAS DOING NOW THAT SOME OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE CAPTIVITY AND GO BACK HOME TO JERUSALEM.

THE MEN VISITING NEHEMIAH ANSWERED HIS QUESTIONS WITH BAD NEWS. THEY TOLD NEHEMIAH THAT THE PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM WERE HAVING AWFUL PROBLEMS. EVEN THOUGH EZRA HAD TAKEN A BIG GROUP OF ISRAELITES BACK HOME TO JERUSALEM TO GET THE THINGS NEEDED FOR USING THE TEMPLE FOR WORSHIP SERVICES, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAD MANY ENEMIES WHO WERE TRYING TO STOP

THEM FROM REBUILDING THE CITY AND GETTING THE TEMPLE READY TO USE AGAIN.

THE MEN TOLD NEHEMIAH THAT THE WALLS OF THE CITY WERE BROKEN DOWN AND THE GATES HAD BEEN BURNED.

NEHEMIAH WAS VERY UPSET TO HEAR THIS NEWS ABOUT JERUSALEM. HE CRIED AND FASTED HE WAS SO SAD. BUT NEHEMIAH TRUSTED GOD. HE PRAYED TO GOD ABOUT JERUSALEM.

NEHEMIAH TOLD GOD THAT HE KNEW ALL THE TERRIBLE PROBLEMS IN ISRAEL WERE HAPPENING BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAD DISOBEYED GOD AND SINNED TERRIBLY.

NEHEMIAH TOLD GOD, "THAT HE REMEMBERED THAT GOD HAD PROMISED MOSES THAT HE WOULD DELIVER THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WHEN THEY STOPPED SINNING AND STARTED OBEYING GOD AGAIN.

NEHEMIAH TOLD GOD THAT THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE IN ISRAEL WHO DID WANT TO OBEY GOD AND SERVE GOD. NEHEMIAH TOLD GOD THAT HE WANTED TO HAVE GOD'S HELP AND HIS MERCY BECAUSE HE WAS GOING TO ASK KING ARTAXERXES AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

SO NEHEMIAH WENT BACK TO HIS JOB AS THE KING'S CUPBEARER BUT HE WAS STILL SAD AND WORRIED ABOUT JERUSALEM.

AS NEHEMIAH WORKED, THE KING NOTICED THAT HE WAS SAD. NEHEMIAH HAD NEVER BEEN SAD AROUND THE KING BEFORE.

SO KING ARTAXERXES ASKED NEHEMIAH, "WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?"

NEHEMIAH WAS AFRAID, BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID, "I AM SAD BECAUSE JERUSALEM IS

STILL TORN DOWN."

THE KING SAID, "WHAT ARE YOU WANTING TO DO ABOUT IT?"

NEHEMIAH PRAYED TO GOD BEFORE HE ANSWERED THE KING. AFTER HE FINISHED PRAYING, NEHEMIAH SAID, "I WANT TO GO TO JERUSALEM AND BUILD IT BACK."

KING ARTAXERXES ASKED NEHEMIAH, "HOW LONG WILL YOU BE GONE?" THEN THE KING TOLD NEHEMIAH THAT HE COULD GO TO JERUSALEM.

NEHEMIAH ASKED THE KING TO GIVE HIM A LETTER TO TAKE WITH HIM AS HE TRAVELLED TO SAY HE HAD THE KING'S PERMISSION TO GO TO JERUSALEM. NEHEMIAH ASKED THE KING TO COMMAND THE KEEPER OF THE FOREST TO GIVE NEHEMIAH ALL THE WOOD HE NEEDED TO BUILD BACK THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM. GOD SURELY BLESSED NEHEMIAH, BECAUSE THE KING GAVE NEHEMIAH EVERYTHING HE ASKED FOR. THE KING EVEN SENT SOLDIERS WITH NEHEMIAH TO PROTECT HIM ON HIS TRIP!

SO NEHEMIAH TRAVELLED TO JERUSALEM. AFTER HE GOT TO JERUSALEM SAFELY, HE RESTED FOR 3 DAYS. THEN HE GOT UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND TOOK A FEW MEN WITH HIM TO GO AND SEE ABOUT THE WALLS OF THE CITY.

NOW NEHEMIAH HAD KEPT HIS PLANS TO REBUILD JERUSALEM A TOTAL SECRET. SO HE AND THE FEW MEN QUIETLY WENT AROUND IN THE DARK INSPECTING THE WALLS AND PLANNING HOW TO BUILD IT BACK.

THEN NEHEMIAH TOLD THE JEWS IN JERUSALEM WHAT THEY NEEDED TO DO — NEHEMIAH

SAID, "COME, AND LET US BUILD UP THE WALL OF JERUSALEM."

AND THEY SAID, "LET US RISE UP AND BUILD!" THEN THEY GOT READY TO BUILD.

THEY STARTED BUILDING, AND EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD MANY, MANY PROBLEMS WHILE THEY WERE BUILDING, GOD BLESSED THEM AND THEY FINISHED THE WALLS IN 52 DAYS!

WHAT A BRAVE AND FAITHFUL WORKER NEHEMIAH WAS! WE SHOULD BE AS FAITHFUL TO WORK FOR OUR CHURCH AS NEHEMIAH WAS TO WORK FOR HIS CITY.