

northeast bible church

real family, real solutions, real experience with God

NEHEMIAH FROM RUBBLE TO REVIVAL PT 4

growth groups ▶ Week 4

PASTOR BOB RICE: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Main Text: Nehemiah 1

² that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

³ And they said to me, “The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province *are* there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem *is* also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.”

⁴ So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *for many days*; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

⁸ Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;

⁹ but *if* you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, *yet* I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’

¹⁰ Now these *are* Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand.

¹¹ O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your

servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

For I was the king’s cupbearer.

Nehemiah 2

² And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King [A]rtaxerxes, *when* wine *was* before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before.

² Therefore the king said to me, “Why *is* your face sad, since you *are* not sick? This *is* nothing but sorrow of heart.”

So I became [A] dreadfully afraid,

³ and said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, *lies* waste, and its gates are burned with fire?”

⁴ Then the king said to me, “What do you request?”

So I prayed to the God of heaven.

⁵ And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.”

⁶Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), “How long will your journey be? And when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

⁷Furthermore I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors *of the region* beyond [\[1\]](#)the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah,

⁸and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the [\[1\]](#)citadel which *pertains* to the [\[1\]](#)temple,

for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy.” And the king granted *them* to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

⁹Then I went to the governors *in the region* beyond the River, and gave them the king’s letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

¹⁰When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite [\[k\]](#)official heard *of it*, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.

Lesson Notes:

1. Introduction

- A. Vision – without vision the people (the work, the Church) perish
 - B. Vision – is a mental picture of a fulfilled future
 - 1. A picture of the goal (what you are trying to achieve)
 - C. A vision should **Give Sight**
 - D. Insight - where you are
 - E. Hindsight – where you have been
 - F. Foresight –where you are going
 - G. 2019 we have a bold fresh new vision that gives sight to who we are and who we are becoming.
 - H. We are calling this vision **Real Church**
 - 1. In a fake world full of fake people, fake news, fake politicians, fake science, fake relationships, and even fake religion:
 - 2. People are looking and longing for that which is **REAL**.
2. NEBC is not all things to all people, but one thing that we are is **REAL**.
3. **REAL** on 3 deliverables:

1. Real **FAMILY** – Real (not perfect) people who really love each other (in spite of our imperfections) through real life (the up's and down's). We are real family because we share the same father, savior, and destiny.
 2. Real **SOLUTIONS** – Trust in the Lord
 3. Real **RELATIONSHIP with GOD**
- 4. Real Church** is vital to ourselves and our community because no one should live life alone in this cruel world, rely on flawed opinions of men to solve their problems, or live a Godless life terminating in a Godless eternity.

5. Outreach and 2018 accomplishments Nehemiah 1:2-4

² that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

³ And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

⁴ So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

- a. Nehemiah was comfortable. He had a great job, great life, but he understood that we serve an industrious God, a God of forward motion, a God of increase, a God of Outreach.
- b. **We serve a God of go:**
 1. Adam – Go fill the earth and subdue it.
 2. Noah – Go build an ark.
 3. Abram – Go from your family and country to a land that I will give you
 4. Moses – Go tell Pharaoh
 5. Church – Go make disciples
- c. So when Nehemiah heard of the plight of his nation he was moved to *Reach Out, GO and Take Action.*
- d. God is demanding the same of NEBC.

6. Financials 2018-2019 Nehemiah 2:5

⁵ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

⁶ Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

⁷ Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond ^[h]the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah,

⁸ and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the ^[i]citadel which pertains to the ^[i]temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

⁹ Then I went to the governors in the region beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

- a. Nehemiah and the king knew that resources were vital to accomplishing the mission.
- b. Ministry and money always go hand in hand. Even Jesus with all of his power had a treasurer.
- c. God commands NEBC to realize the importance of giving and good stewardship.

7. Worship Nehemiah 1

⁵ And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love ^[c]You and observe ^[d]Your commandments,

⁶ please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants

- a. Nehemiah understood that God was worthy regardless of what He did. God is worthy of all praise, honor and glory, simply because of who He is. Nehemiah

also knew that if he expected anything from the Lord, that he must approach Him in an appropriate manner. Worship is the only way to approach the Lord God almighty.

b. NEBC must also recognize the essentiality of worship.

8. ACE and Discipleship Nehemiah 1

⁸Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;

⁹but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.'

a. Nehemiah spent his entire life in a foreign land. However, he was able to recite a passage from Deuteronomy. He knew that God responds to His own word. This passage informs us that knowing **God's Word** is vital both to our relationship with God and our personal well-being.

b. NEBC needs to be serious about the study of **God's Word**.

9. Real Church Steps to Growth

1. **Trust Christ**

2. **Be Baptized**

3. **Join Church**

4. **Attend Orientation**

5. **Practice the 7 Essentials**

1) Attend Church Regularly & participate in Worship

2) Join and attend C² group Fellowship

3) Join and attend GG, RBI, discipleship ministry activities God's Word

4) Give Regularly

5) Serve in a Ministry

6) Improve your Prayer life. Come to Prayer mtg.

7) Outreach/Participate in a Prayer Walk

10. Support Ministries Nehemiah 1

⁸ and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

⁹ Then I went to the governors in the region beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

- a. Possibly one of the most central lessons of the book of Nehemiah is that Nehemiah didn't do the work of rebuilding the walls alone. He was supported by guards, lumberjacks, and the everyday people of Jerusalem.
- b. If NEBC is to succeed in its God glorifying mission, everyone must play their part in support of the ministry.
- c. Some of the ministries at NEBC are rarely seen working but their impact is felt by all.

Questions:

1. From Sunday's Sermon, was there a particular point, comment, or scripture that caught your attention or challenged you?

2. What is a Vision? Why is Vision important?

3. Describe and discuss the 3 deliverables of NEBC's "Real Church" vision.

4. Discuss God being "the God of go" and its connection to Nehemiah and Outreach today.

5. How is money and Church connected? Why does this seem controversial?

6. What is *Worship*? What does *Worship* do to and for us?

7. Why is knowing the **Bible** and Christian education important?

8. What is **C²**? Why is it important?

9. List and define the **Real Church Steps to Growth**.

10. Is it possible to fit the **Real Church Growth Steps** into a busy person's life? How? Why?
