

Preparing for Revival

Nehemiah 6:15-7:73

Nehemiah's overarching task was to bring revival to the city of Jerusalem. To accomplish that goal, he needed to rebuild the walls, the city, and the people of Jerusalem. Placing the last brick in the wall and hanging the gates did not end the opposition, however. Compromise, self-interest, and intimidation still threatened to derail plans for revival. **Godly character and constant vigilance are our greatest defense against opposition.**

☐ Completing the walls (6:15-16; 7:1)

- From the time Nehemiah first heard about the condition of the city being in disrepair to the completion of the project was approximately 10 months.
 - November/December (Kislev) – Nehemiah heard about the problem
 - March/April (Nisan) – Nehemiah approached King Artaxerxes
 - 2-3 month journey from Susa to Jerusalem
 - 52 days – length of building project
 - 25th of Elul (September 20-21) – completion of the project
- The enemies of Israel recognized that a miracle had occurred (16).

Surprisingly, there is no celebration and dedication until chapter 12. It demonstrates that rebuilding the wall is not the end goal. Rebuilding the people and bringing revival is Nehemiah's main focus.

What are you doing that only God can do? What are you engaged in that requires God to show up and work on your behalf?

☐ Preparing for revival (7:1-73)

- Nehemiah appoints those who will lead in worship (7:1)

This keeps the focus on the big picture and sets the stage for revival in chapter 8.

- Nehemiah appoints leaders who will protect the people (7:2-3)

Leaders are chosen on the basis of character (2).

Hanani and Hananiah were men who showed integrity and the fear of God.

Leaders are to be constantly vigilant because of ongoing opposition (7:3; 6:17-19).

Corruption and oppression were still prevalent and pervasive in the city. Some of the nobility had compromised their faith and were used by the enemies to intimidate Nehemiah.

To protect the city, the gates were only open a few hours a day.

“Let us be as watchful after the victory as before the battle.” Andrew A. Bonar

- Settling the people (7:4-73)

Jerusalem remained vulnerable because it was underpopulated.

God led Nehemiah to take a census. The purpose becomes clear in chapter 11. Nehemiah intends to solve the problem of underpopulation by having some of the Judeans relocate to the city. He is looking for those of pure Jewish descent who can contribute to the vitality of the city. To do that, Nehemiah must first know how many people there are and where they are.

God keeps track of his servants. He knows where we came from, what we gave, and where we served.

How Nehemiah handled opposition	
Opposition	Defense
Ridicule (4:1-3)	Prayer and perseverance (4:4-6)
Threats (4:7-8)	Prayer and watchfulness (4:9)
Discouragement (4:10-12)	Remembering God’s power and organizing for work and defense (4:13-15)
Internal strife (5:1-5)	Repentance by the offenders (5:6-12)
Trickery (6:1-2, 4)	Maintaining priorities (6:3, 4)
Rumor (6:5-7)	Denial of the charge and prayer (6:8-9)
Terrorism (6:10)	Trust in God and continued working (6:11-14)
Intimidation (6:19)	Continued vigilance (7:1-3)

Leadership lessons from Nehemiah 1-6:

A leader must be a person of prayer (ch.1), have a vision (2:1-3), and be a wise planner (2:4-8). He must inspire his followers (2:11-20), organize his task (ch.3), and combine faith and common sense (ch.4). He needs to be compassionate (5:1-13), possess personal integrity (5:14-19), be absolutely impartial (ch.5), and display a sense of mission (ch.6).

<https://planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/pdf/nehemiah.pdf>