

NEHEMIA LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES

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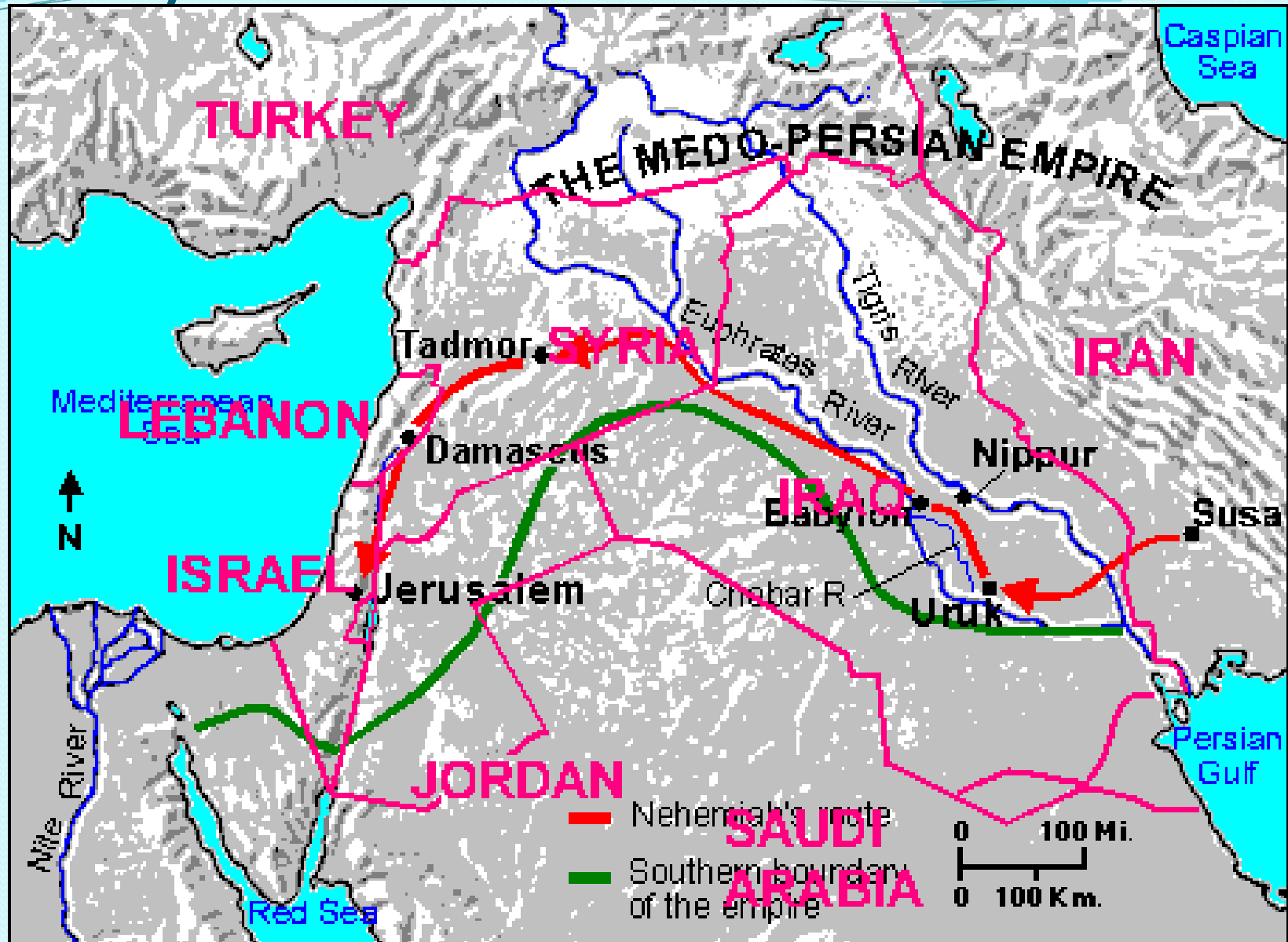
General Background

- Date of Writing: After 420 B.C., Nehemiah 12:26,47
 - Ezra (7:8) arrived in Jerusalem 7th year of Artaxerxes (began rule in 465 B.C.)- 458 B.C.
 - Nehemiah came in 20th year of rule (1:1), thus 445 B.C. for start of book
 - Elephantine Papyri notes sons of Sanballat were governors of Samaria in 408 B.C. (see Neh. 4:1 for cross reference)

General Background

- Theme: Rebuilding the Walls
- Major Sub-themes
 - God's Covenant
 - Purity of Worship
 - Faithfulness in Adversity
- Major Teaching Point for this Study:
Characteristics of Good Leadership

Why Nehemiah?



Overview of the 3 Books

Ezra 1-6	Esther	Ezra 7-10		Nehemiah
Restoration under Zerubbabel	58 year gap	Reformation under Ezra	13 year gap	Reconstruction under Nehemiah
538-515 B.C.		457 B.C.		444-425 B.C
Temple		People		Walls
Prophets: Haggai & Zechariah		—		Prophet: Malachi
1 st return (about 50,000 or 2%)		2 nd return (about 2,000)		3 rd return

Nehemiah

- His name meant “comfort of Jehovah”
- Served as cup-bearer of Persian King Artaxerxes during his 41-year reign
- Gave up the luxury of ease of the palace to help his people in Israel



NEHEMIAH, THE KING'S CUPBEARER

Nehemiah

- Led the 3rd group of people to Jerusalem in 444 B.C. (13 years after the 2nd group)
- Supervised the construction of the wall to protect the city of Jerusalem
- Governor of Judah



NEHEMIAH, THE KING'S CUPBEARER

CHRONOLOGY OF EZRA-NEHEMIAH

539	Ezra 1-6	Cyrus the Great Cambyses	539 - Return to the Land
515			515 - Temple completed
482 473	Esther	Xerxes	480 - War with Greece Esther story
458	Ezra 7-10	Artaxerxes	458 - 2 nd Return under Ezra
445 420	Nehemiah		444 - Nehemiah & Walls 432 - Malachi

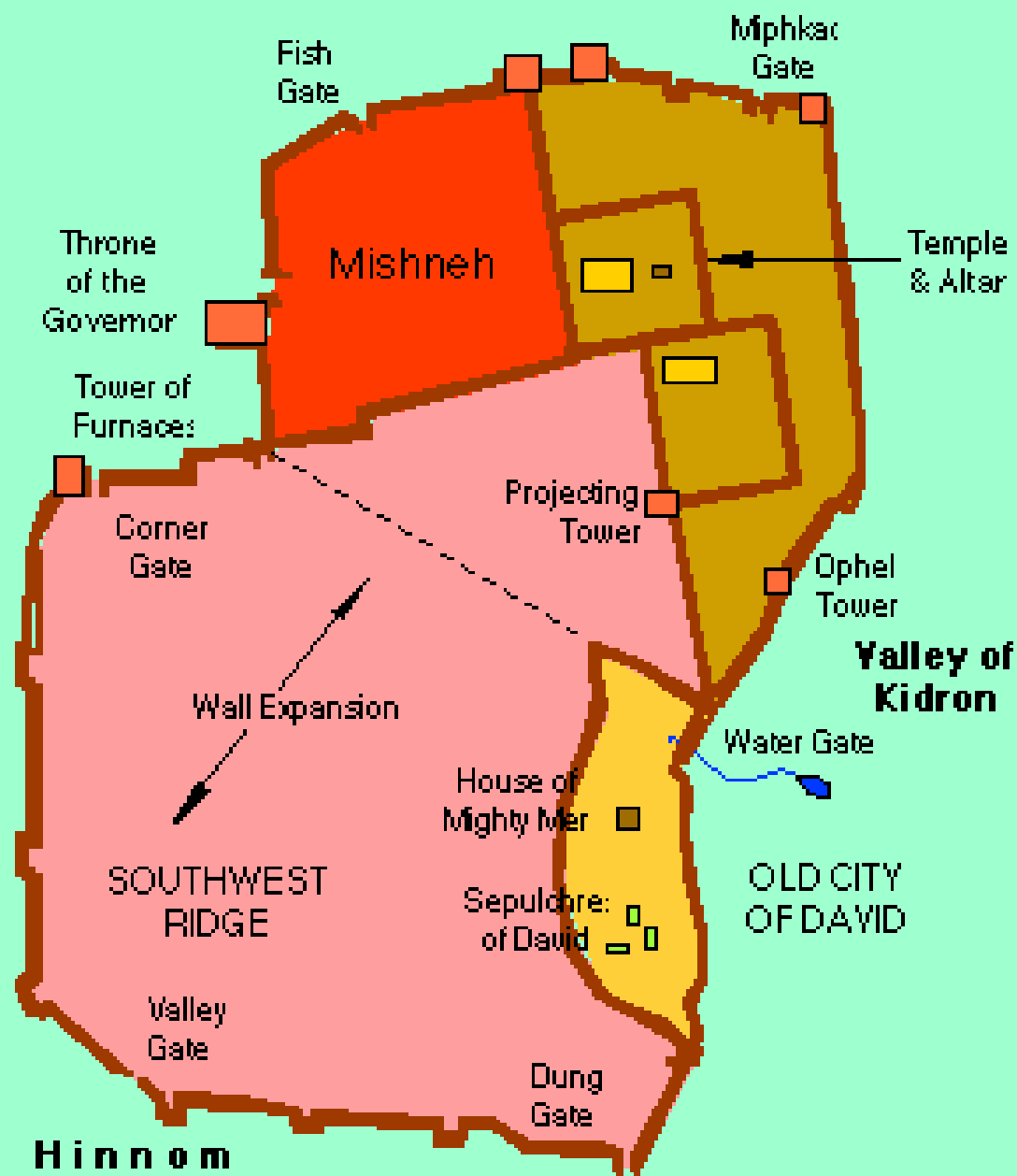
Overview of Nehemiah

1:1-11	2:1-10	2:11-20	3:1 - 6:19	7:1-73	8:1 - 12:47	13:1-31
Nehemiah talks to God	Nehemiah talks to the King	The work planned	The work completed	Number of the people	Covenant renewal	Further reforms
Conception			Completion	Consecration		
Work				Worship		
Rebuilding the Wall				Revival of the People		
Cupbearer of the King		Builder of the Wall		Governor of the People		

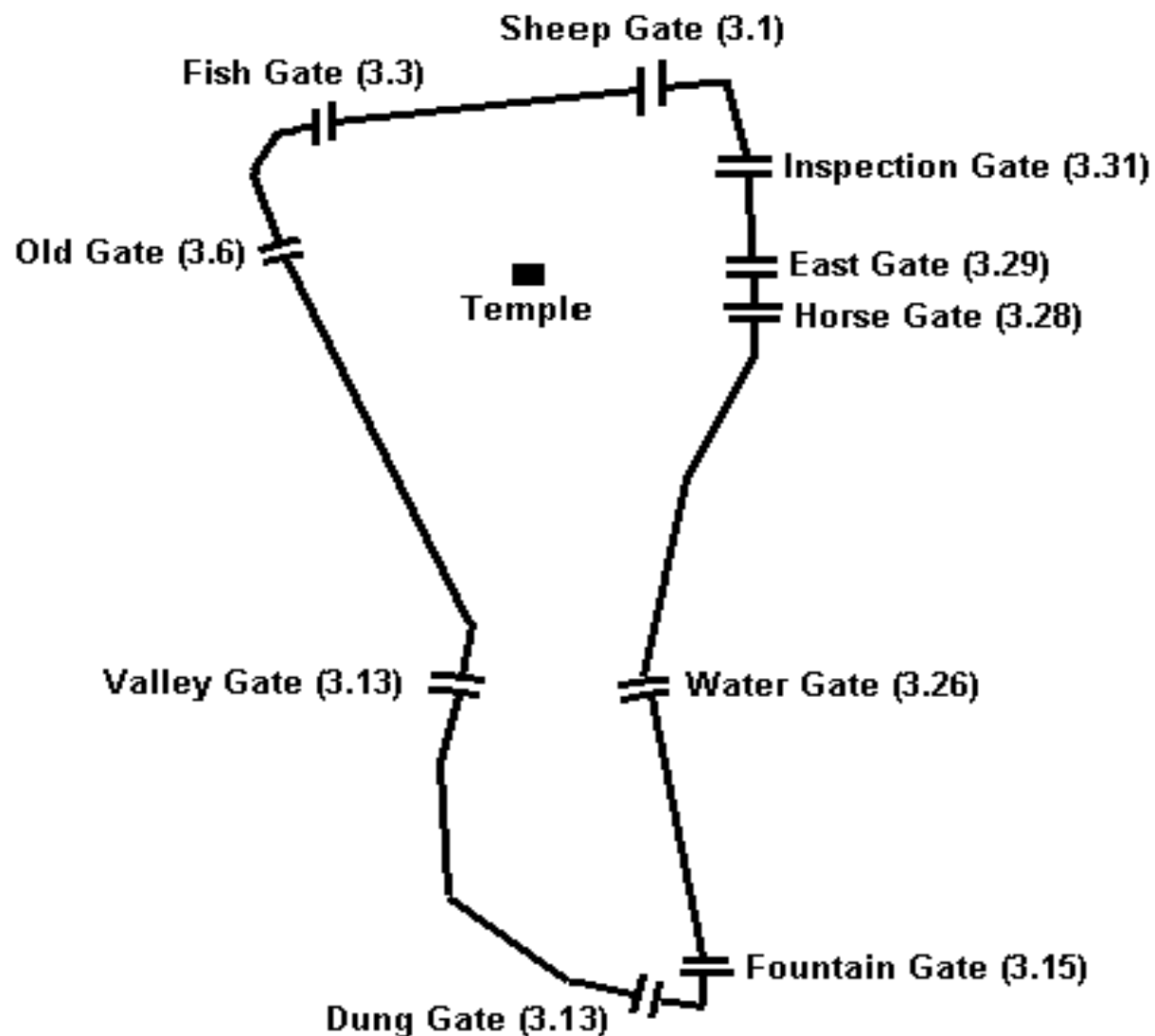
Jerusalem Under Nehemiah

Approximately 443.B. C.

The exact location of the walls of Jerusalem are in doubt. Much debate exists about the western expansion of the city in the days of Nehemiah. Little archaeological evidence exists to verify the various theories.



Nehemiah's Jerusalem



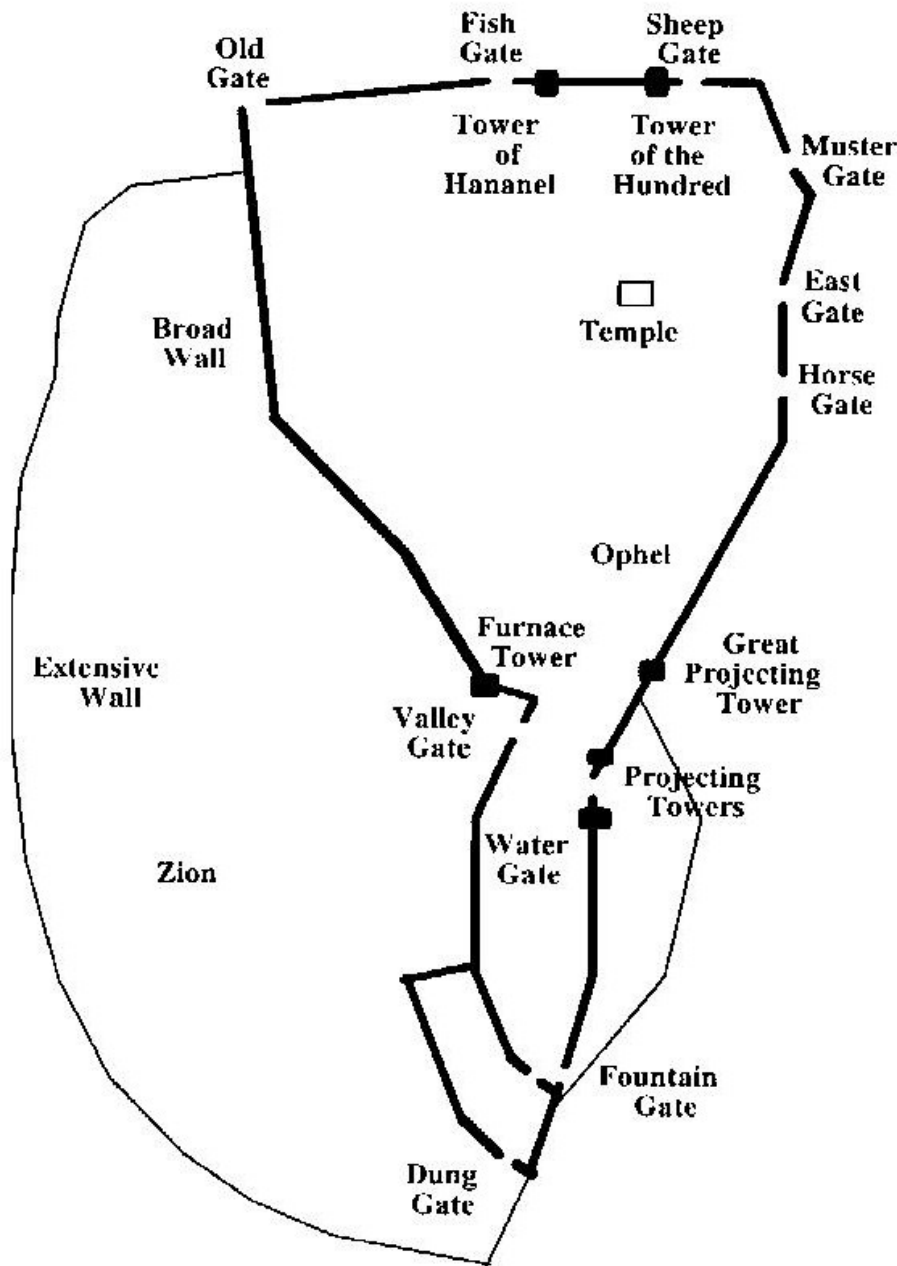






Nehemiah's Wall – Found in November, 2007





NEHEMIAH'S JERUSALEM

Minimalist View:

- Wall = 2 miles
- Area = 90 Acres

Maximalist View

- Wall = 2.5 Miles
- Area = 220 Acres

The Book of Nehemiah

- About the third and last return of Jews to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile.

So the wall was finished ... in fifty-two days.
And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God. (Neh. 6:15,16 NKJV)

The Book of Nehemiah

- In this book everything is restored – temple, city wall, covenant, people – except the king
- Daniel 9:24-27 explains that 490 years more were required to bring in the Millennial Kingdom, when Jesus rules as king.
 - 483 years from Artaxerxes' decree to build the walls until the Messiah was cut off
 - 7 more years in the near future for the Great Tribulation

PRINCIPLES OF GODLY LEADERSHIP IN NEHEMIAH

- **A GODLY LEADER:**
- Pays attention to details (v.1-2)
- Has a **heart for his people** (v.3)
- Has a **heart for his country** (v.3)
- Has a **heart for his God** (v.4)
- Is a person **devoted to prayer** (v.4-11)
- Has great respect for the LORD (v.5)

A GODLY LEADER:

- Has a vital **relationship with God** (v.5)
- Has a **servant's heart** (v.6)
- Takes **personal responsibility** (v.6)
- Has a **heart of repentance** (v.6)
- **Obeys God's commands** (v.7)
- **Knows God's Word** (v.8)
- **Applies God's Word** (v.9)

A GODLY LEADER:

- Is redeemed (v.10)
- Believes in God's great power (v.10)
- Knows where to go when he/she needs help
"O LORD, I beseech Thee . . ." (11)
- Desires to fear God's name (v.11)
- Nehemiah **willingly sacrificed** a king's lifestyle to serve God, family, and country

A GODLY LEADER:

- Uses any God-given position (for Nehemiah it was the cupbearer to the king) to **further the kingdom and plan of the Lord**
- Knows he/she is God's man or woman for the moment!!!! (v.11)
 - *Nehemiah 2 = 4 months later*
- Is **consistent** and **persistent** in prayer (2:1)

GODLY LEADERS:

- Do their job **with excellence** (cupbearer not to be sad in the king's presence) (2:1)
- **Respect authority** (2:2)
- Know how to **make an appeal** [(2:3; see Philemon 10) Nehemiah does not mention Jerusalem by name because of the decree against it in Ezra 4:21, but brings in the idea of respect for the dead]

GODLY LEADERS:

● PRAY
FIRST!

● Nehemiah 2:4

GODLY LEADERS:

- (Compare Nehemiah 2:5 and Daniel 9:25)
- Prayerfully make **achievable goals** (2:6)
- Recognize **obstacles** and **enemies** (2:7)
- **Always give the glory to God** (2:8)
- Do things in the right way (2:9)
- Evaluate their critics (2:10)
- **Get resistance** on **outside** and **inside** (2:10+4:10)

GODLY LEADERS:

- Pray and wait upon the Lord (2:11)
- Carefully analyze the situation (2:12)
- Always keep their goals in mind (2:13)
- Are not discouraged by obstacles (2:14,15)
- Do not tell everybody everything (2:16)
- Can “see” the problem (2:17)
- Do not let the opportunity pass by (2:17)

GODLY LEADERS:

- Include themselves with their people (2:17)
- Learn how to motivate people (2:17-18)
- Generate a team spirit (2:18)
- Always give God the Glory (2:18)
- Deal with insults in God's grace (2:19)
- Keep their faith and focus on God (2:20)
- Maintain the heart of a servant (2:20)

GODLY LEADERS:

- Are **not distracted** from the goal (2:20)
- Stay on track no matter how their enemies attack and multiply (2:19-20)
 - **Tell it like it is** to enemies of God's plan.
 - **NEHEMIAH 3**
- **Know their people** (by name and gifts)
- Assign tasks with **clear objectives** (3:1)

GODLY LEADERS:

- Assign people jobs that they are motivated to do their best in accomplishing
- Assign jobs for which people take personal responsibility (**personalize tasks**)
- Hold their people **accountable** (3:1)
- Find **ministries** (tasks) for everyone (3)
- Cover all their bases:next, next, next,(3)

GODLY LEADERS:

- **Keep track** of who does their job (3)
- **Keep track** of who does extra (3:4 + 3:21)
- **Keep track** of who will not do their job: [(3:5 + 3:27) **Nehemiah records for all eternity that the nobles of the Tekoites refused to work on the wall.**]
- **Encourage** their workers (3:20)

GODLY LEADERS:

- **Economize their work force:** Nehemiah assigns only two men to a difficult task (3:6).
- **Utilize all possible workers:** Priests v.1; Goldsmiths v.8; Perfumers v.8; Officials v.9,12; Divorcee v.11 (compare with Ezra 10:31); Families v.11; Servants v.26; Merchants v.32.

GODLY LEADERS:

- NEHEMIAH 4 = ENEMIES ATTACK!!
- Sanballat and his allies **furiously mock** the Jews, but Nehemiah prays in answer.
- Keep the work going in spite of attacks
- Carefully guard God's work (4:9)
- **Trust in the LORD** and keep the work going even against enemies within (4:10)

GODLY LEADERS:

- **Know their weak spots** and keep them covered (4:13)
- Model **complete trust** in God (4:14)
- Never forget to give **God the glory!!** (4:15)
- Keep their people on the job (4:15)
- **Protect** their people (4:16)
- Are **prepared for emergencies** (4:17)

GODLY LEADERS:

- Know how to **delegate** authority (4:18,19)
- Have a **functional** communication sys (20)
- Know how much time their workers can productively stay on the job (4:21)
 - Are **constantly vigilant** (4:22)
- **Serve side by side** with their people (4:23)

GODLY LEADERSHIP STARTS AT HOME!!

NEHEMIAH 5

- **Godly leaders:**
 - **Confront and expose** the problems (5:7)
 - Do **not** act in anger (5:7)
 - Know who is in authority (5:7)
 - Speak with **Godly conviction** (5:8)
 - Remind their people to **fear God** (5:9)
 - Do not permit their people to **abuse** (5:10)

GODLY LEADERS:

- See to it that people **do** what they are supposed to do (5:12)
- Let their people **know the consequences** for failure to do as they should (5:13)
- **Always praise God for success** (5:13)
- Do not **exploit** their people [(5:14) Nehemiah had the right to personally tax the people, but he did not do it].

GODLY LEADERS:

- Do **not take advantage** of their people because they **fear God** (5:15)
- Do not capitalize at the expense of their people when their people are hurting (5:16)
- Keep the communication lines **open** with other leaders (5:17)
- **Can't be too generous with their people**

GODLY LEADERS:

- **NEVER FORGET TO PRAY FIRST! 5:19**
 - **NEHEMIAH 6**
- **Do not quit** until the job is done (6:1)
- Do not get “**side-tracked**” when the job is 99% finished (6:2-4)
- **Will suffer** unmerciful rumors (6:5,6)
- **Do not succumb to blackmail** (6:7)

GODLY LEADERS:

- Quickly **refute lies** (6:8)
- Go to God in **prayer for strength** (6:9)
- **Fear God** and have **no fear of man** (6:10-13)
- Can't be **tricked into a trap** because they **know and obey** God's Word [only Levites were allowed in the temple (6:11)]
- **Discern** God's will and God's enemies

GODLY LEADERS:

- Prayerfully discern and expose treacherous false prophets and insiders (6:14)
- Complete their God-given mission with excellence and glory to God (6:15,16)
- Do not let Satan and his people rob them of their joy in finishing their God-given mission with excellence! (6:15-19)

CONCLUSIONS:

- GODLY LEADERS:

- *Fear God* (Proverbs 9:10)
- Are **desperately dependent** upon God
(John 15:5; 2 Corinthians 3:5)
- Delight in, and meditate on, God's Word
(Psa. 1; Psa. 119. Psa. 40:8)
- Treasure God's Word more than food
(Deut. 32:47; Job 23:12)

GODLY LEADERS:

- Are **humble in spirit**, recognizing Who God is.
(Psa. 51:17; 139:23-24)
- Are **not angry** people. (Ecc. 7:9; Prov 19:11)
- **Remember** the deeds of the Lord and always **give Him the glory**. (Psa. 77:11-15)
- **Desire Truth in the innermost being**.
(Psa. 51:6)

GODLY LEADERS:

- Set **no** wicked thing before their eyes.
(Psa. 101:3)
- **Live above reproach** in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. (Phil. 2:15)
- Seek to never **discredit** or bring **blame** upon the ministry. (2 Corinthians 6:3)
- Keep the **eternal perspective!** (Col. 3:2)

GODLY LEADERS:

- Walk by **faith**, not by sight. (2 Cor. 5:7)
- **Aim** their people at **well-defined targets**.
(Psa. 127:4)
- Desire to **please the heart of their LORD and Savior** no matter what the **cost**, the **circumstance**, or the **consequence** as they *walk in a manner worthy of the Lord!!!!*
(Colossians 1:10)

COLOSSIANS 1:10

- **“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”**

Lessons Learned

- We must face difficult challenges through patient prayer (Psa. 27:14; 37:34; 40:1; Prov. 16:3; 21:1)
- We must be willing to plan (Lk. 14:28-30)
- We must be willing to proceed (2 Cor. 8:7,11)
- We must be willing to participate (Eph. 4:16)
- We must be willing to persevere (1 Cor. 15:58)

Christians Must Build With...

- The right blueprint (Acts 20:32)
- The right foundation (1 Cor. 3:10-11; 1 Pet. 2:4-8)
- The right materials (1 Cor. 3:12-15)
- The right builders (1 Cor. 3:5-9)
- The right cause (Eph. 2:20)