

## NEHEMIAH 5-6

### **Nehemiah 5 – Internal Problems of Oppression**

#### **A) *Nehemiah deals with oppression (vv. 1-13)***

- 1) Outcry of Jews against their brethren concerning famine, heavy indebtedness, and the forced slavery of Jews by Jews – brethren taking advantage of one another in hard times
- 2) Nehemiah becomes very angry when he learns of the oppressive loan activity
- 3) Nehemiah shames the rulers and nobles for how they were treating their brethren
- 4) Nehemiah had done some lending to others himself
- 5) Commands them to restore to their brethren their goods; times demanded gifts, not loans
- 6) People promise and then keep their promise to restore goods to the poor among them

#### **B) *Nehemiah's good example (vv. 14-19)***

- 1) During the time Nehemiah was governor (twelve years – 445-433 BC), he did not eat the “governor’s provisions” out of the fear of God and concern for his brethren
- 2) Former governors had laid heavy burdens on the people
- 3) Nehemiah worked on the wall, and did not buy any land for himself or his servants
- 4) Nehemiah desires to be remembered by God for what he has done

### **Nehemiah 6 – The Conspiracy Against Nehemiah**

#### **A) *When the wall breaches are fully repaired, Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem, and the rest of the enemies sent a message to Nehemiah to meet them in a village in the plain of Ono (vv. 1-4)***

- 1) Ono is 25-30 miles from Jerusalem; they intend to harm Nehemiah away from the city
- 2) Nehemiah informs them that he is too busy to come; no reason to cease work for them
- 3) They sent their message four times, and Nehemiah answers the same all four times

#### **B) *Sanballat sends an open [public] letter (vv. 5-9)***

- 1) Accuses Nehemiah of planning to rebel and become king; they warn that they are going to tell the king, so he better come and counsel with them
- 2) Nehemiah denies their false charges
- 3) Knows that they are trying to scare people into inactivity – prays to God for strength

#### **C) *Nehemiah goes to the house of Shemaiah (vv. 10-14)***

- 1) Proposes to meet Nehemiah in the temple for protection – Nehemiah refuses
- 2) Nehemiah figures out that Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him to sin so they could have an evil report to reproach him (unlawful for him to enter temple)
- 3) Asks God to remember those who tried to make him afraid (cf. 4:4-5)

#### **D) *The wall completed after fifty-two days of work (vv. 15-16)***

- 1) Enemies very disheartened because they know this work was done by God

#### **E) *Nobles of Judah and Tobiah (vv. 17-19)***

- 1) Exchange letters; nobles pledged to Tobiah because of family ties
- 2) Nobles spread information favorable to Tobiah; they tell Tobiah about Nehemiah; Tobiah writes letters to frighten Nehemiah

### **Questions**

- 1) How were lending practices causing oppression on the Jews who were poor?

- 2) What was the solution that Nehemiah proposed? How did Nehemiah demonstrate generosity?
  
- 3) What three ways did Nehemiah's enemies try to stop him and the work?
  
- 4) How long did it take to complete the rebuilding of the walls? Why was it done so quickly?  
What effect did this have on the enemies of the Jews?