

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 Dec Esther 1-3 Deliverance is Needed
- 2) 14 Dec Esther 4-10 God Provides Deliverance
- 3) 21 Dec Luke 2 God Provides a Savior
- 4) 28 Dec Ezra 1-6 God Ordains Restoration
- 5) 04 Jan Ezra 7-10 God Commands Obedience
- 6) 11 Jan Nehemiah 1-2 God Inspires the Work
- 7) 18 Jan Sanctity of Life Protect Human Life
- 8) **25 Jan Nehemiah 3-6 Be Faithful in Adversity**
- 9) 01 Feb Nehemiah 7 Do Your Appointed Part
- 10) 08 Feb Nehemiah 8 Get an Understanding
- 11) 15 Feb Nehemiah 9 Return to the Restoring God
- 12) 22 Feb Nehemiah 10-13 Commit Your Way to the Lord

INTRODUCTION

- “God helps those who help themselves” True or False?
 - ♦ Or is it, God helps those who stay true to Him? Recall Neh 1:5
- How can we tell when we need to be like sheep or harmless as a dove, and when we should be like bulldogs – ready to purge the temple and rebuke the rulers like Nehemiah & Christ?

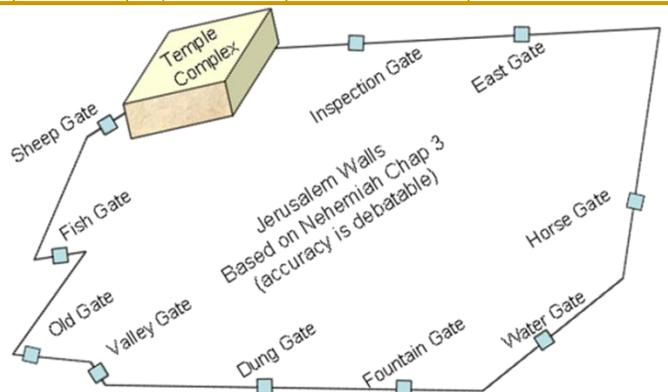
Passage	Comments
Nehemiah 3:1-32	<p>Complete the Task Quickly or Risk Destruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1: Jewish tradition, per a TBN telecast on 4/13/05, says there has only been 87 high priests (~3100 yrs since Moses / 87 = 35 yrs per high priest on average) • Repair of Gates crucial for safety & commerce Illustration: How many doors must be locked at church? • v5: Some leaders/nobles avoided doing godly work - Some will, some won't, so what? - We can only go so far to solicit help from volunteers • v12: Shallum & his daughters made repairs – It was a family project • v20: Baruch “zealously repaired another section” – You always need those positive people. They help balance out the more irritating negative grumblers in the crowd. • v28: Each made repairs in front of their homes. Good motivation to make the repairs nice and strong
4:1-23	<p>Coping w/ External Persecution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2: Sanballat tried to enrage the rich folks – WHY? • vv4-5: Nehemiah did not seek to harm his enemies, but he asked God to bring His kind of justice upon them, which may not be realized till the end of time • vv6-8: When the enemy made plans to attack, Nehemiah prayed, posted a guard, and prepared to fight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is this a principle we can use today? ♦ Illus. Many denominations ready to split over gay issues ♦ What walls did they fail to repair and sustain? ♦ How should we guard against socially-charged issues? • Vv9-23: Other strategies and tactics – Pray & Pack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ vv13-14: Posted armed guards based on families – This was a motivation factor. People always fight harder to protect their own families and property ♦ Accurately assess situation (fight, flight, or surrender) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fight – Count the cost Lk 14:31,32 2. Flight – Know when to flee Mt 10:23 3. Surrender – Know when to capitulate Rom 8:36 • vv14-15: Encourage leaders and followers to take a stand, not on positive thinking, but totally based on the solid Promises of God
5:1-19	<p>Coping w/ Internal Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rich get richer, the poor get poorer during a crisis • v6: It's OK to be angry against sin, BUT respond biblically • Nehemiah assessed the situation and “reasoned” with and challenged/rebuked the civic & religious leaders, nobles, & rulers • A better option was offered – stay true to God's word <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v5: Must treat household of God w/ generosity ♦ vv8-11: Live above reproach before all and practice what we preach even during hard times ♦ vv12-13: Seek commitments ♦ vv14-19: Live by example ♦ v7: AND know when it is appropriate to raise up a crowd to hold them accountable
6:1-19	<p>Coping w/ Stress & Compromising Situations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-14: Avoid distractions while on a mission; Know the enemy's tactics – i.e., manipulation, deception • v8: Know when to respond to false accusations • v15-16: Be steadfast, brave & faithful. Enemies will take notice

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS

- Know your enemies and their “devices”
- Know that God's people may be part of the problem
- Be biblically prepared to handle each situation God puts you in
 - ♦ Study His word, pray, obey, encourage others to do the same
 - ♦ ...and be ready to fight, flight, or surrender, as God leads

NEXT WEEK: Nehemiah 7. After completing a big project comes the chore of addressing day-to-day issues with the same enthusiasm

	Passage	City Gates	Repairers	Significance [Spiritualization]
1	3:1	Sheep	Eliashib the High Priest & clan	Entrance for sacrificial animals [Salvation]
2	3:3	Fish	Sons of Hassenaah	[Evangelism]
3	3:6	Old	Jehoiada & Meshullam	[The Law]
4	3:13	Valley	Hanun & Zanoah inhabitants	[Character Testing]
5	3:14	Dung	Malchiah	[Repentance]
6	3:15	Fountain	Shallum (2 nd)	[Baptism]
7	3:26	Water	Nethinims – Temple servants	[Word of God]
8	3:28	Horse	Priests	[Warriors for God]
9	3:29	East/Golden	Son of Shechaniah	[Messiah] – Sealed shut
10	3:31	Inspection	Malchiah	[Judgment]
11	8:16	Ephraim	Other Jerusalem Gates mentioned in the Bible	
12	12:39	Guard		
13	Jer 31:38	Corner		
14	Jer 39:3	Middle		
15	Ezek 8:3	North		Inner court
16	Ezek 9:2	Upper		Faces North
17	Jer 36:10	New		God's Word recited here
18		Damascus	Modern gates	
19		Herod's		
20		Lion/Stephen's		
21		Zion		
22		Jaffa/David's		
23		Single		Sealed Shut
24		Double		Sealed Shut
25		Triple		Sealed Shut



The East or Golden Gate is the closest of the gates of Jerusalem to the Temple Mount, where Christ will return (Rev 14:1).

The Christian name is The Golden Gate. In Hebrew it is the Gate of Mercy. The Arabs call it The Gate of Eternal Life

The current Gate has been sealed since the time of the Crusades more than 1000 years ago by the Muslims, who also put a cemetery in front of it, but the original East Gate is purported to be buried directly underneath.