



Be Diligent *Nehemiah*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org

**How much have others
done for you?**





**Are you
grateful
for what
is done
for you?**

**How should you respond
to God's faithfulness to
restore you?**



JUDGMENT

IDOLATRY

WRATH

EDZÆNKIEL

PUNISHMENT

SIN

DISOBEDIENCE

DRESSING THE STAGE

Summing up...



7

ZERUBBABEL...returns to begin
rebuilding the Temple.

EZR
Law

Z-E-N

THREE DIPLOMAT
PRIESTS

NEHEMIAH
the great
leader and
the city's gates and its
walls.

CAPTIVITY

70 Years

3 Treks

100 Years / 50,000

Z - E - N

Ezra's Correlation with Esther

289

Restoring the Temple and People

Book of Esther (58 YEAR GAP)

Temple

People

Zerubbabel

Ezra

Ezra 1–6

Ezra 7–10

50,000 Return

5,000 Return

Survival

Revival

Working

Worshipping

538-516 BC (22 Years)

458-457 BC (1 Year)

External Opposition: Samaritans

Internal Opposition: Intermarriage

Return
1–2

Rebuilding
3–6

Return
7–8

Restoration
9–10

Decree
1

Returnees
2

Begins
3

Opposed
4:1–6:12

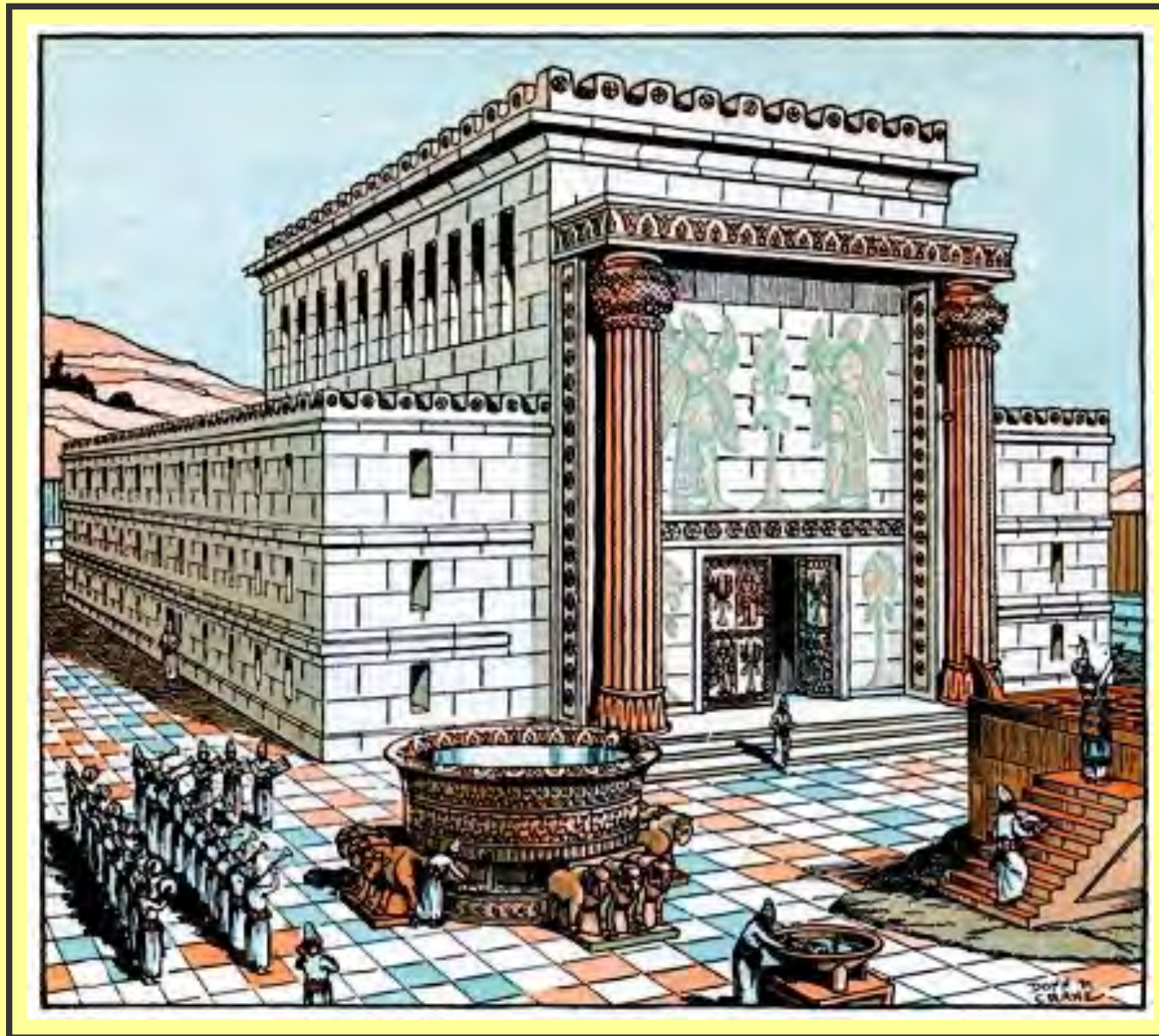
Ends
6:13-22

Qualifications
& Provisions
7

Returnees
& Protection
8

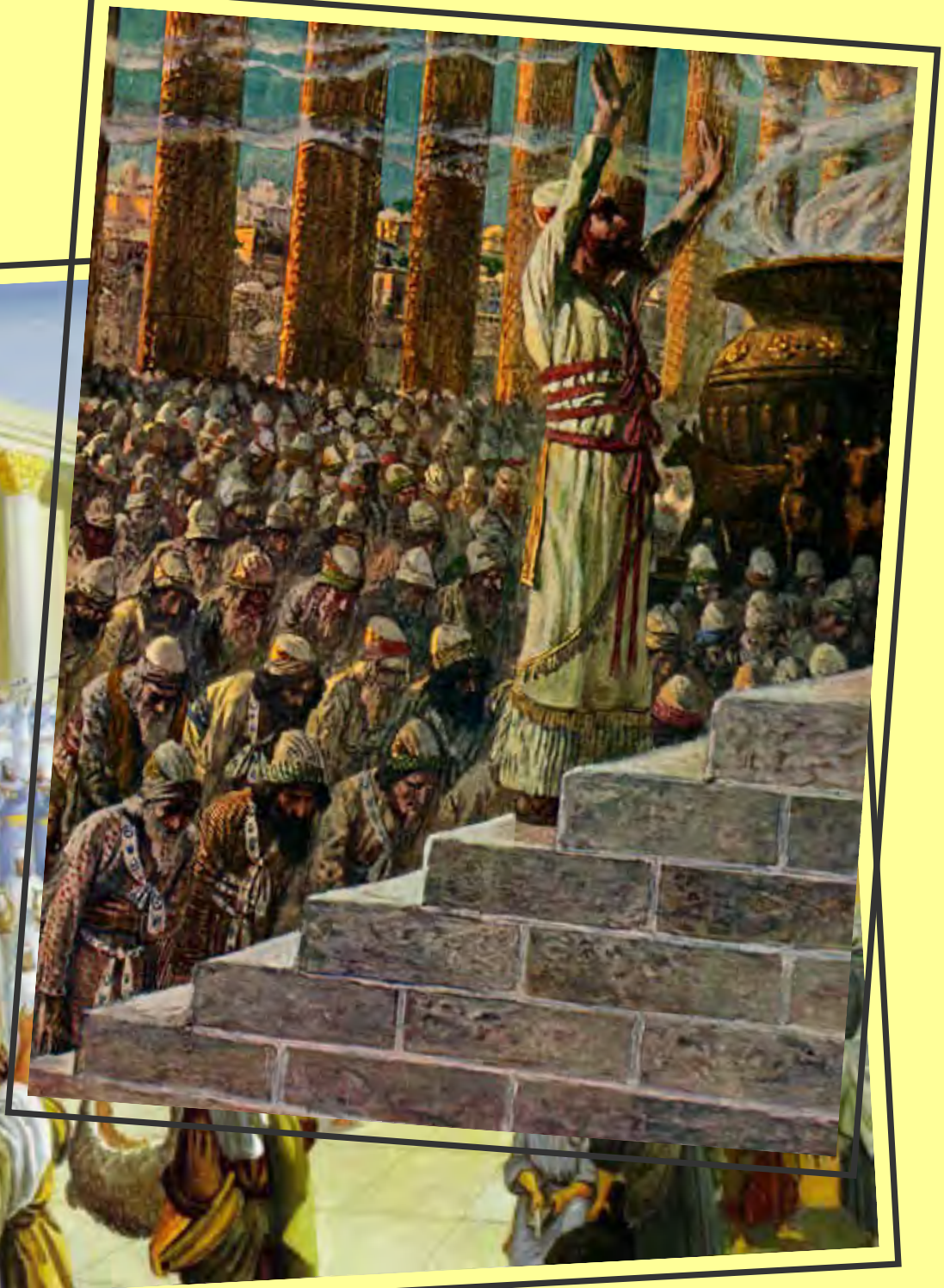
Inter-
marriage
& Lament
9

Divorces
Carried Out
10



God rebuilt the temple (Ezra 6:15)

**In 520 BC returning
Jews celebrated the
temple completion**





**Ezra
restored
the people
in an
amazing
revival
(Ezra 8).**

- **Remnant Small**
- **Reproached Jews**
- **Ruined Walls**



The Three "Rs" (1:3)

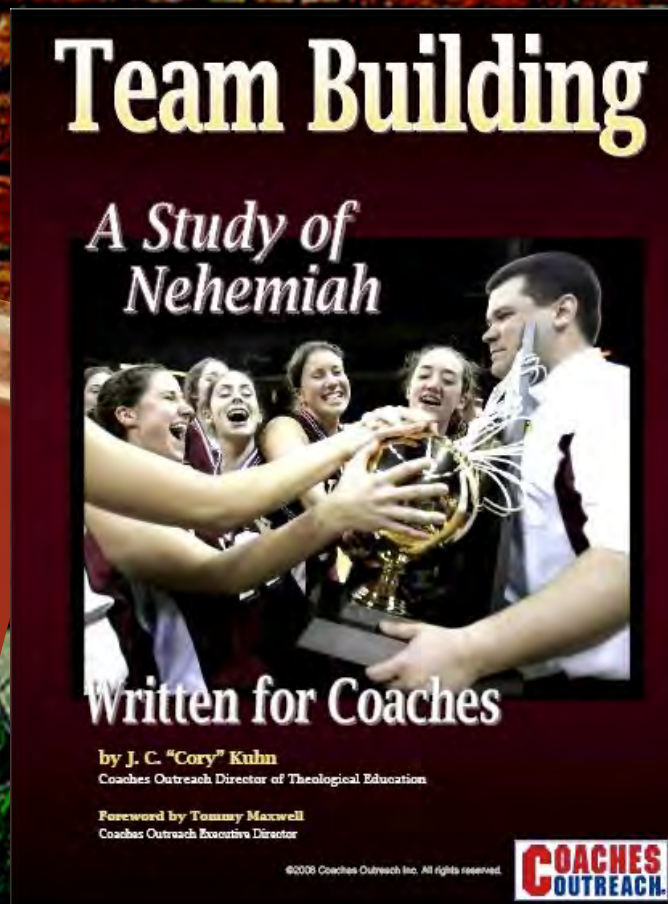
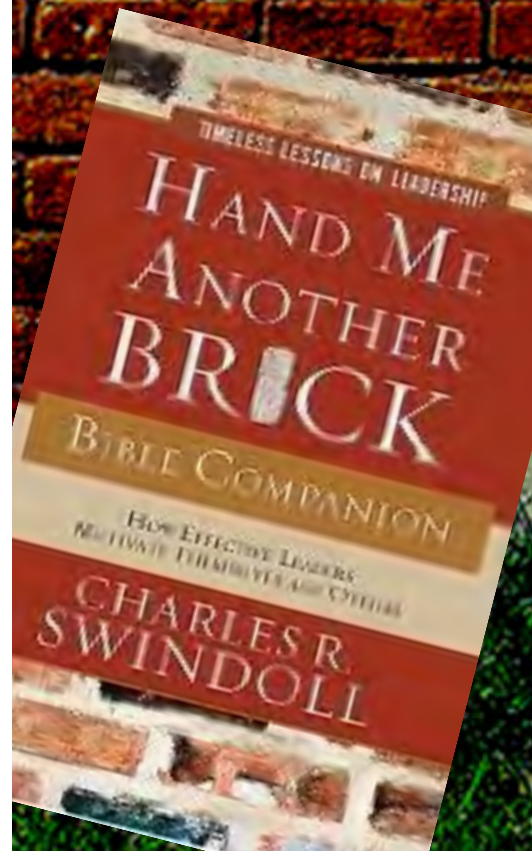
NEHEMIAH

Rebuilding Broken Dreams

July-October 2013

Listen to the Sermon Series

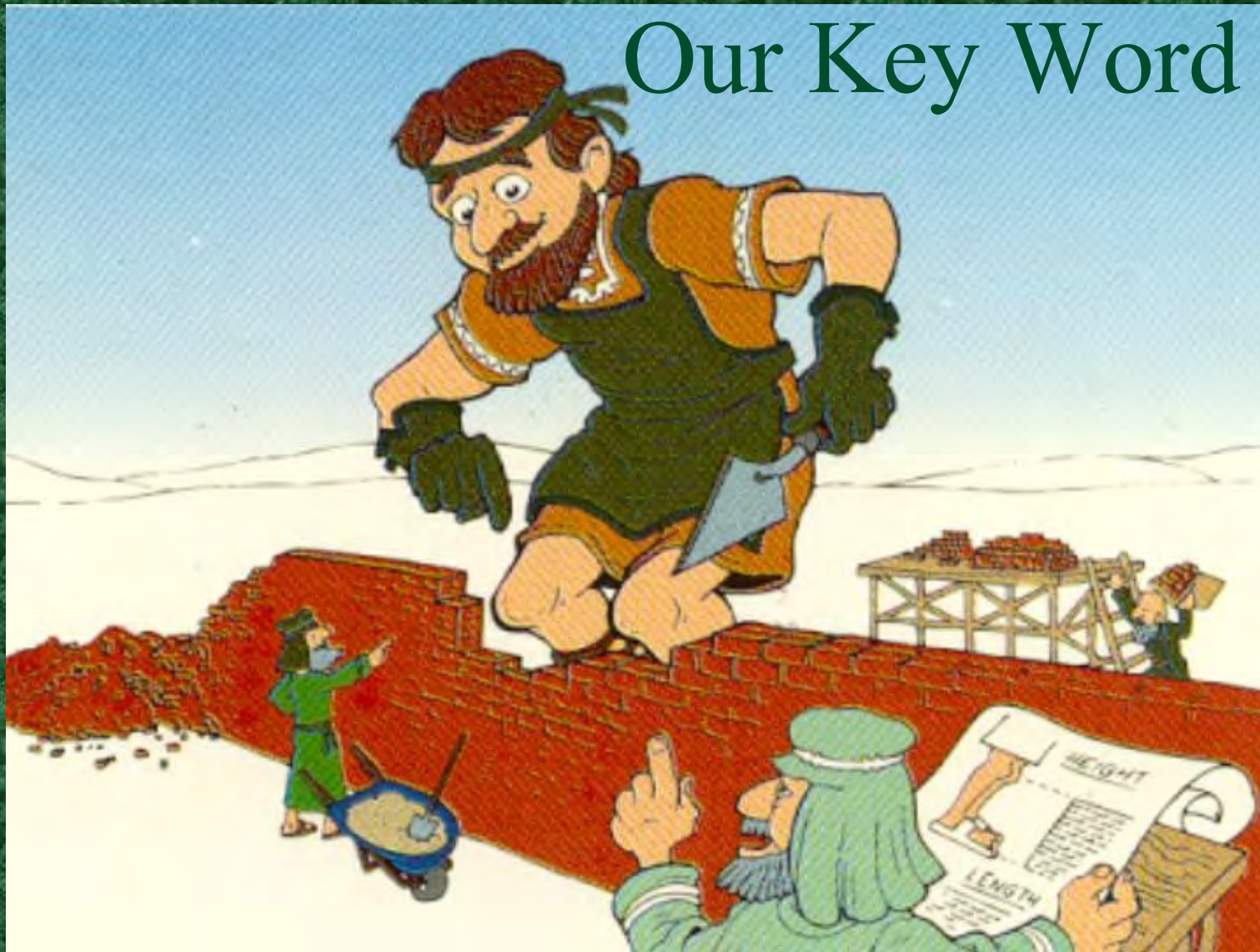
Hand Me A Brick!



Thoughts from Nehemiah

Nehemiah: Walls

Our Key Word



Walk Through The Bible ©1989

The *Real* Hero of the Book

Or God?



Nehemiah?

Focus on God



- **He was called “the God of heaven” (4b).**
- **He was “the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of love...” (5).**
- **God listens to prayer (6, 11a).**
- **God graciously gave commands, decrees, and laws through Moses (7).**
- **God promised not only exile but also return (8-9).**
- **God redeemed this remnant by His great strength (10)**

Restoring the Walls and People

| Walls | | | | | People | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Chapters 1–7 | | | | | Chapters 8–13 | | | | |
| Construction | | | | | Instruction | | | | |
| Political | | | | | Spiritual | | | | |
| Return 1–2 | | Rebuilding 3–7 | | | Renewal 8–10 | | | Reforms 11–13 | |
| Persia Prayer 1 | Jerusalem Inspection 2 | Dele- gation 3 | Opposed / Finished 4–6 | Organ- ized 7 | Convic- -tion 8 | Confes- -sion 9 | Cove- -nant 10 | Resettle- ment & Dedication 11–12 | Sabbath & Inter- marriage Reforms 13 |
| -----52 days (6:15)----- 445-433 BC | | | | | | | | | 425 BC? 420 BC? 13:6a 13:6b |

**How should you respond
to God's faithfulness to
restore you?**



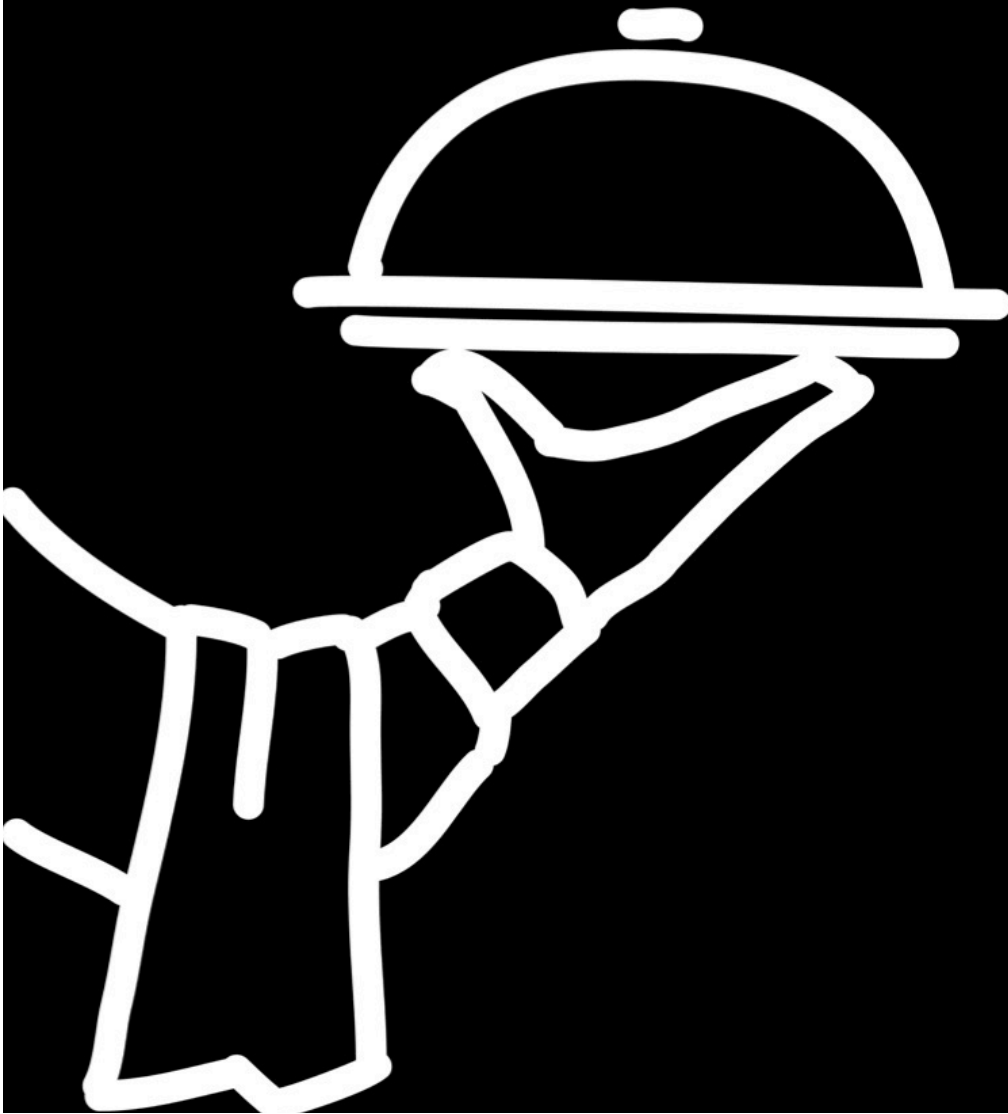
**Diligent
Response
#1**

then

**Diligent
Response
#2**

***Two Responses to God's
Restoration***

I. **Serve** God diligently (Neh 1–7).



**The remnant
responded to God's
faithful restoration
of Jerusalem's wall
under Nehemiah by
diligent service
(Neh 1–7).**



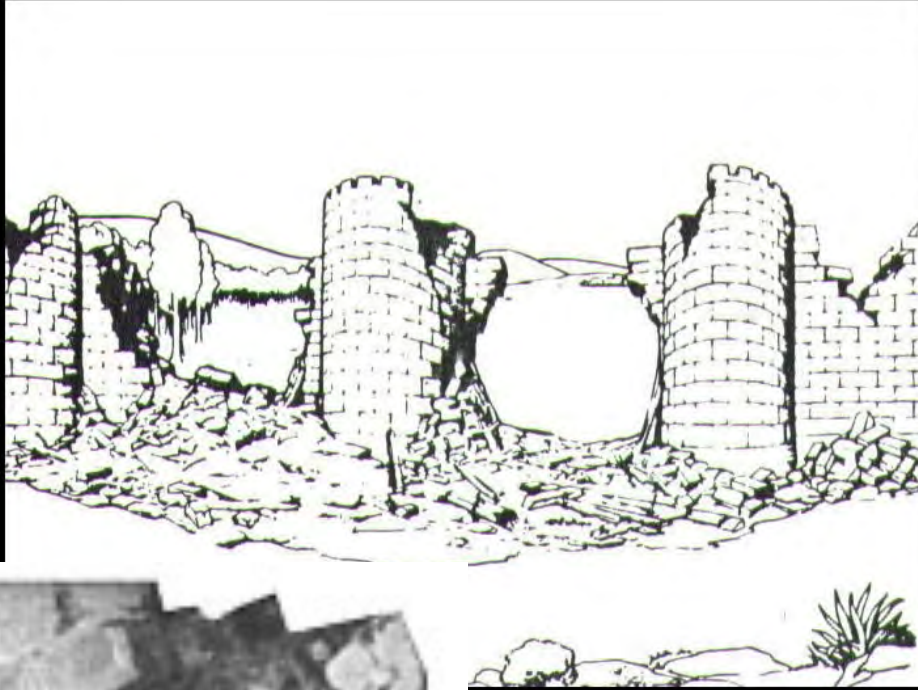
Nehemiah 1



**How can you know if
God **wants** you to do
a certain task?**

God gives us the **information** we need to do His will (1:1-3).





**God informed
Nehemiah of
Jerusalem's
sad state
without a
wall (1:1-3).**

Borders of the Land Promised to Abraham



Genesis 15:18

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates” (ESV)

Herodium

Bethlehem

Church of Nativity

**Rachel's
Tomb**

Tantur

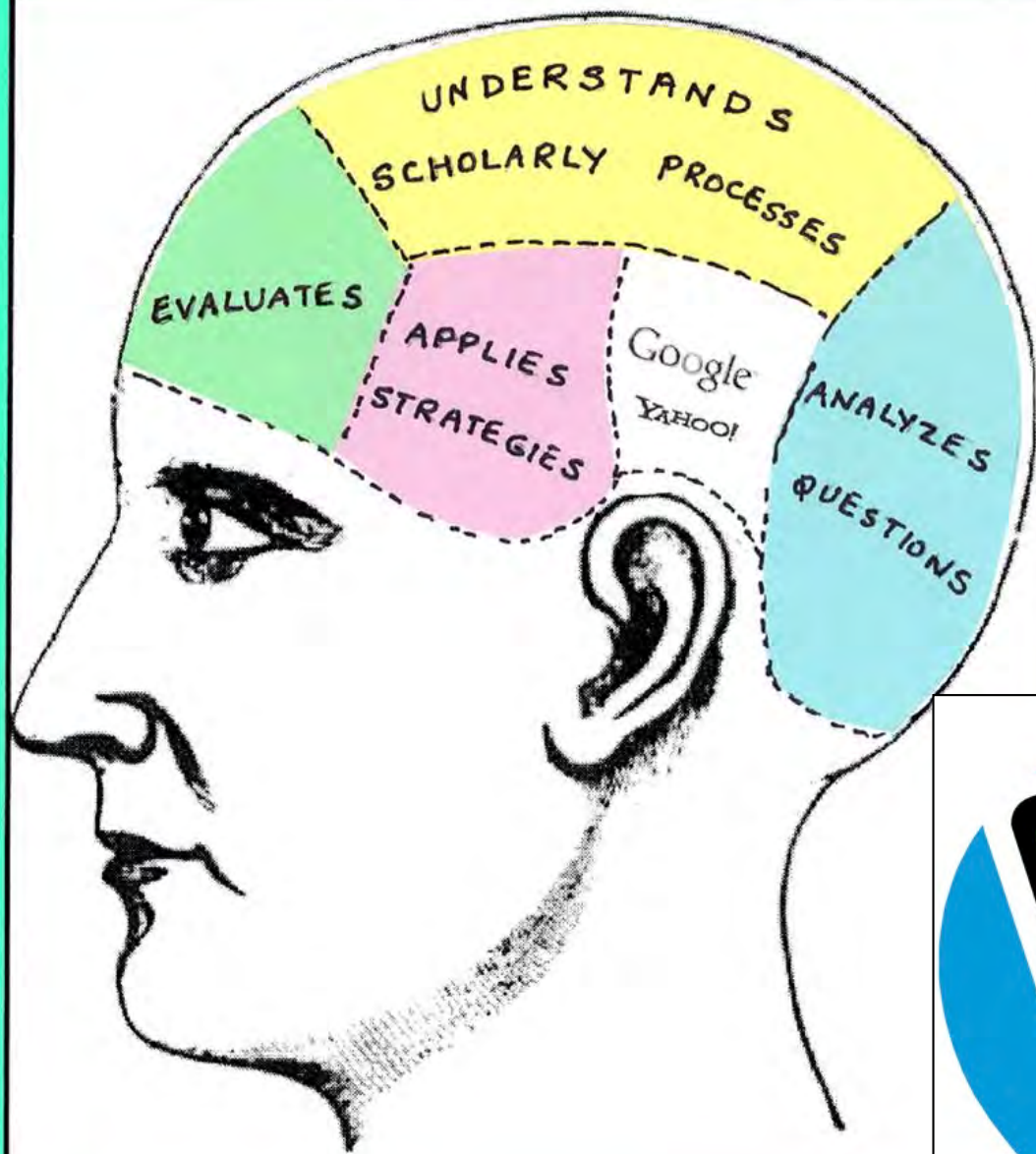
Mar Elias

Har Homa

Ramat Rahel

Bethlehem aerial from north near Jerusalem





**God also
informs us
how to
serve Him.**



God gives us the **vision
we need to do His will (1:4-11a).**





**God also gives us a vision to serve Him.
What's on your heart today?**



God gives us the **position
we need to do His will (1:11b).**





The Cupbearer

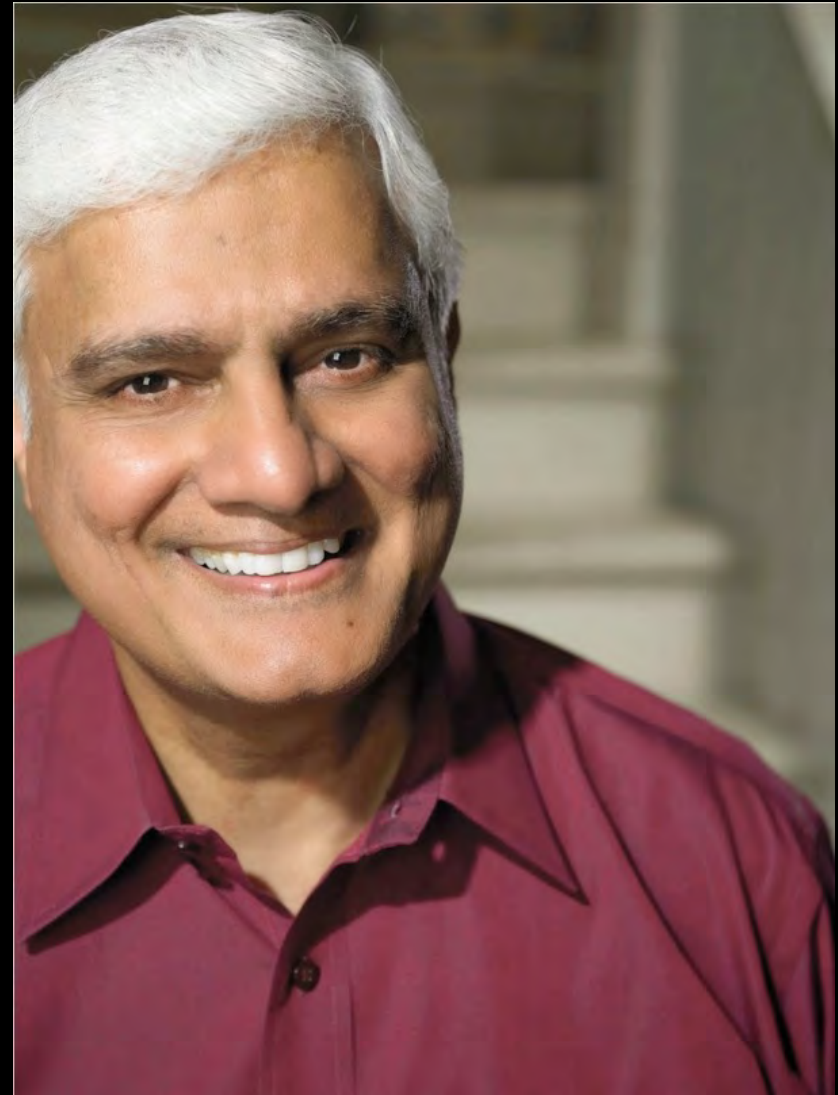


Warren Wiersbe...

Secular Work?

"We are all priests before God, there is no such distinction as 'secular or sacred.' In fact, the opposite of **sacred** is not secular; the opposite of sacred is **profane**. In short, no follower of Christ does secular work. We all have a sacred calling."

— *Ravi Zacharias* —



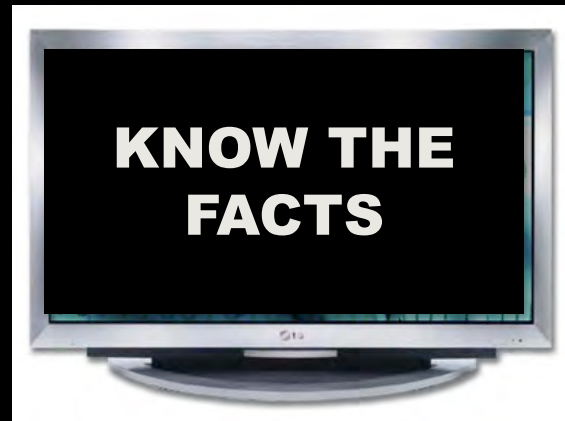


**How can you know if
God **wants** you to do
a certain task?**

Key Idea of Nehemiah 1

God gives you the

information,



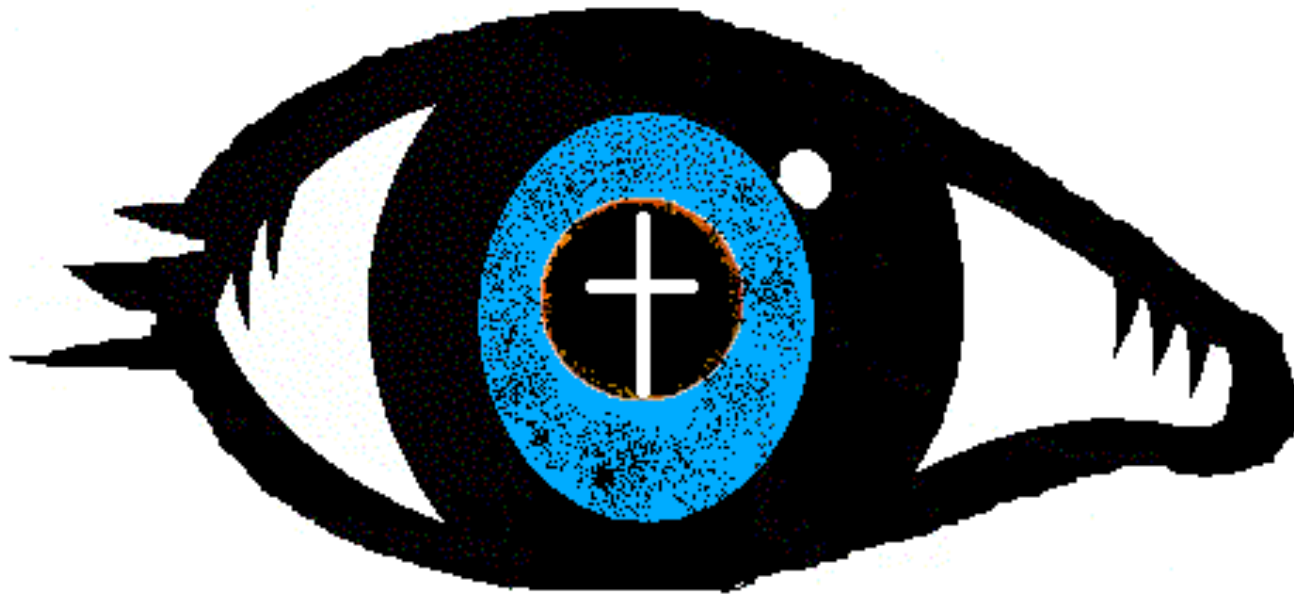
vision

& position



you need to do His will.

**What knowledge, faith, and
place of influence has God
given you?**



**What does God want you
to do with it?**




Prayer and vision



King's Help Granted



Nehemiah 2

The background of the slide is a photograph of a person's shadow cast onto a parched, cracked, and textured ground. The shadow is dark and elongated, positioned on the left side of the frame. The ground is a mix of light brown and tan colors with deep, irregular cracks.

Nehemiah 2:11-20

Restoring God's Honor

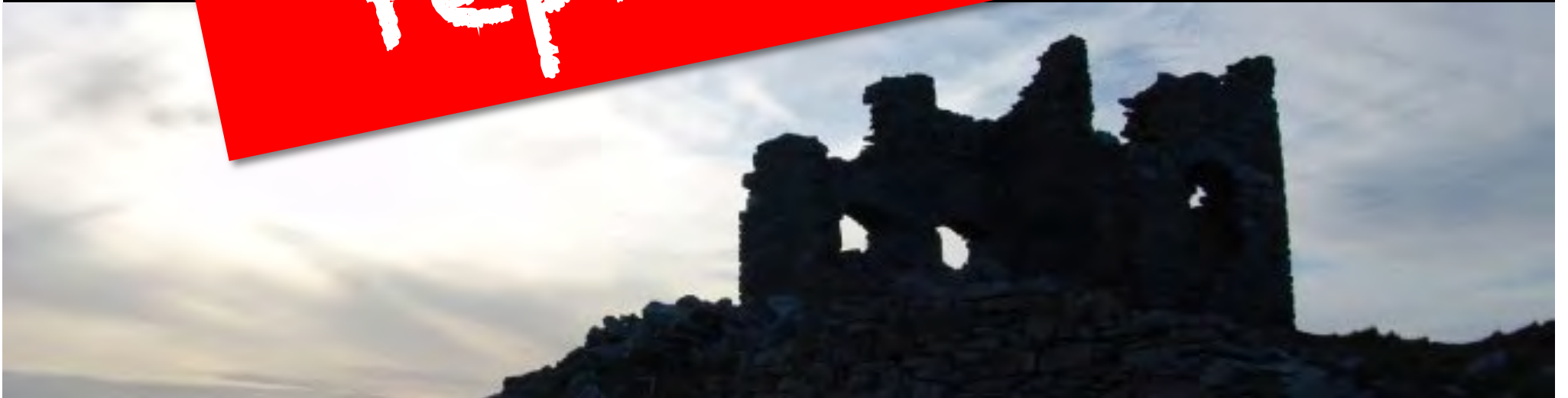
Temple But No Walls



Nehemiah 1:1–2:10

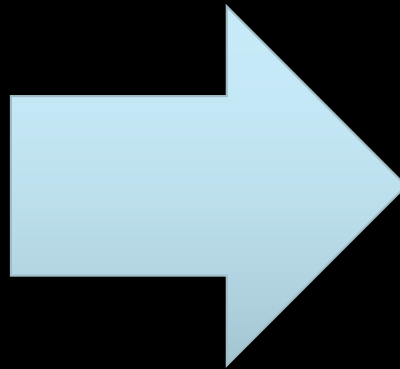
Summary

God
reproached!





The Cupbearer



**Willing to be a
foreman**



**How does God
restore us?**

(3 ways in Neh 2)

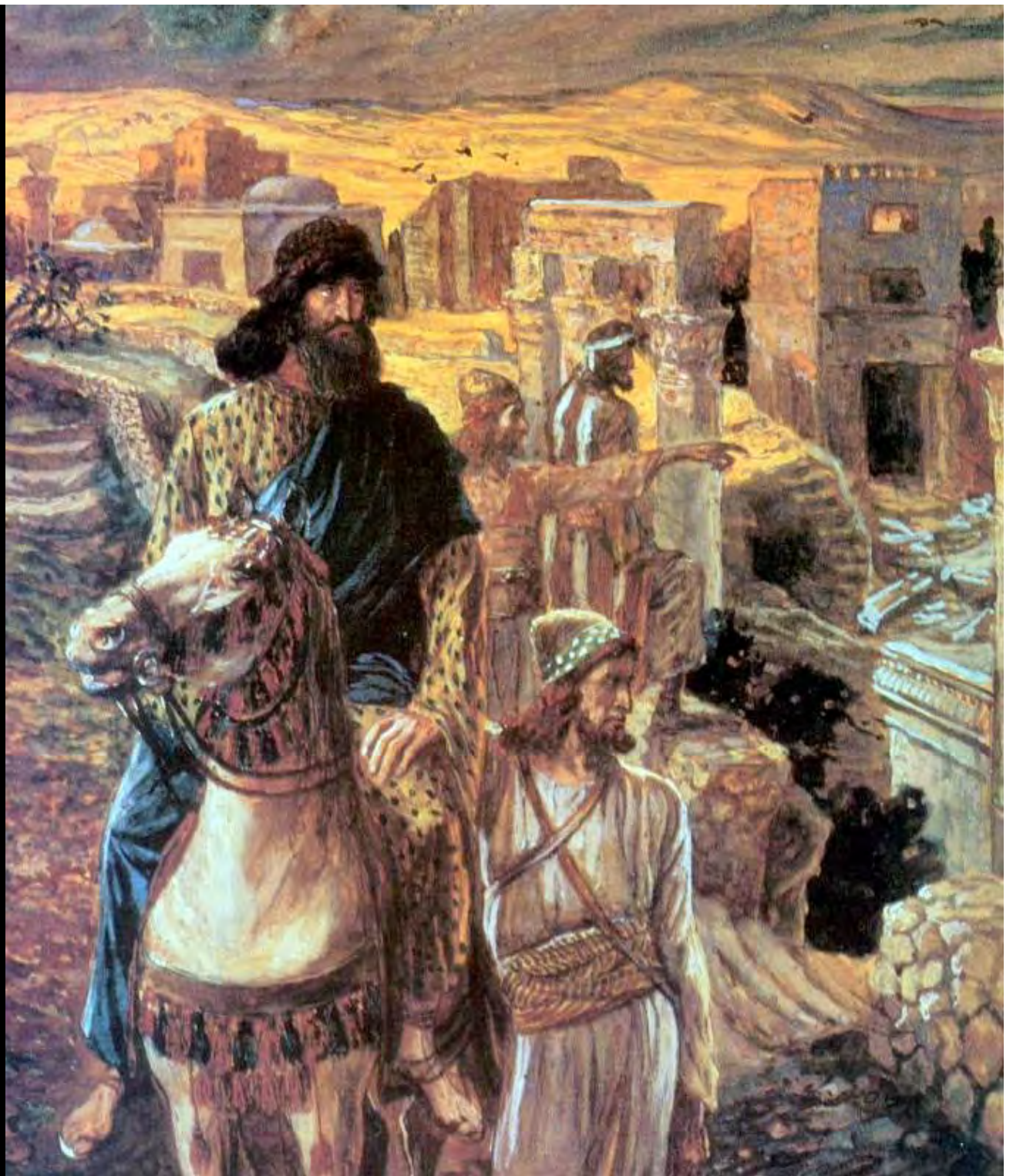
1. God **informs us of our
sad state of affairs
(2:11-15).**





“I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days ¹²I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on” (2:11-12 NIV).

”By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire” (2:13 NIV).



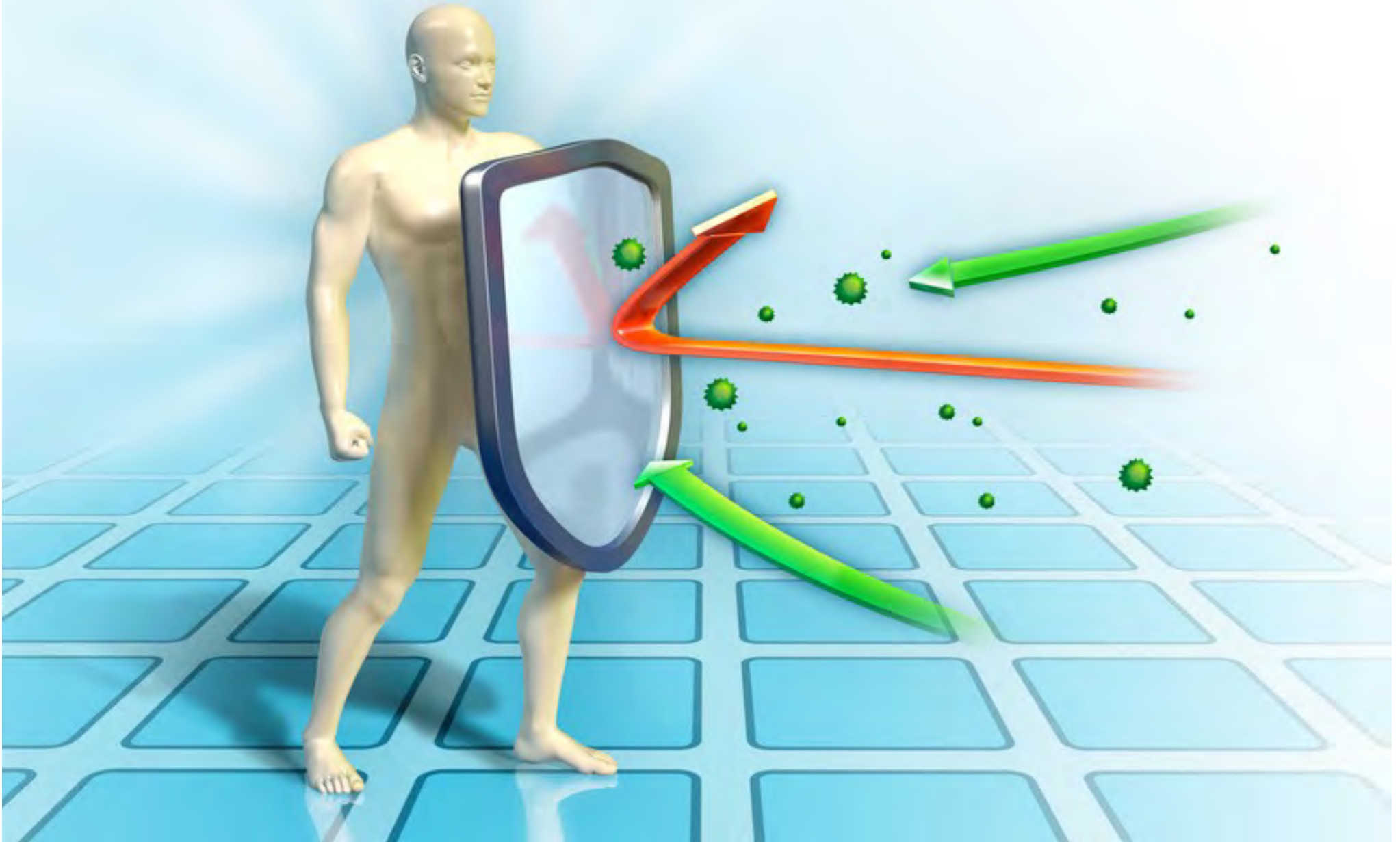


**Nehemiah
wisely
investigated
the situation
before
getting
started**

2. God **rallies us to honor his name
once again (2:16-18).**

HANDS & FEET

3. God **defends** us against potential setbacks (2:19-20).



Nehemiah 3

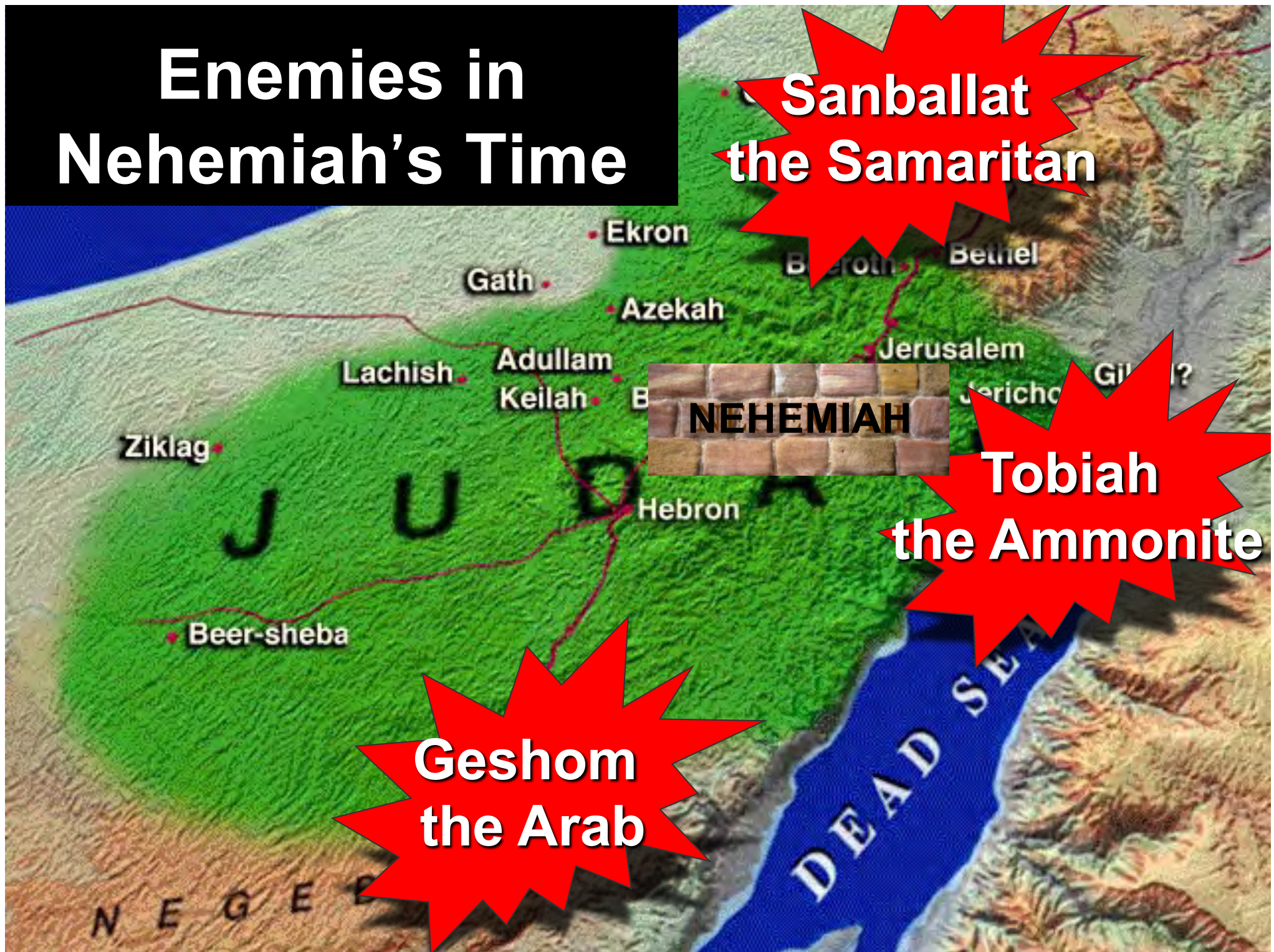
Enemies in Nehemiah's Time

**Sanballat
the Samaritan**

**Tobiah
the Ammonite**

**Geshom
the Arab**

NEHEMIAH



**How does God help us serve Him
when we're **opposed**?**



1. God helps us to be **sensible** to overcome opposition.

A. Nehemiah 3 makes sense...



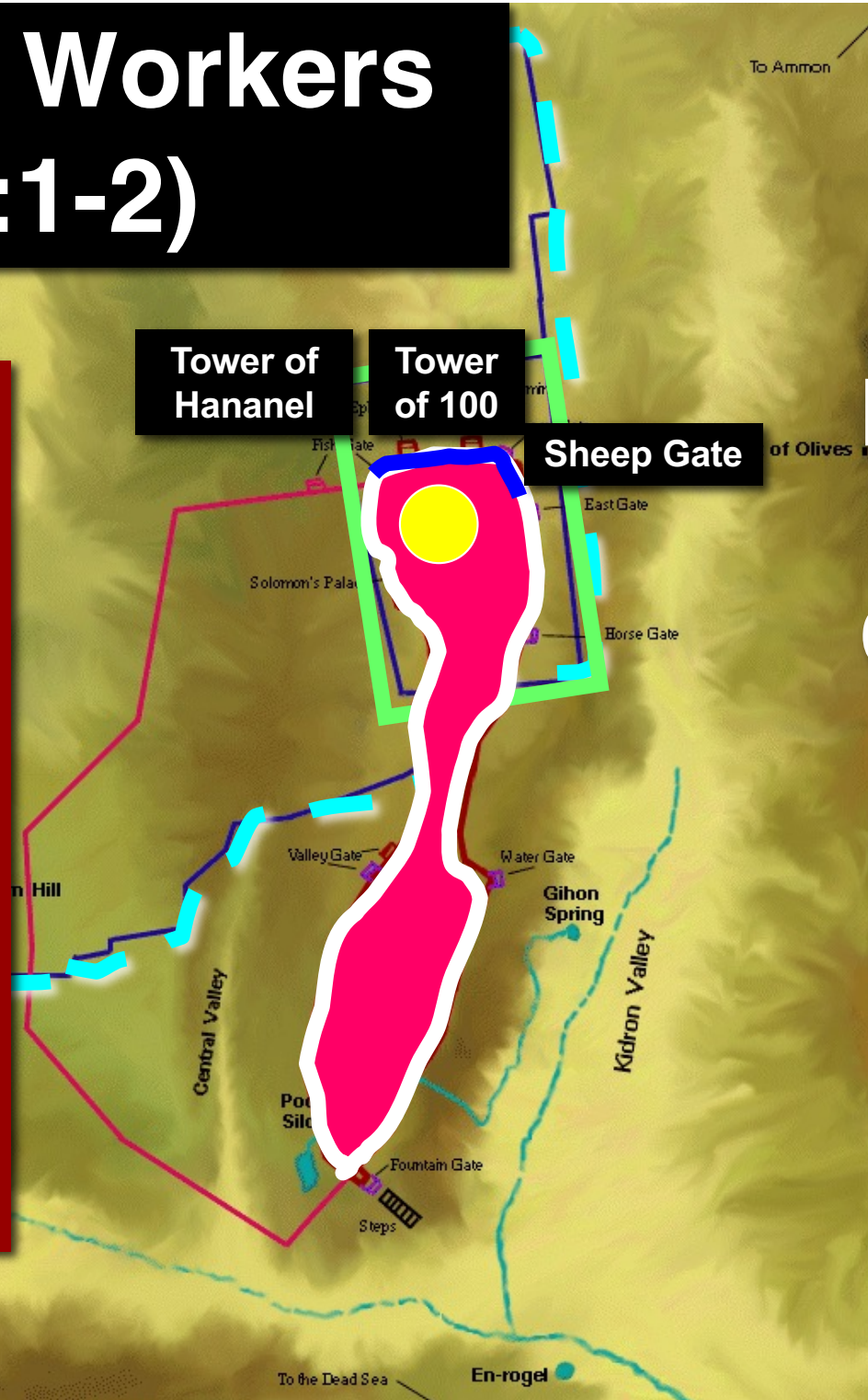
- **Geographic:** They worked at the right spots on the wall

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:1-2)

304

¹Then **Eliashib the high priest** and the **other priests** started to rebuild at the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set up its doors, building the wall as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and the Tower of Hananel.

²People from the town of **Jericho** worked next to them, and beyond them was Zaccur son of Imri.

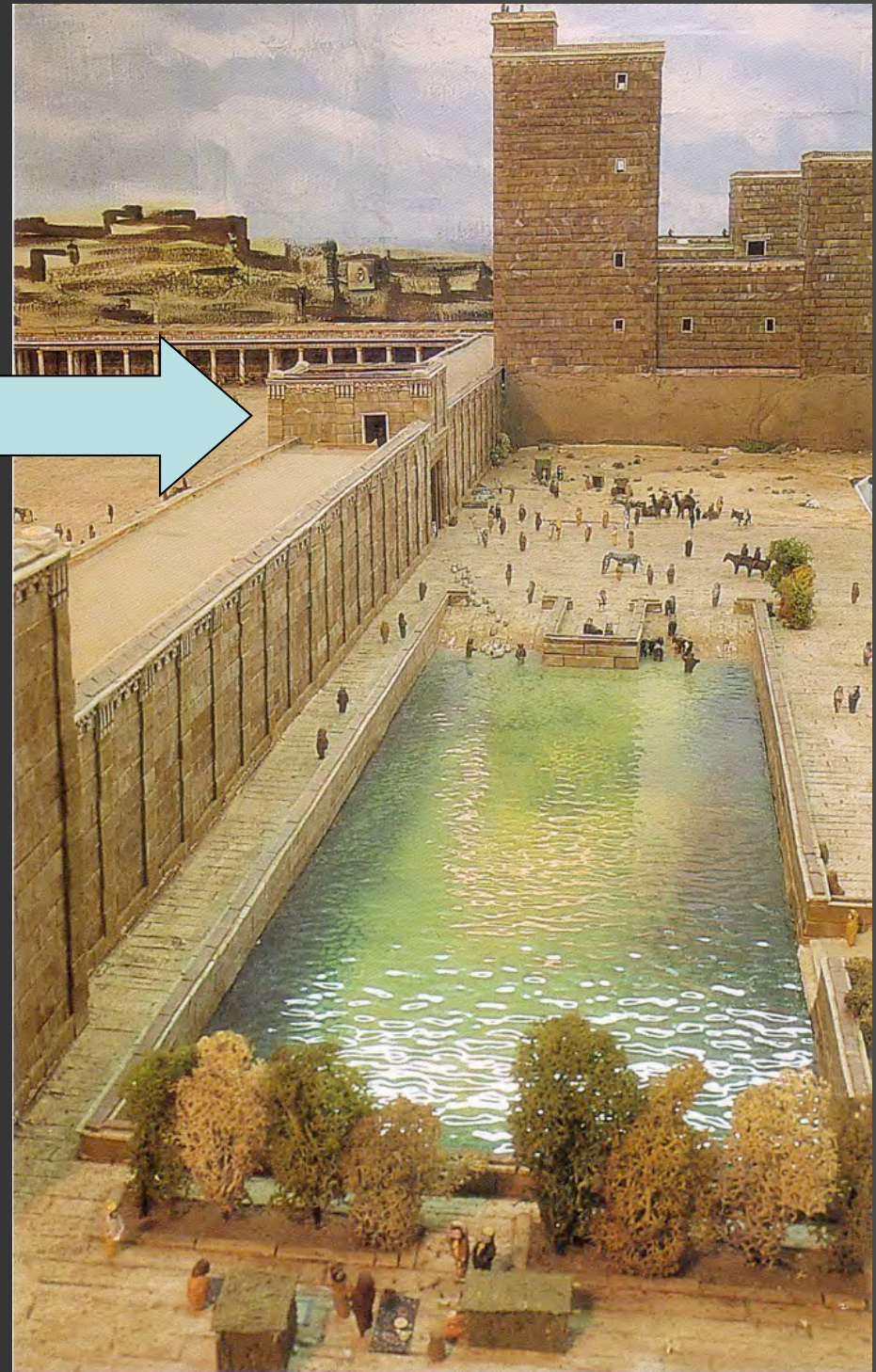
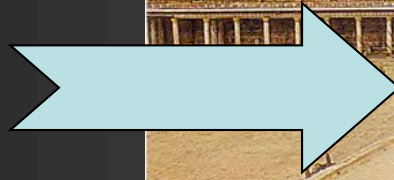


Mount
of
Olives

The Sheep Gate

North of the temple,
it connected the
Sheep Pool to the
temple complex.

(looking west)



Opposing Quotes on Work

British humorist Jerome K. Jerome said, **“I like work, it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours.”**

Wiersbe notes, **“When it comes to the work of the Lord, there is no place for spectators or self-appointed advisors and critics; but there is always room for workers.”**

1. God helps us to be **sensible**
to overcome opposition

A. Nehemiah 3 makes sense...



- **Geographic:** They worked at the right spots on the wall
- **Communal**
- **Inconvenient**
- **Complete**
- **Reasonable**



B. God calls US
to serve him in
sensible
ways to protect
His church

**Play your own
instrument**



1. God helps us to be **sensible**
to overcome opposition.



2. God helps
us to be
united to
overcome
opposition.



A. God
united all
kinds of
Jews to work
as common
laborers



**A. God
united all
kinds of
Jews to work
as common
laborers**

- **Priests (1, 22, 28)**
- **Goldsmiths (8a, 31, 32)**
- **Perfumer (8b)**
- **Political leaders (9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19)**
- **Women & men (12)**
- **Levites (17)**
- **Merchants (32)**
- **Even people from outside the city (2, 5, 7)**





Bound sticks

The Main Idea of Nehemiah 3

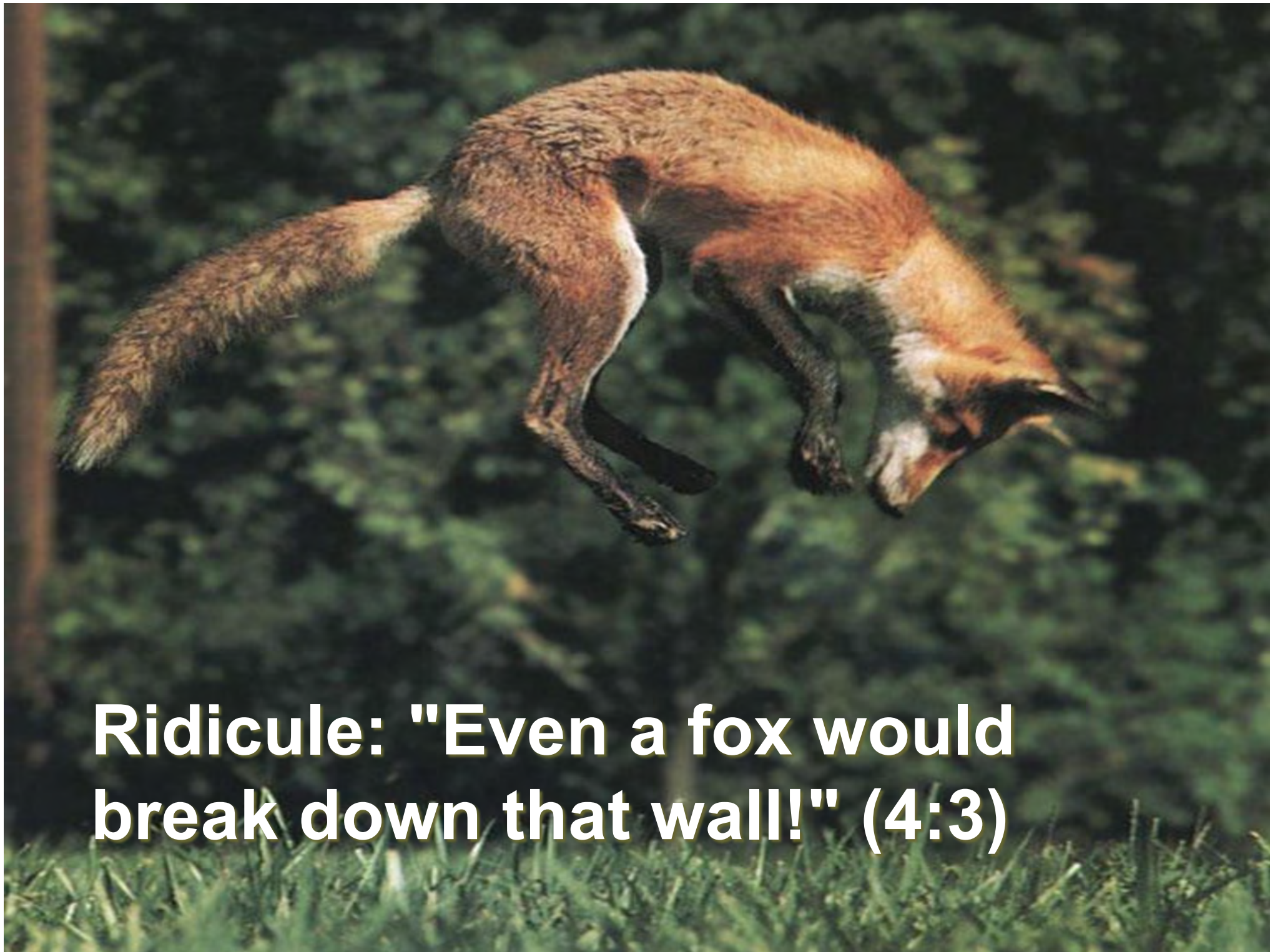


God fights **opposition** through a **sensible** plan that includes us all.

Nehemiah 4



**Opposition to
Building the Wall**



**Ridicule: "Even a fox would
break down that wall!" (4:3)**

Respond to external discouragement and danger with

- God-dependent prayer,
- God-informed planning, and
- God-empowered action.



**Main Idea of
Nehemiah 4**

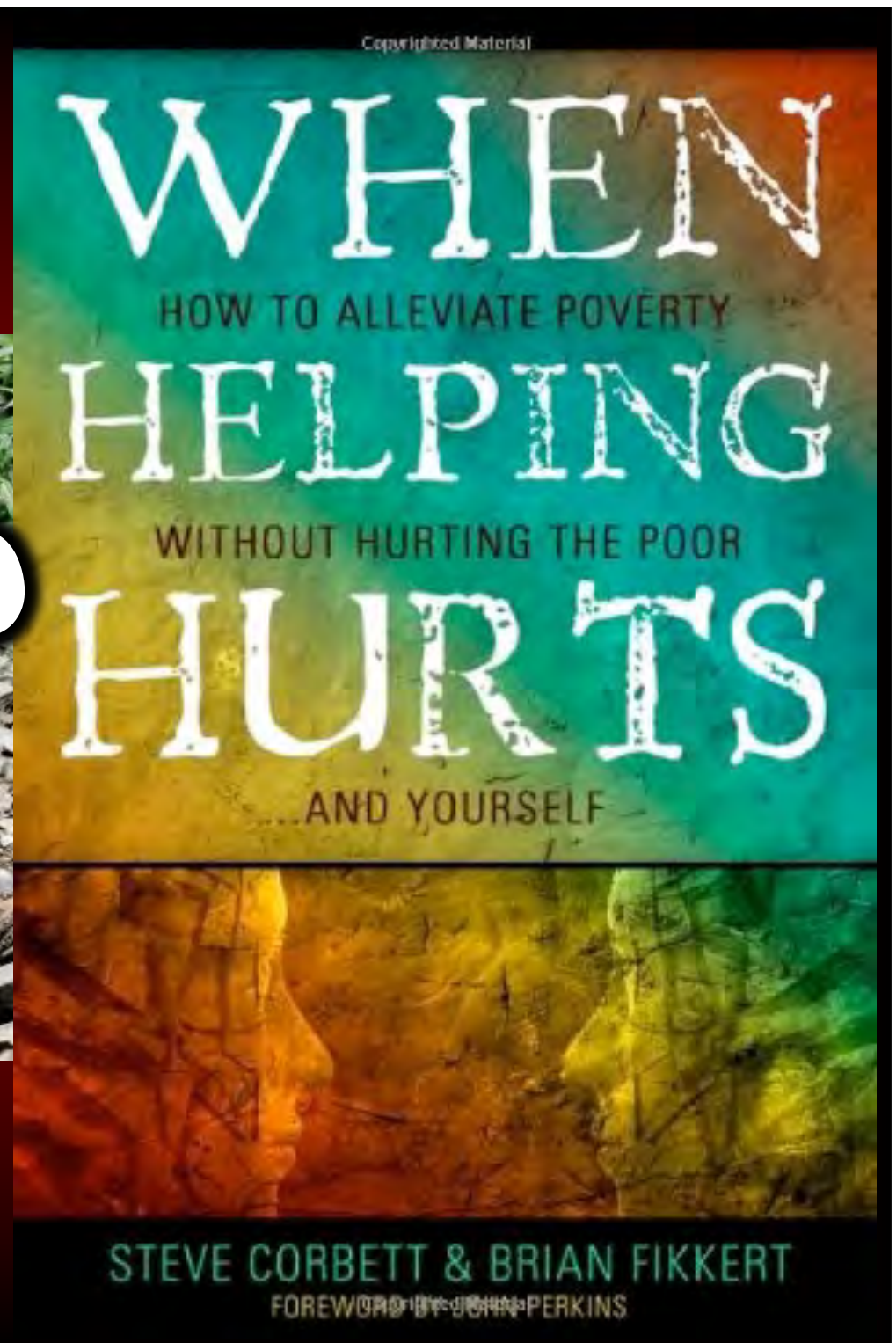
Nehemiah 5

Do **YOU** help the poor?

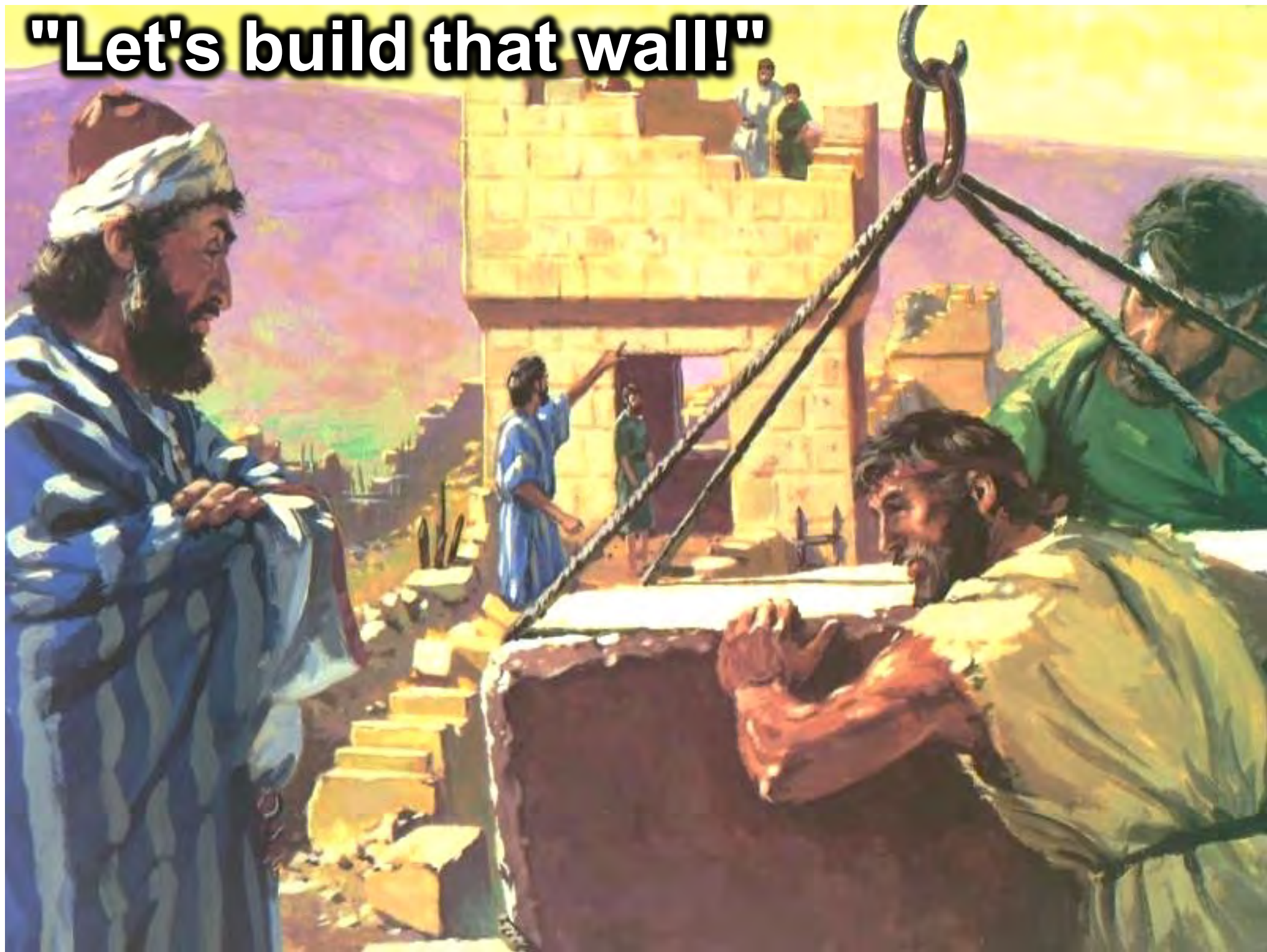


How

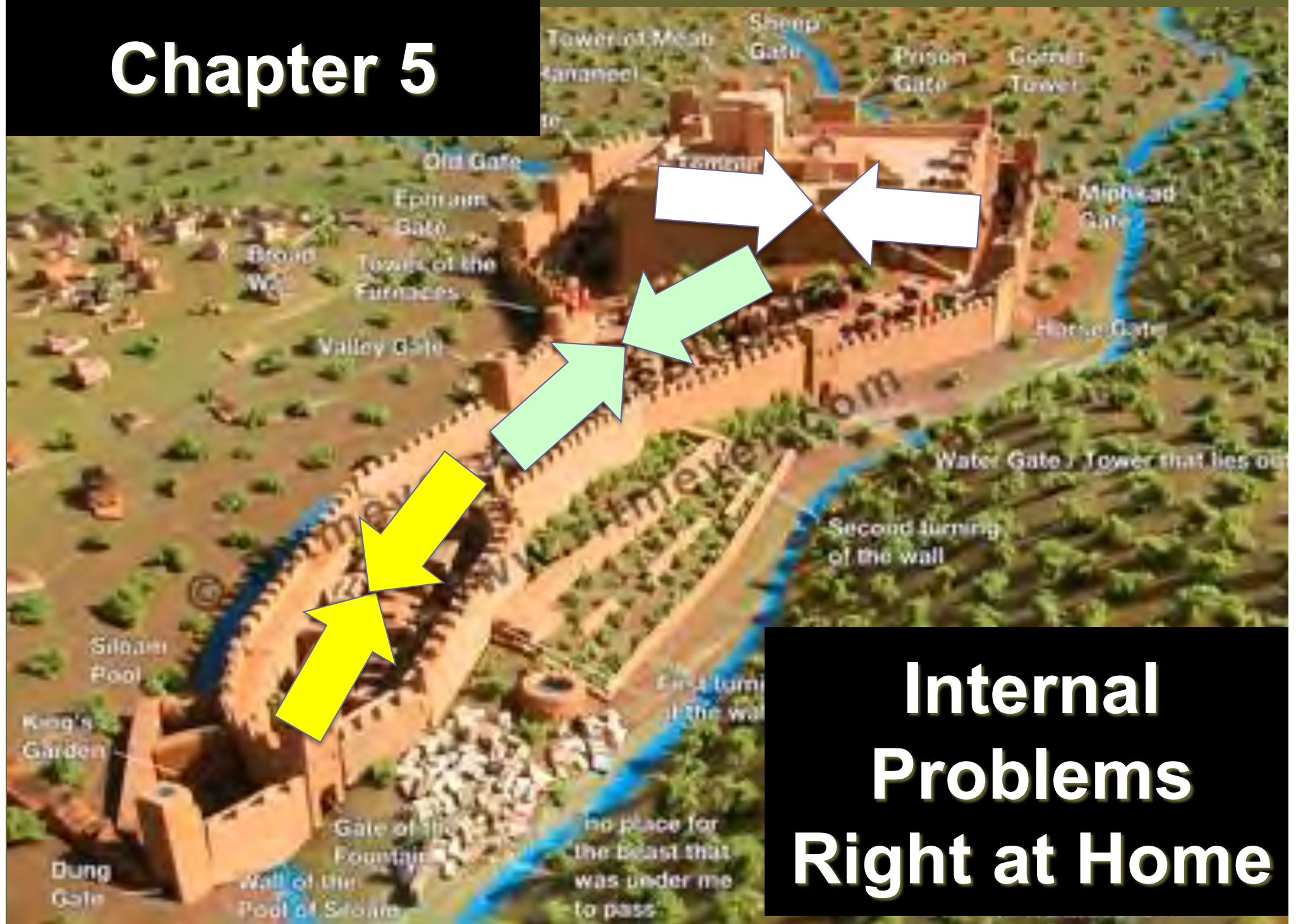
**should
we help
the
poor?**



"Let's build that wall!"



Chapter 5



**Internal
Problems
Right at Home**

- We can focus too much on Nehemiah as a construction manager.
- But he was also a man of prayer.
- In Nehemiah 5 we also see that he responds to the cry of the poor.
- Do we?

Prayer



Compassion

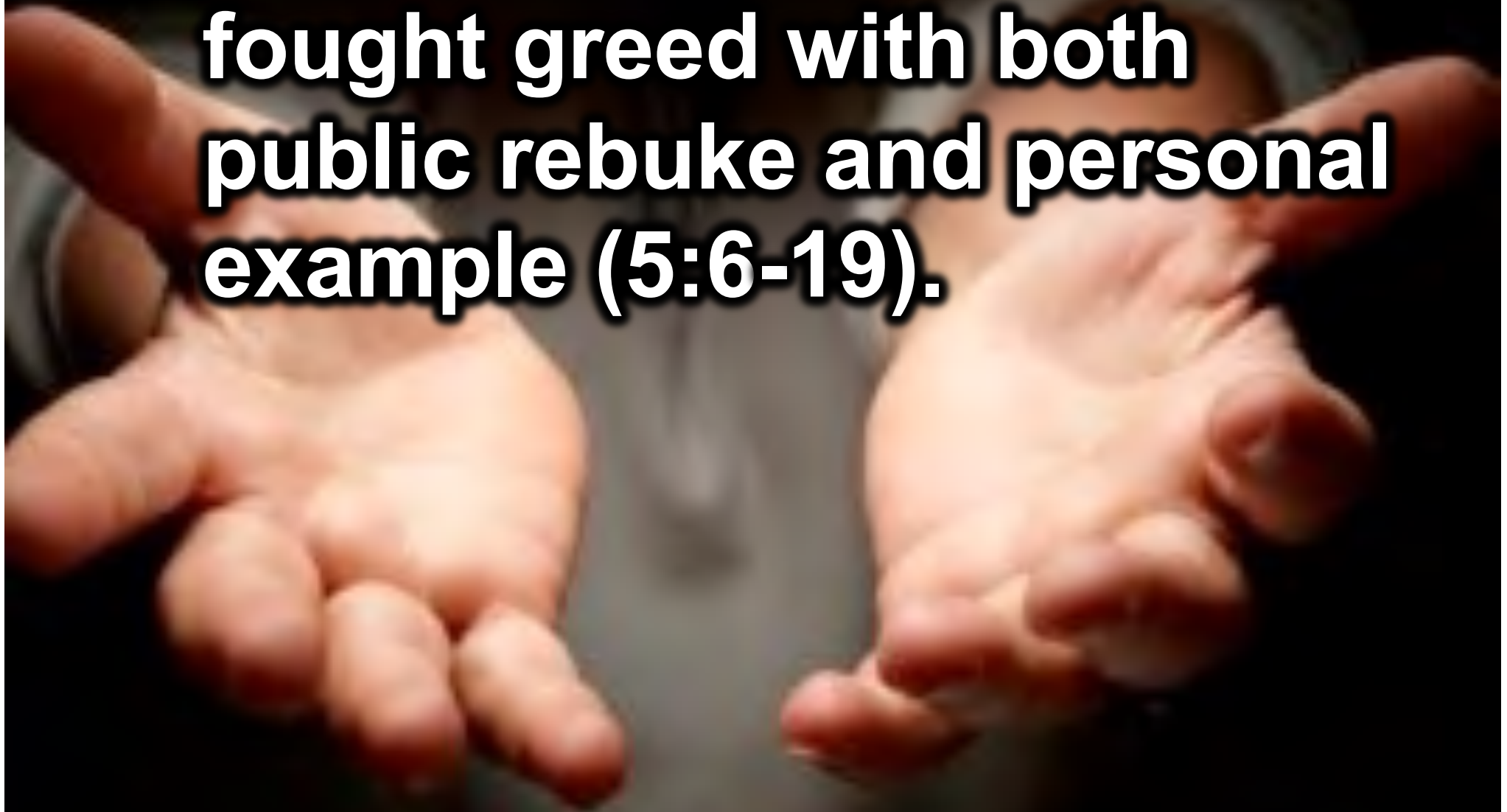


**1. Nehemiah helped the poor
by fighting greed in others
and in his own life (5:1-19).**

A. The problem: A famine enabled wealthy Jews to take advantage of poorer Jews (5:1-5).



B. The solution: Nehemiah fought greed with both public rebuke and personal example (5:6-19).



2. Help the poor by **fighting greed.**



**Be
generous
yourself.**



Nehemiah's Example

- **Nehemiah used personal resources instead of demanding more from the people.**
- **The cries of the poor impacted the way he did his job and how he leveraged the roles and resources that God had given him.**
- **He understood that God cares for the poor and called him (and calls us) to respond with compassion and action.**



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~ Luis Bush, Th.M., Former President, AD 2000

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"And what you have heard me say . . . entrust to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well."

- 2 Timothy 2:2

IBS Vision



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How
should
we help
the
poor?



MAIN IDEA



Replace **greed**



with **generosity**

How can
you
help
the poor?





**WE HAVE TO CHOOSE TO
HEAR THEIR CRIES AND
RESPOND**

or ignore their need.

Missions

21%



With many thanks & Prayers
Babychen, Susan, Benita & Benjamin

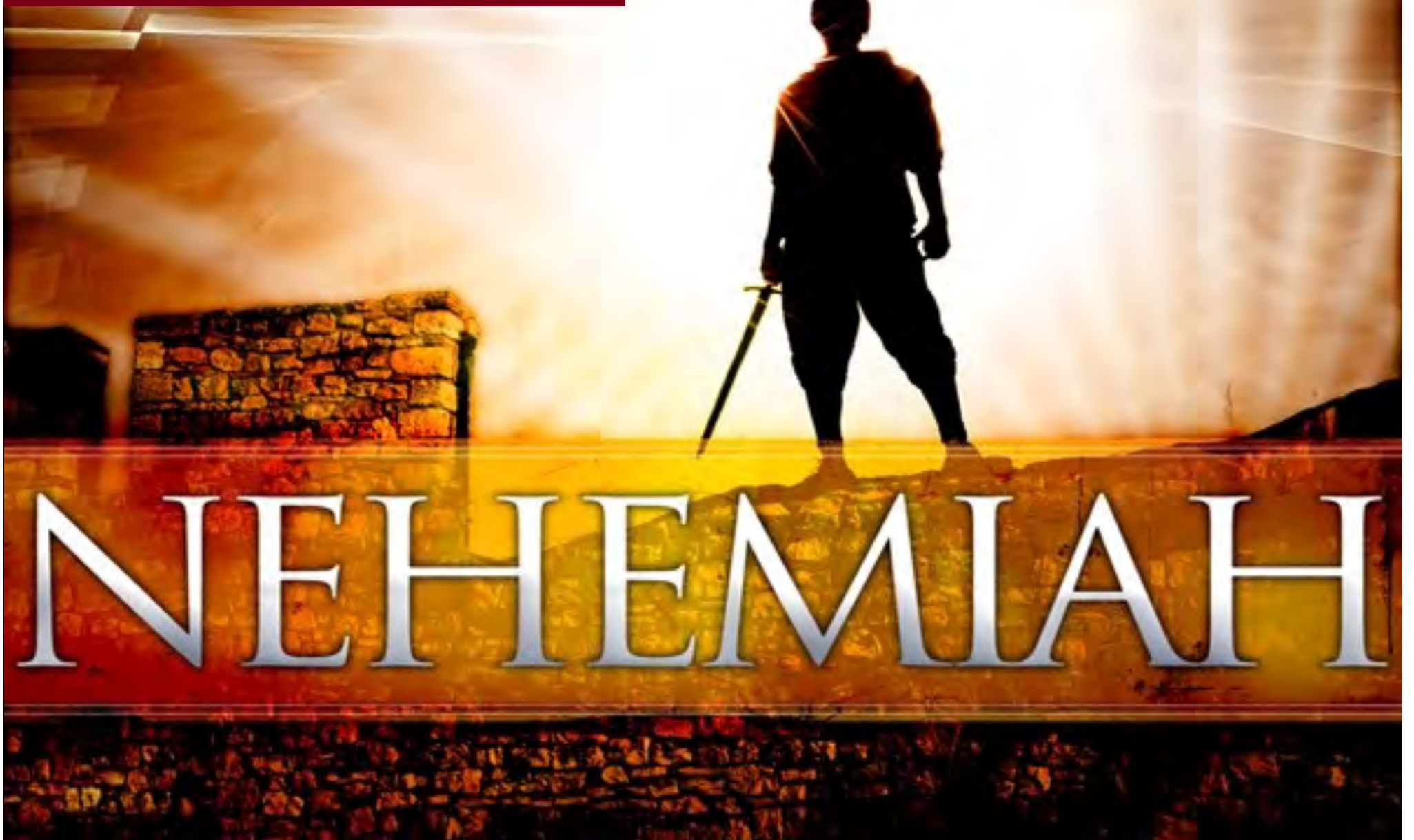




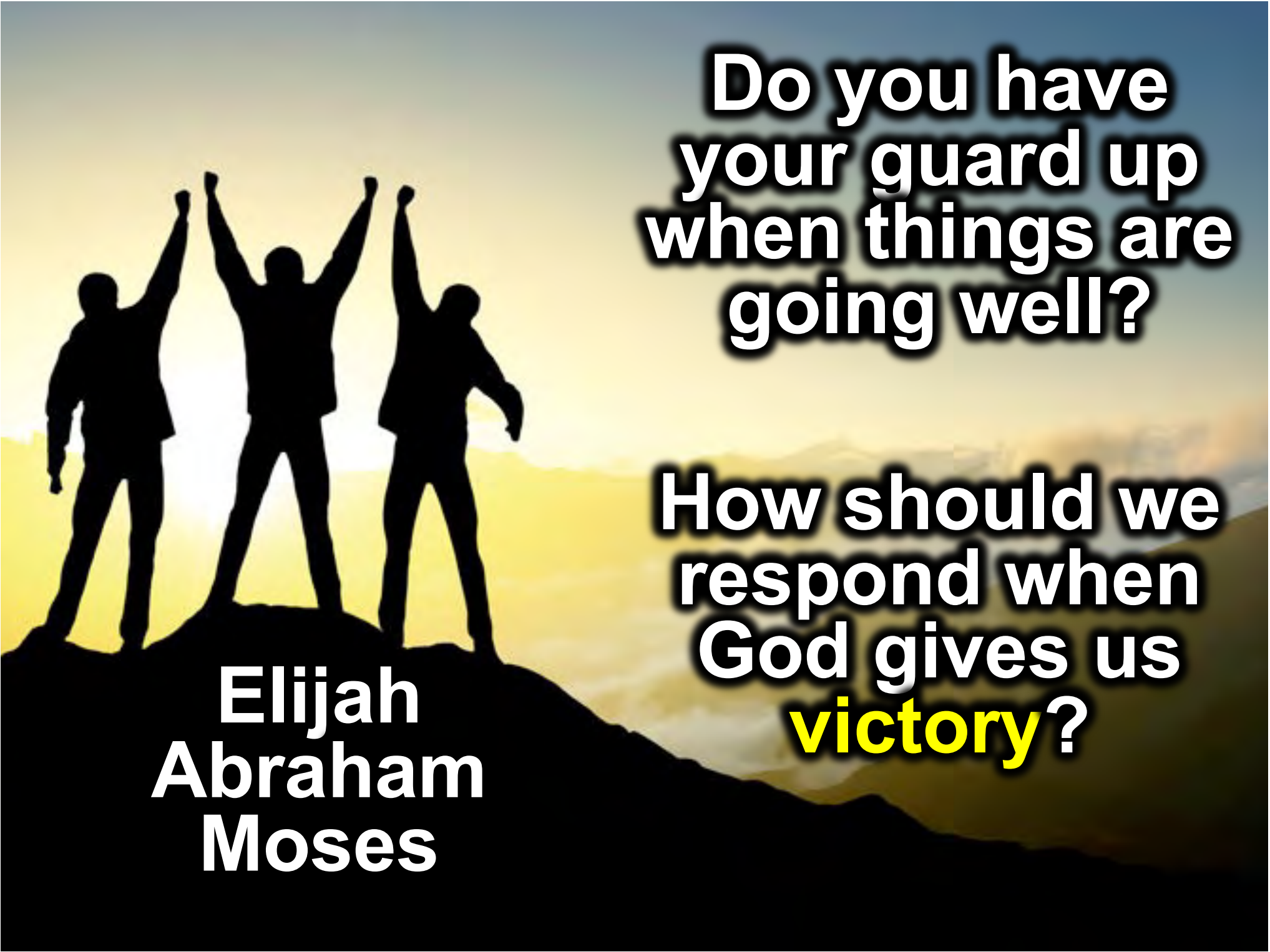
*What **one way** can
you be generous?*

Nehemiah 6

Nehemiah 6:15–7:3



Guarding the Work of God's Hand



Do you have
your guard up
when things are
going well?

How should we
respond when
God gives us
victory?

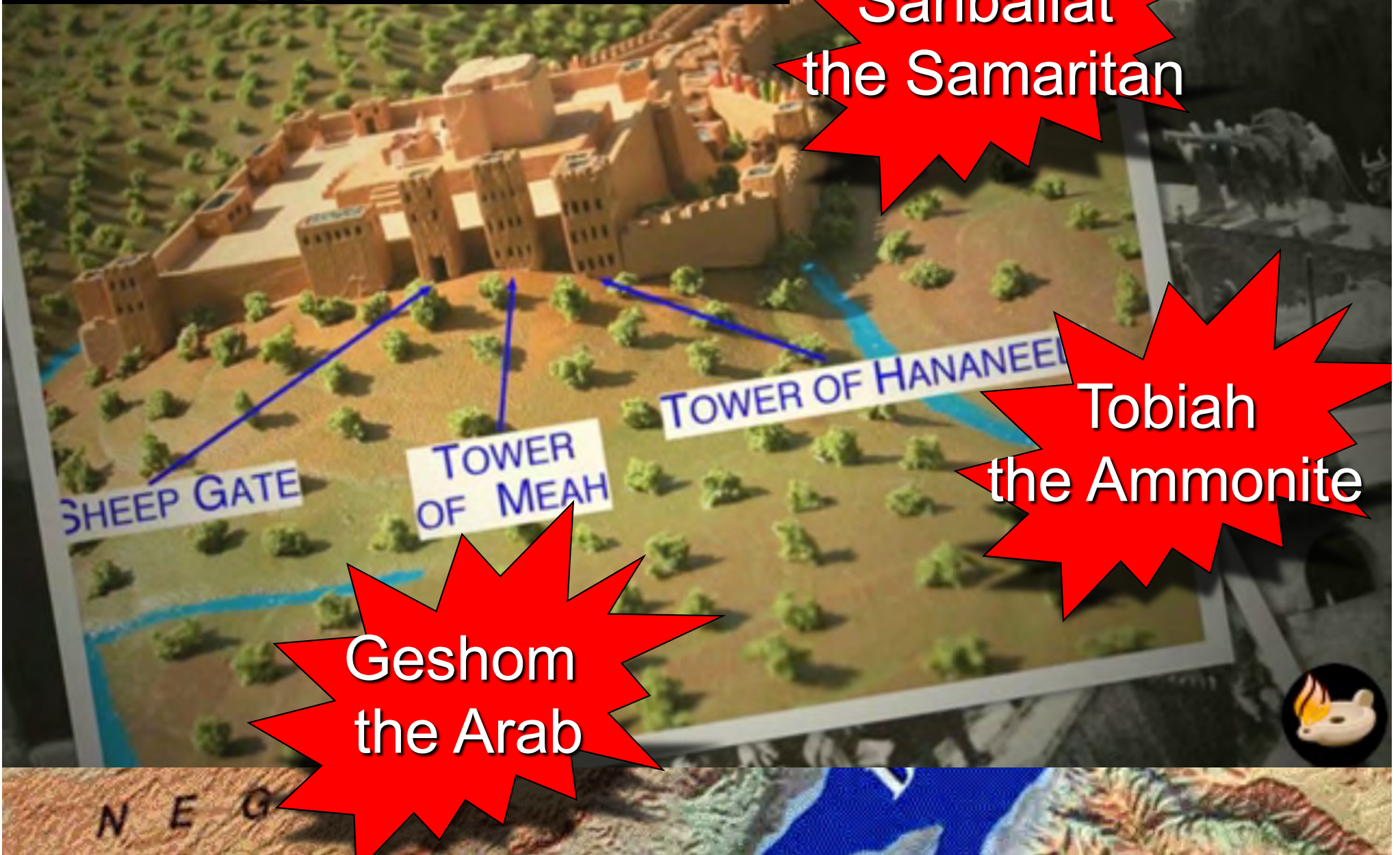
Elijah
Abraham
Moses

Nehemiah's External Opposition

Sanballat
the Samaritan

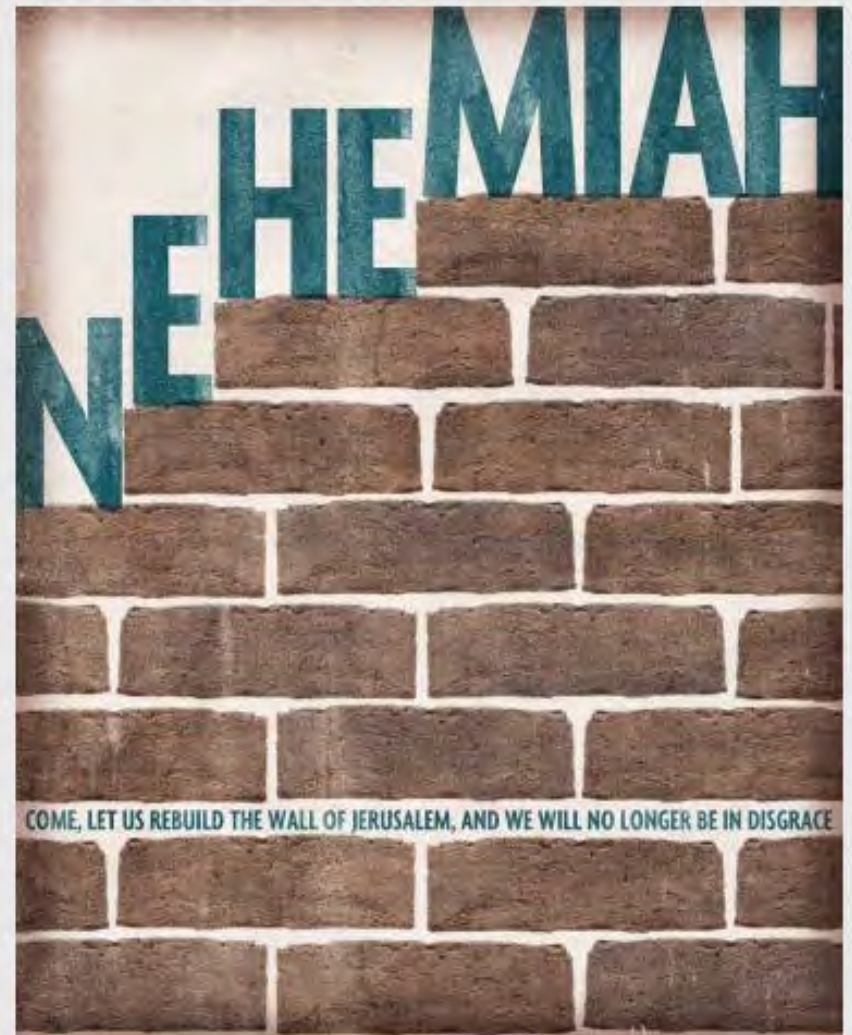
Tobiah
the Ammonite

Geshom
the Arab



"So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun. ¹⁶ When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God" (6:15-16 NLT).

Finally Finished!



Responses to God's Work



Oppose it

Guard it



**I. Expect
some to
oppose
God's work
(6:17-19).**



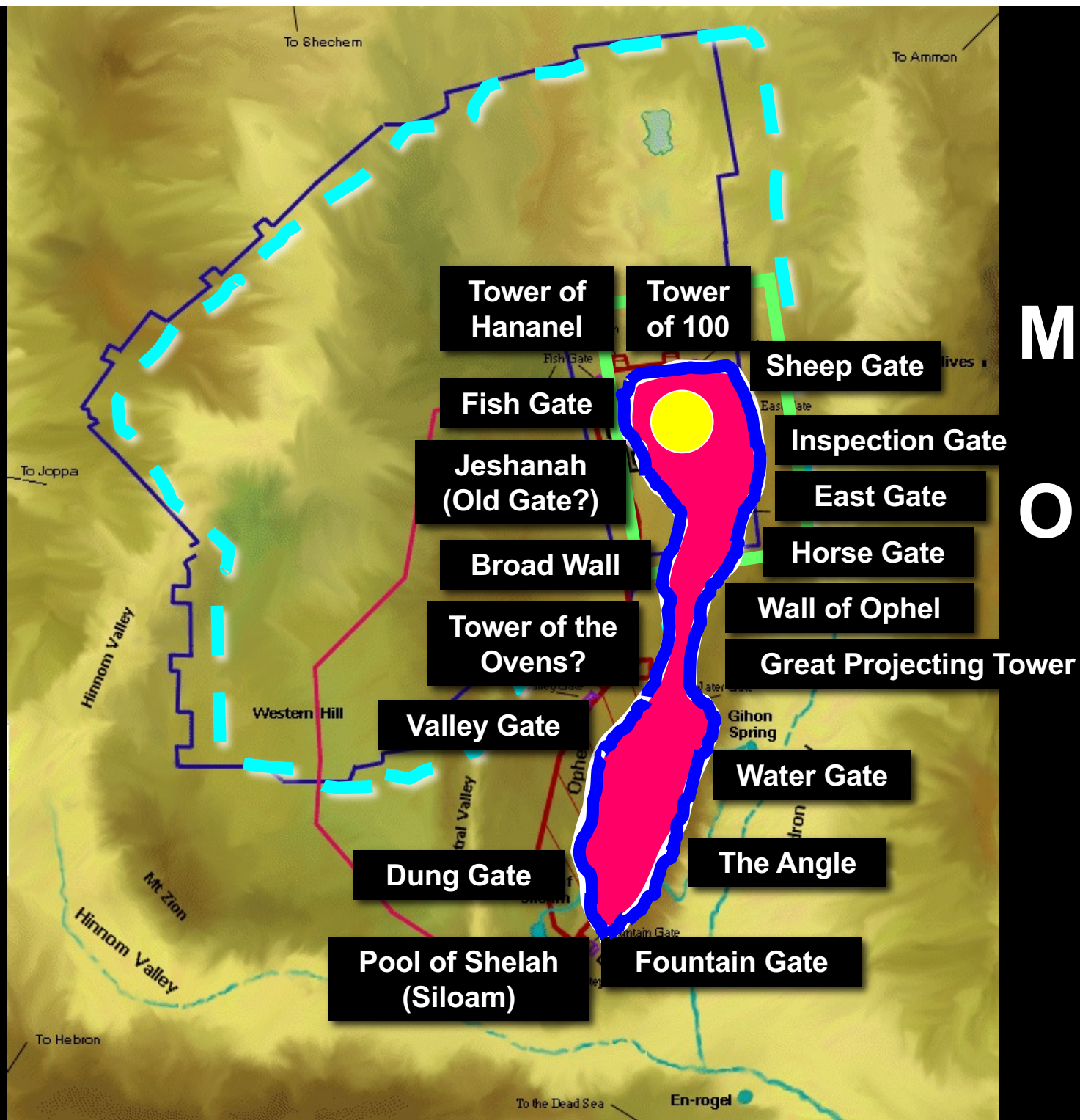
***To every action
there is always an
equal and
opposite reaction***

—Isaac Newton

Opposition to Building the Wall



Mount of Olives



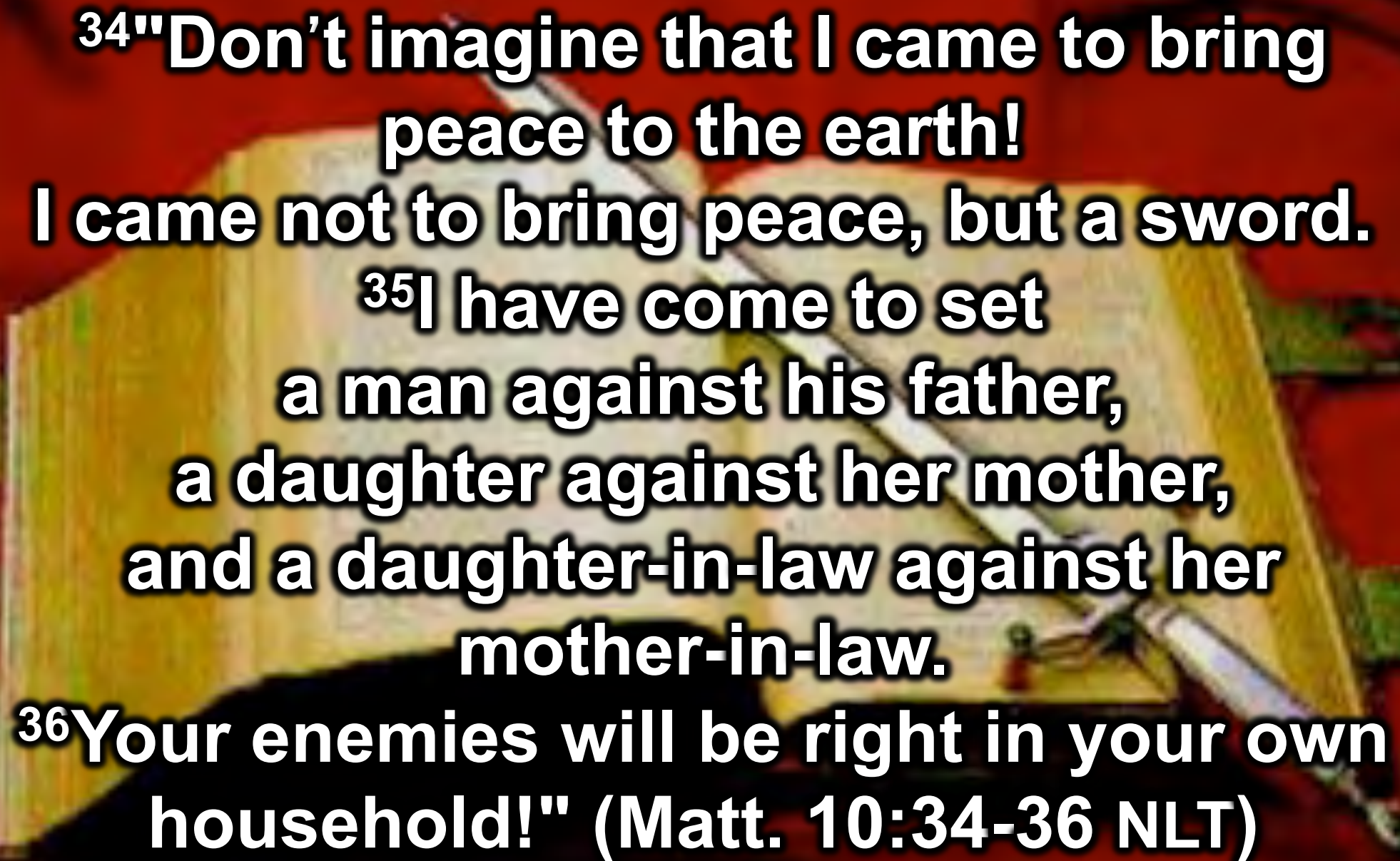
Nehemiah 6:17-19

■ The work of God is **opposed**—again!

- Tobiah has powerful **political partners** (17-18)
- Tobiah has insidious **inside informers** (19a)
- Tobiah has sent **scary statements** (19b)

Are you opposed?





**34" Don't imagine that I came to bring
peace to the earth!
I came not to bring peace, but a sword.**

**35I have come to set
a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her
mother-in-law.**

**36Your enemies will be right in your own
household!" (Matt. 10:34-36 NLT)**

Jesus promised family opposition

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"Me? Be a Christian at work?"



**Opposing
Our
Church**



CROSSROADS
international church



**1. Expect
some to
oppose
God's work
(6:17-19).**

Nehemiah 7

2. **Guard** God's work (7:1-3).




Nehemiah responded to threats by **guarding the city (7:1-3).**





**Some guarded
the gates and
others
guarded their
homes**



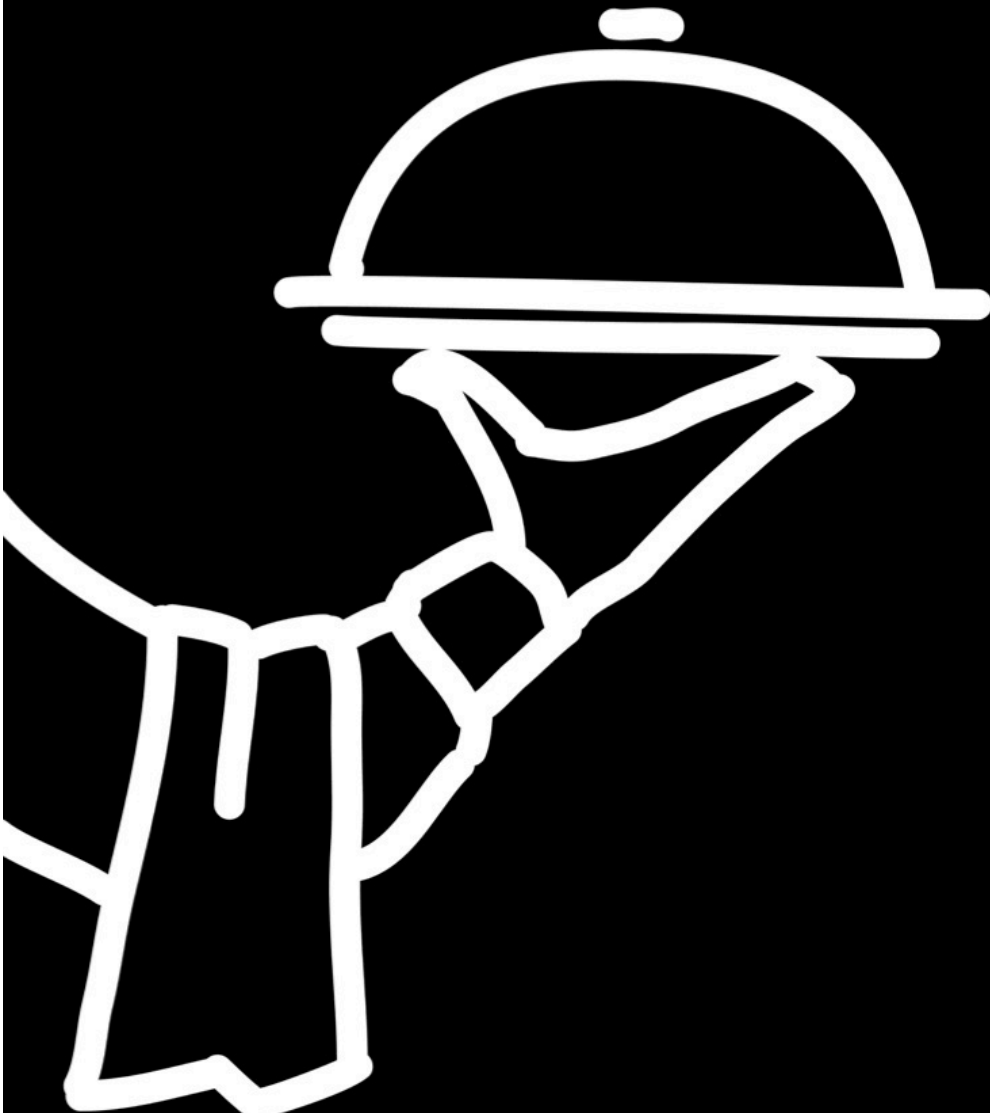
The Main Idea of Nehemiah 6:15–7:3

**Guard
God's
work!**

**How should you respond
to God's faithfulness to
restore you?**



I. **Serve** God diligently (Neh 1–7).



II. **Worship** God diligently (Neh 8–13).



Nehemiah 8



Reading the Law Brought Revival (Neh. 8:8, 18; 9:3)

Nehemiah 9

Community Renewal

Nehemiah 8–10

Nehemiah
8

CONVICTION

Nehemiah
9

CONFESSION

Nehemiah
10

COVENANT

Nehemiah 10

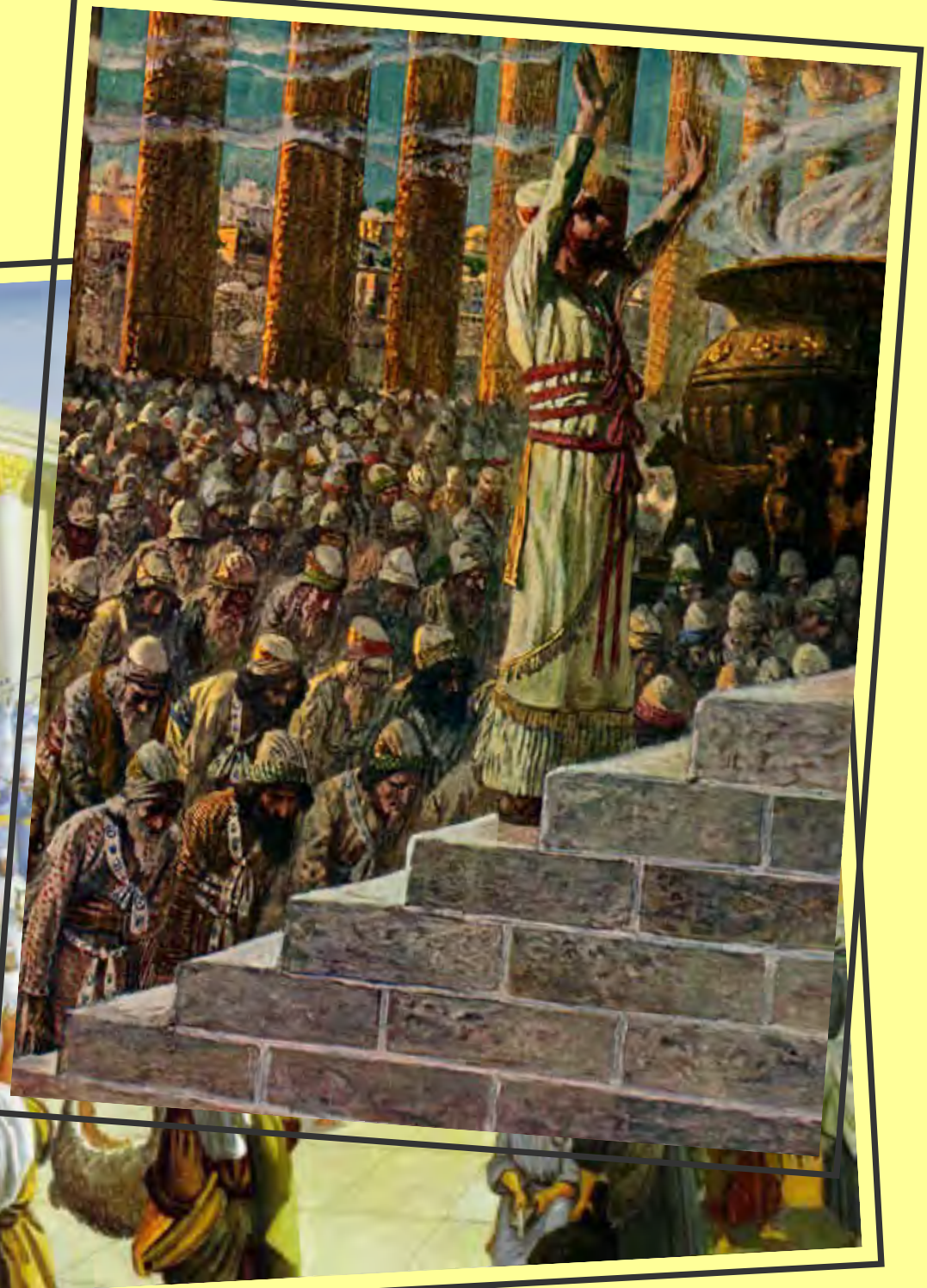
Commitment



COMMITMENT

"Determination is often the first chapter in the book of excellence."

Covenant Renewal



Community Renewal

Nehemiah 8–10

Nehemiah
10

1. **Leaders must lead**
in commitment to
God (9:38–10:27).

COVENANT

I. Leaders

**Leaders
must lead...**



**How should our church renew our
commitment to God?**

**...and followers must
follow**

Nehemiah 11

Key Idea of Nehemiah 11

**Make your commitment to
God practical by following
His **individual** plan for you!**



Nehemiah 12

Building the Walls – Building the People

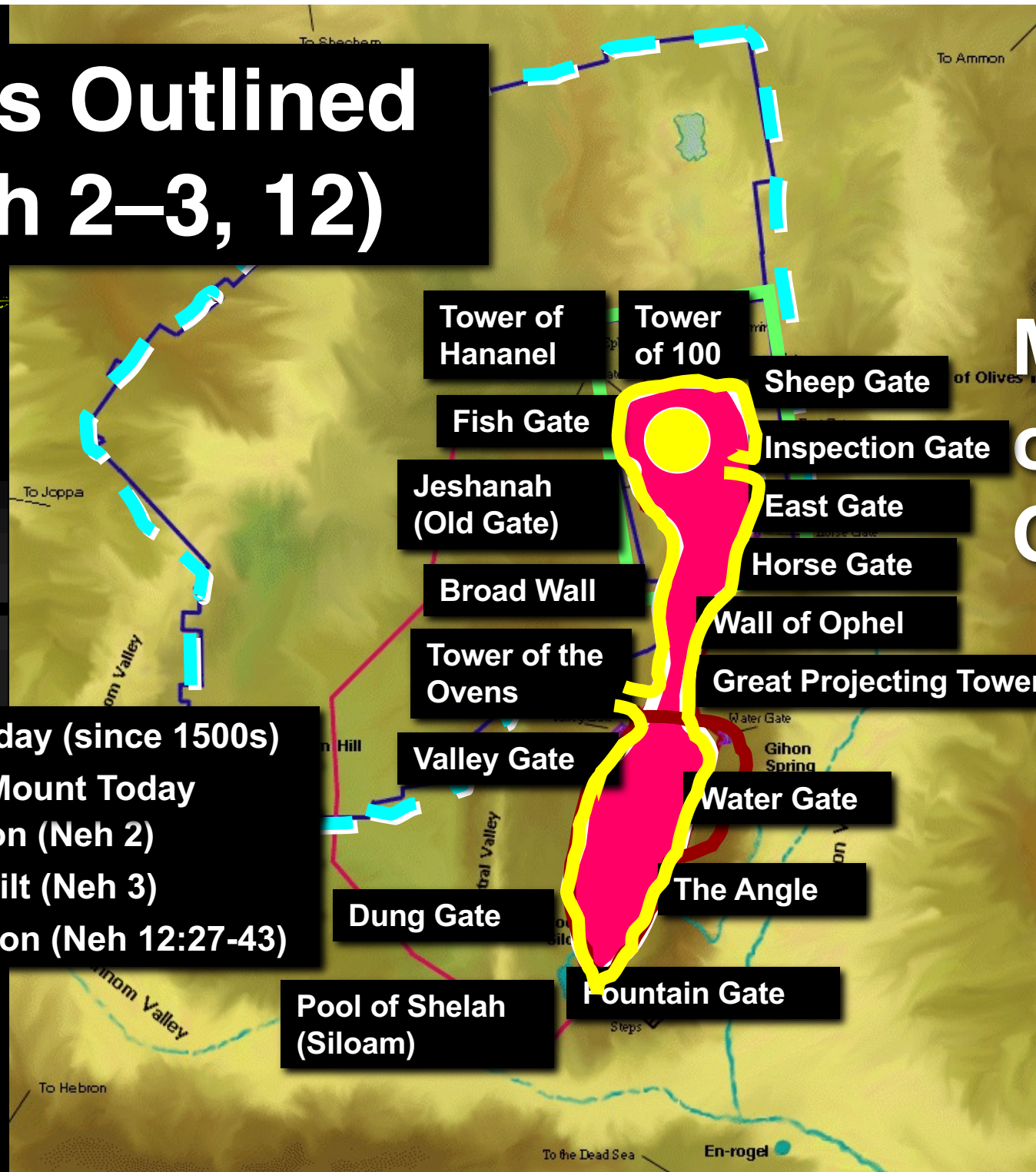
| Walls | | | | | People | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|--|--|-------|
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| -----52 days (6:15)----- 445-433 BC | | | | | | | | | | 425 BC? 420 BC? | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 13:6a | 13:6b |

Walls Outlined (Neh 2–3, 12)

304

Mount
of
Olives

- Walls Today (since 1500s)
- Temple Mount Today
- Inspection (Neh 2)
- Walls Built (Neh 3)
- Procession (Neh 12:27-43)





Nehemiah 13



**Do Ezra and Nehemiah teach us proper leadership style?
If so, then whom should you follow?**

- ➔ **Intermarriage led Ezra to pull out his own hair (Ezra 9:13)**
- ➔ **Intermarriage led Nehemiah to pull out others' hair (Neh. 13:25)!**

Leadership?

An illustration depicting a scene of physical confrontation or restraint. In the foreground, a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a blue robe, is being pulled back by a large, muscular arm. He has a pained or shouting expression on his face. In the background, a group of men, some with beards and head coverings, are watching the scene. The style is reminiscent of a comic book or pulp magazine illustration.

Who?

Ezra



Who?

Nehemiah

**How should you respond
to God's faithfulness to
restore you?**

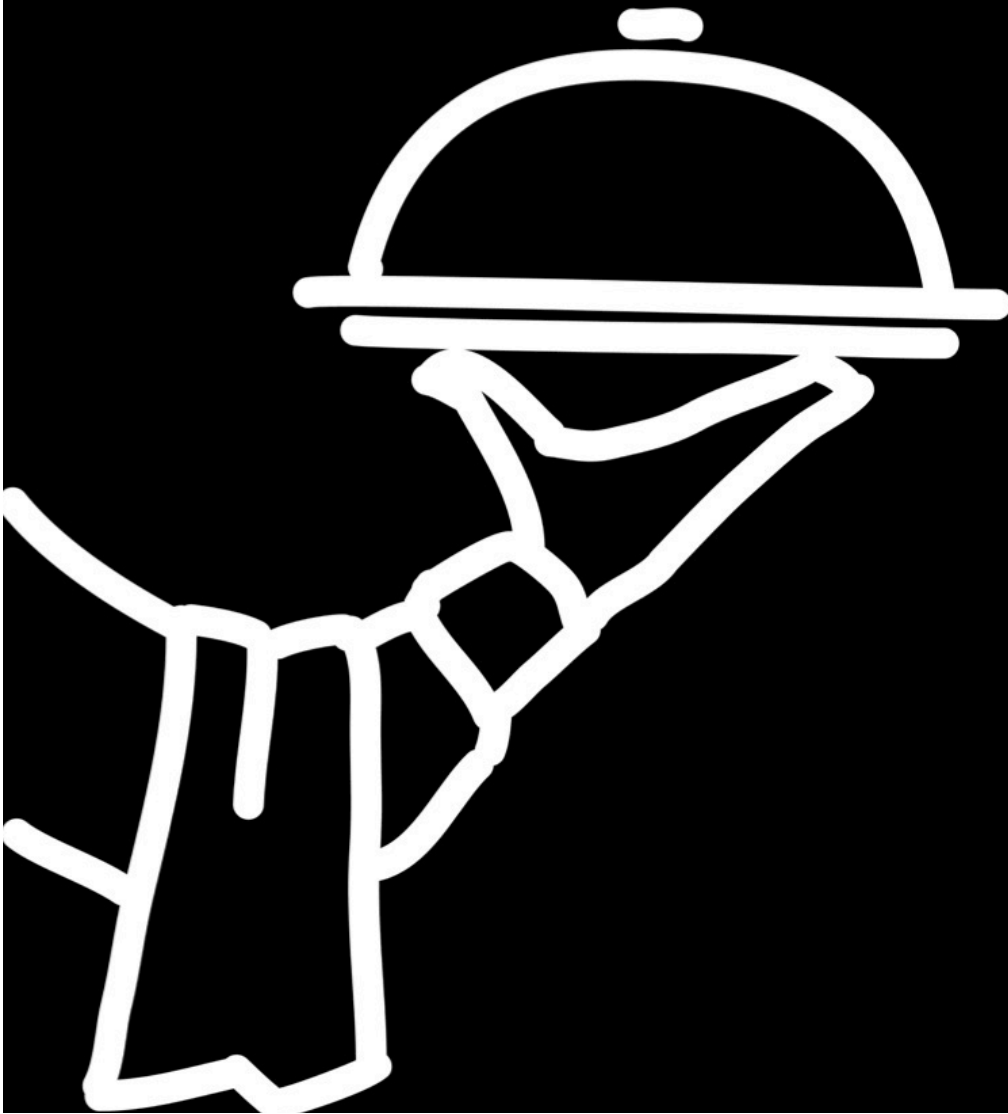




Main Idea

**Our restoring God
deserves diligent
service and worship.**

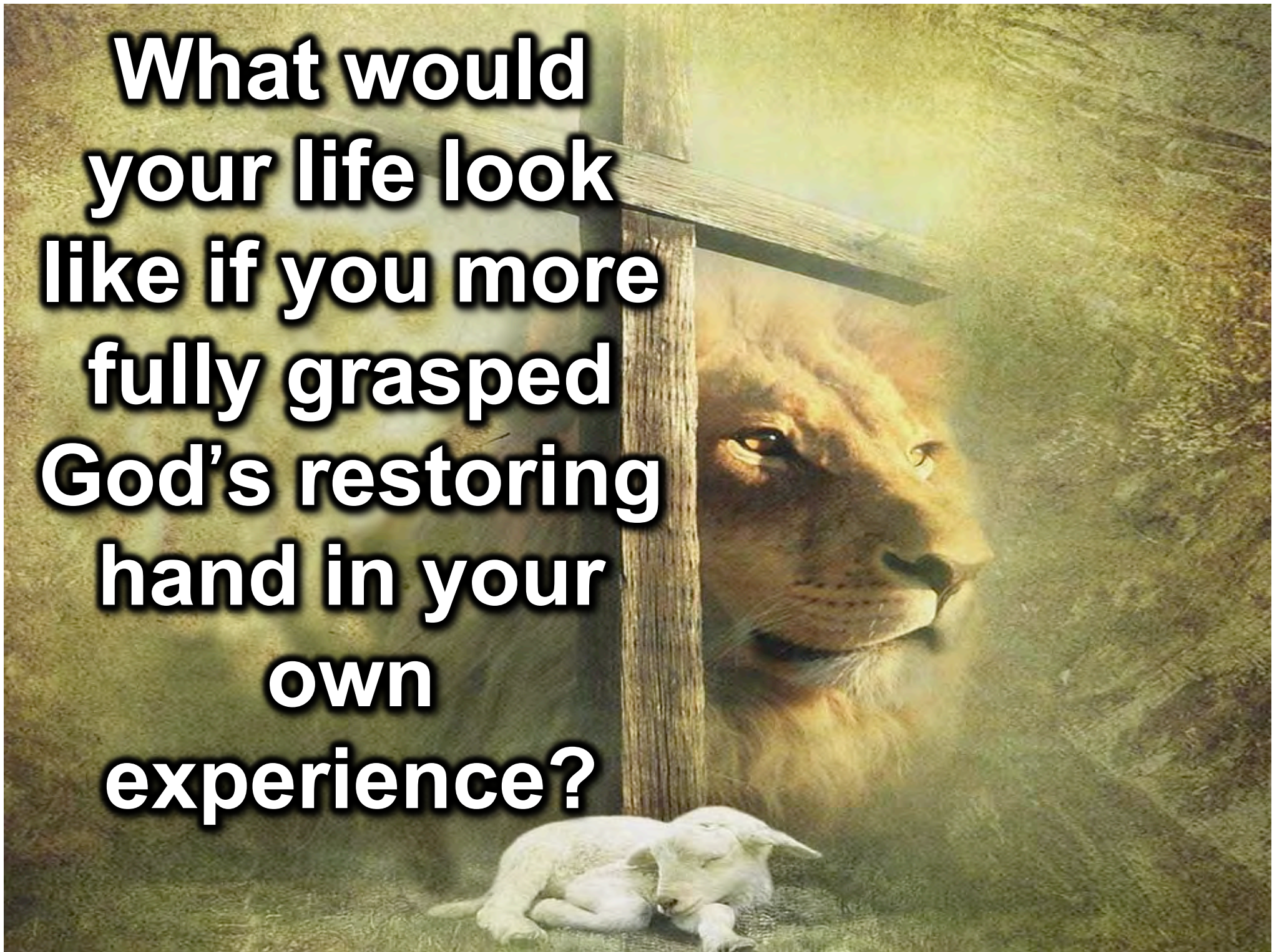
I. **Serve** God diligently (Neh 1–7).



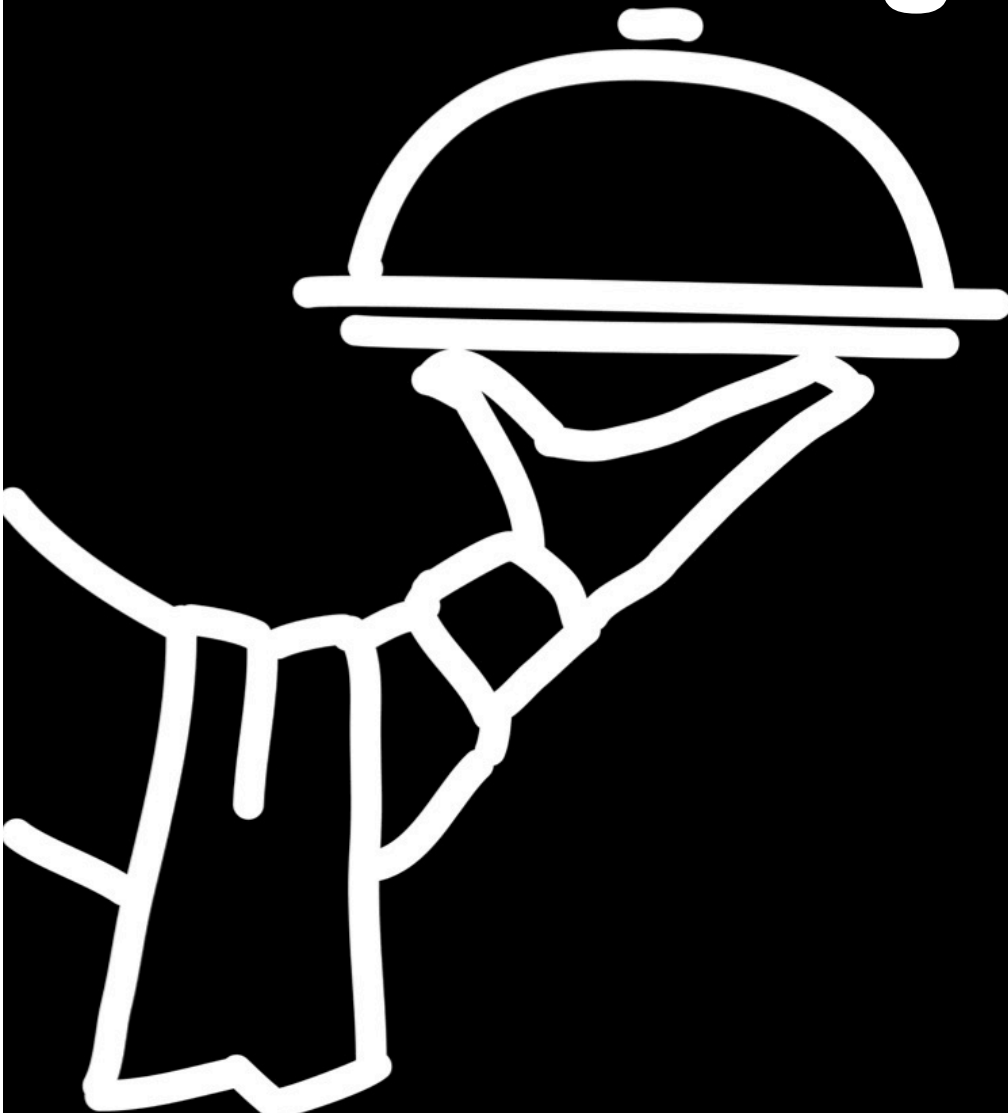
II. **Worship** God diligently (Neh 8–13).



**What would
your life look
like if you more
fully grasped
God's restoring
hand in your
own
experience?**

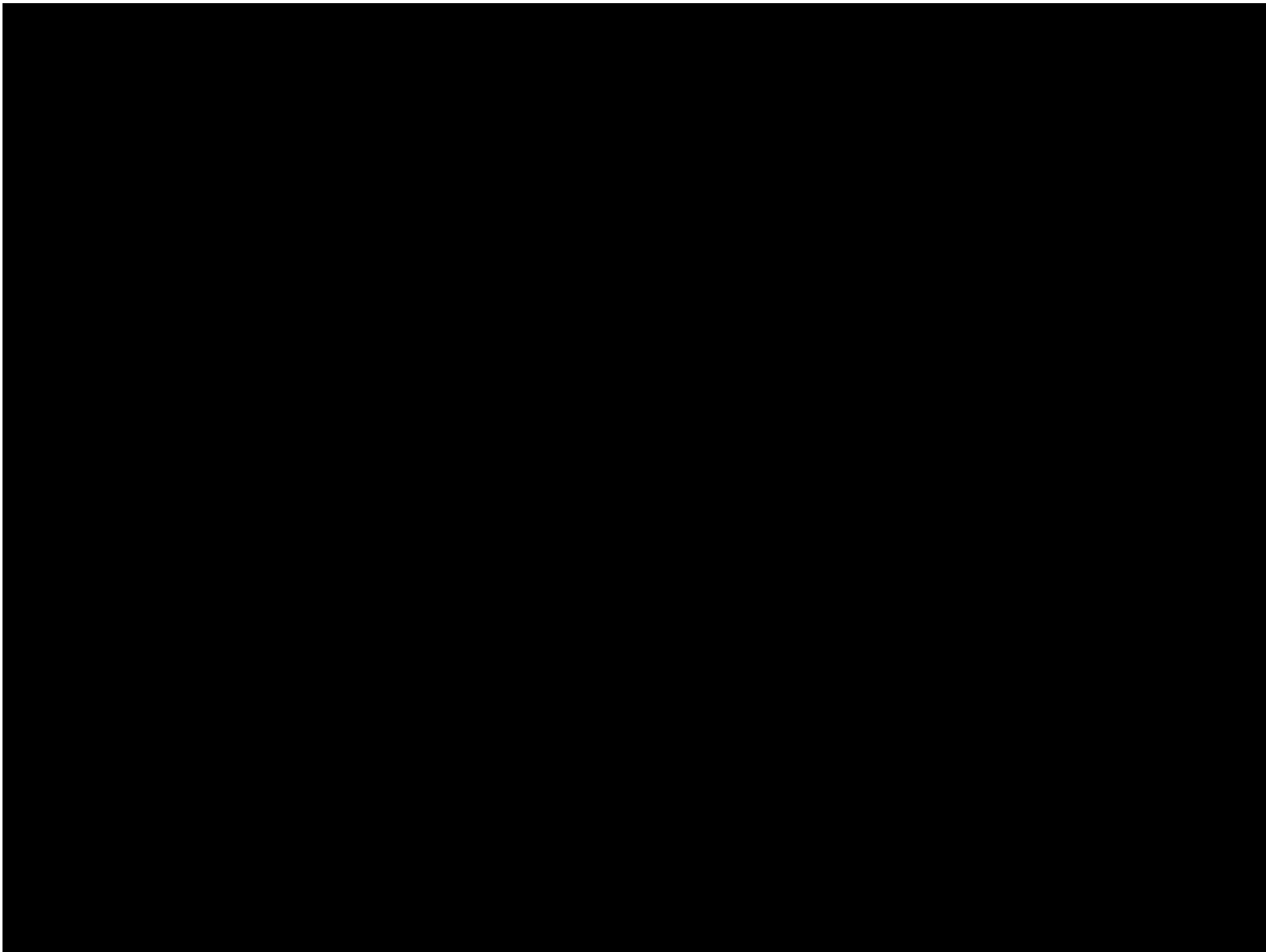


How can I **serve** God
diligently?

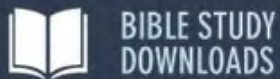


How can I **worship** God
diligently?






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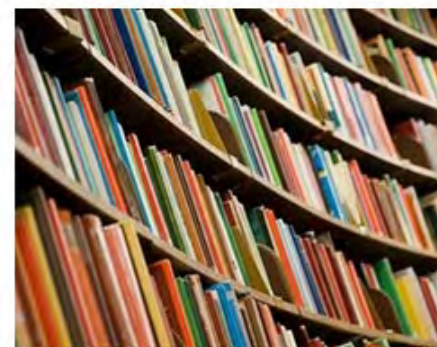
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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box with white text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

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