

Nehemiah

Restoring the Walls and People

Key Word

**299
39**

Walls

Nehemiah

Theme

Restoring the Walls and People

Nehemiah

Key Verse

"So the **wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this and all the surrounding nations saw it, our enemies lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God"
(6:15-16)**

Nehemiah

**God restored Jerusalem's walls
(1–7) yet an incomplete
restoration of the people (8–13)
prevented His rule from extending
forth from Zion.**

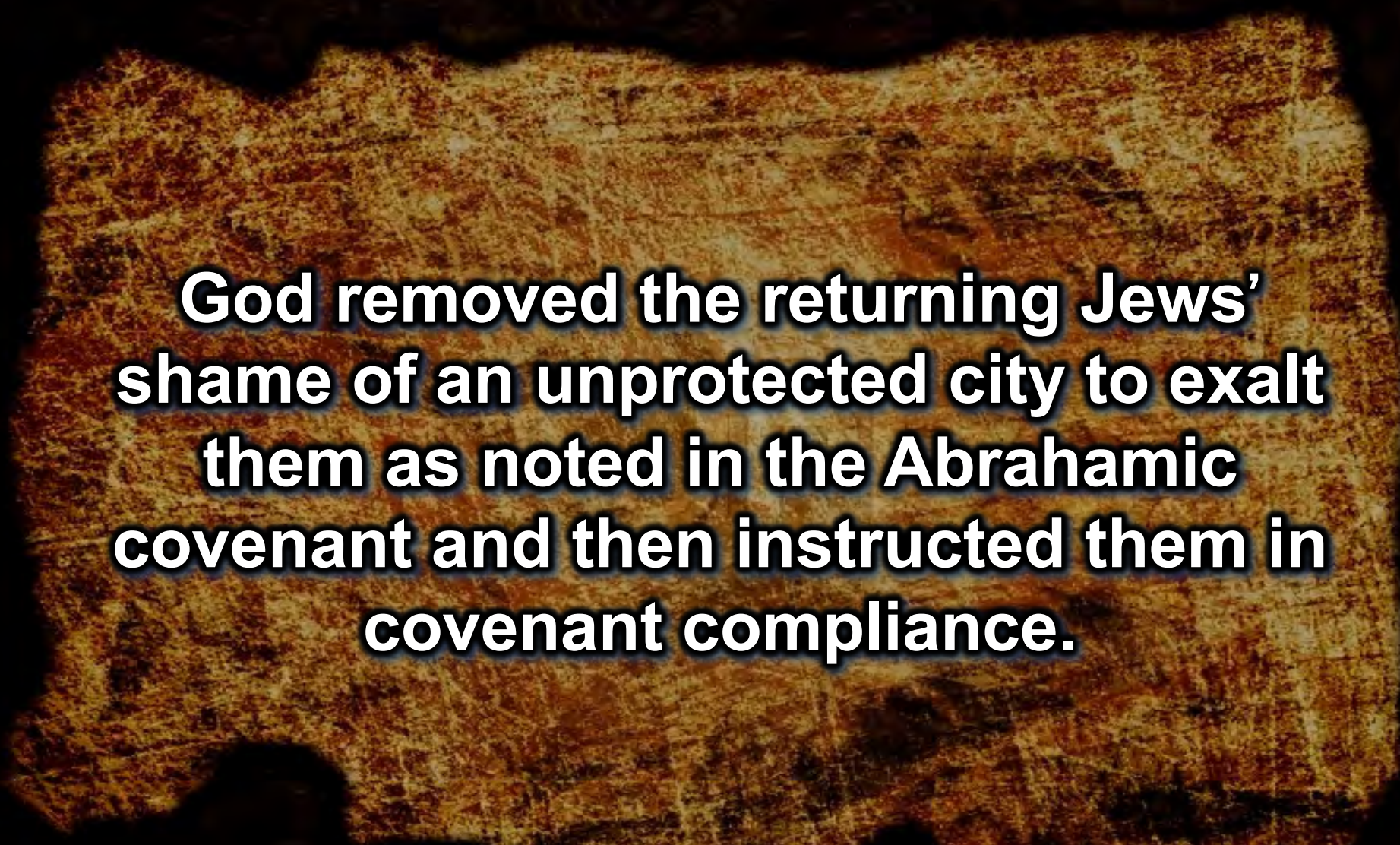
Nehemiah



Summary Statement

The restorations of the **walls and people in the land record God's faithfulness to His promise of restoration to encourage the remnant in covenant obedience rooted in temple worship at Jerusalem.**

Nehemiah



God removed the returning Jews' shame of an unprotected city to exalt them as noted in the Abrahamic covenant and then instructed them in covenant compliance.

Nehemiah

Redemption

42b

A wooden cross is centered in the background, set against a warm, orange-hued sky with soft, wispy clouds. The cross is made of dark wood and is positioned slightly off-center, with the vertical beam extending from the bottom towards the top of the frame. The horizontal beam is positioned across the middle of the frame. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

Israel's restoration to Jerusalem with protective walls (1–7) and a renewed people (8–13) still lacked a King who would humble himself for full redemption as did this book's governor.

Nehemiah

Messiah

Like the key character of this book, Christ gave up his privileged position to serve man (2:5; Phil. 2:5-11), fulfilled a mission (6:15; John 19:30) and depended on prayer (1:5-11; Mark 1:35).

Nehemiah

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

13:6a

425 BC?
420 BC?

13:6b

Nehemiah

- 1 Jerusalem's tragic plight mourned
- 2 Enlisting the king's support
- 3 Record of all workers
- 4 Undermining attacks by Samaritans
- 5 Selling Jewish children renounced
- 6 Assembling wall despite opposition
- 7 Ledger of returning Jews
- 8 Explanation of God's law
- 9 Making confession of sin
- 10 Witnesses to signed covenant
- 11 Account of Jerusalem's leaders
- 12 Levites lead temple dedication
- 13 Levites restored to temple





Be Diligent *Nehemiah*

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

The background of the image shows ancient stone ruins, possibly a theater or a city wall, under a clear blue sky. The ruins are made of reddish-brown stone and are partially overgrown with dry grass and small plants. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

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

Nehemiah

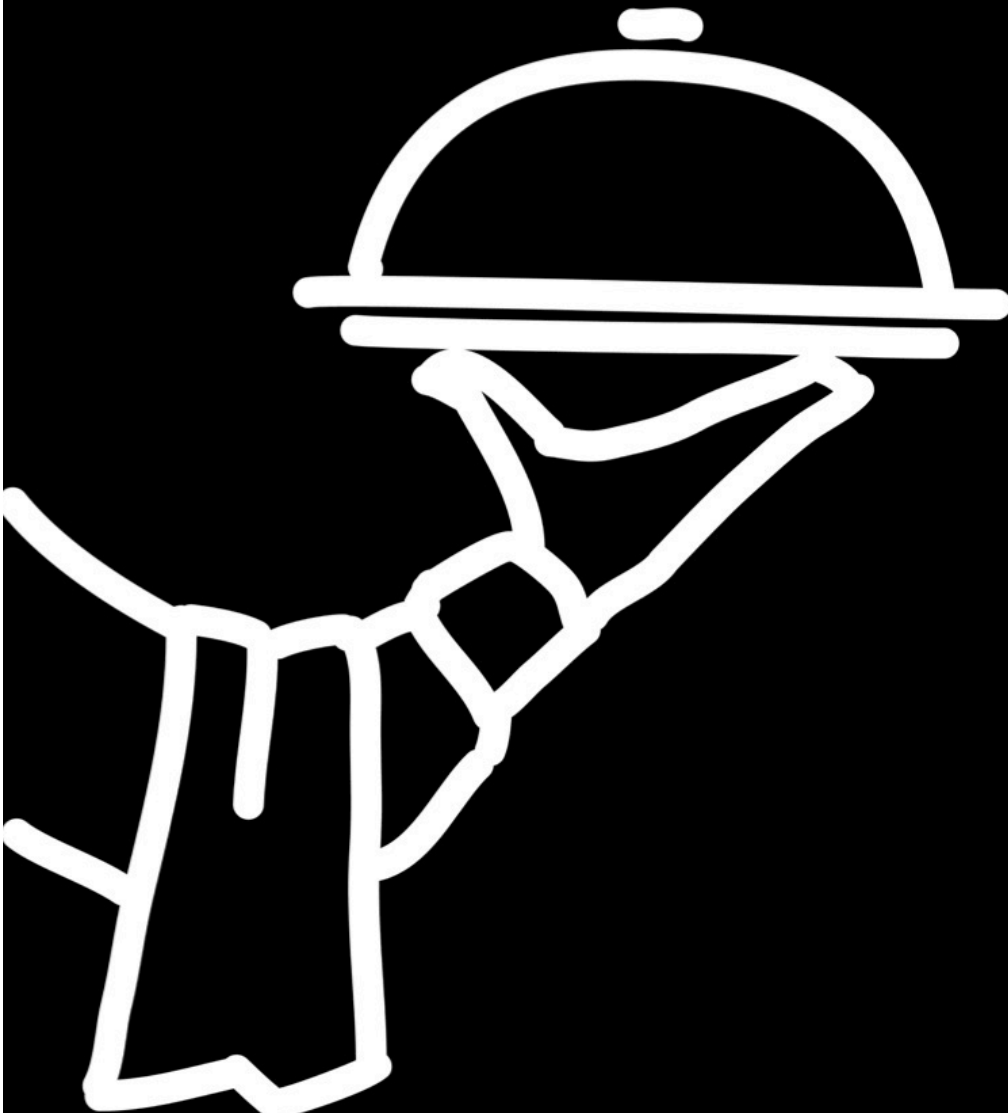
Focus on God



- **He was called “the God of heaven” (1:4b).**
- **He was “the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of love...” (1:5).**
- **God listens to prayer (1:6, 11a).**
- **God graciously gave commands, decrees, and laws through Moses (1:7).**
- **God promised not only exile but also return (1:8-9).**
- **God redeemed this remnant by His great strength (1:10)**

Nehemiah

I. **Serve** God diligently.



Nehemiah 1–7

II. Worship God diligently.



Nehemiah 8–13

**Leaders
must lead...**



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

**...and followers must follow
— Nehemiah**

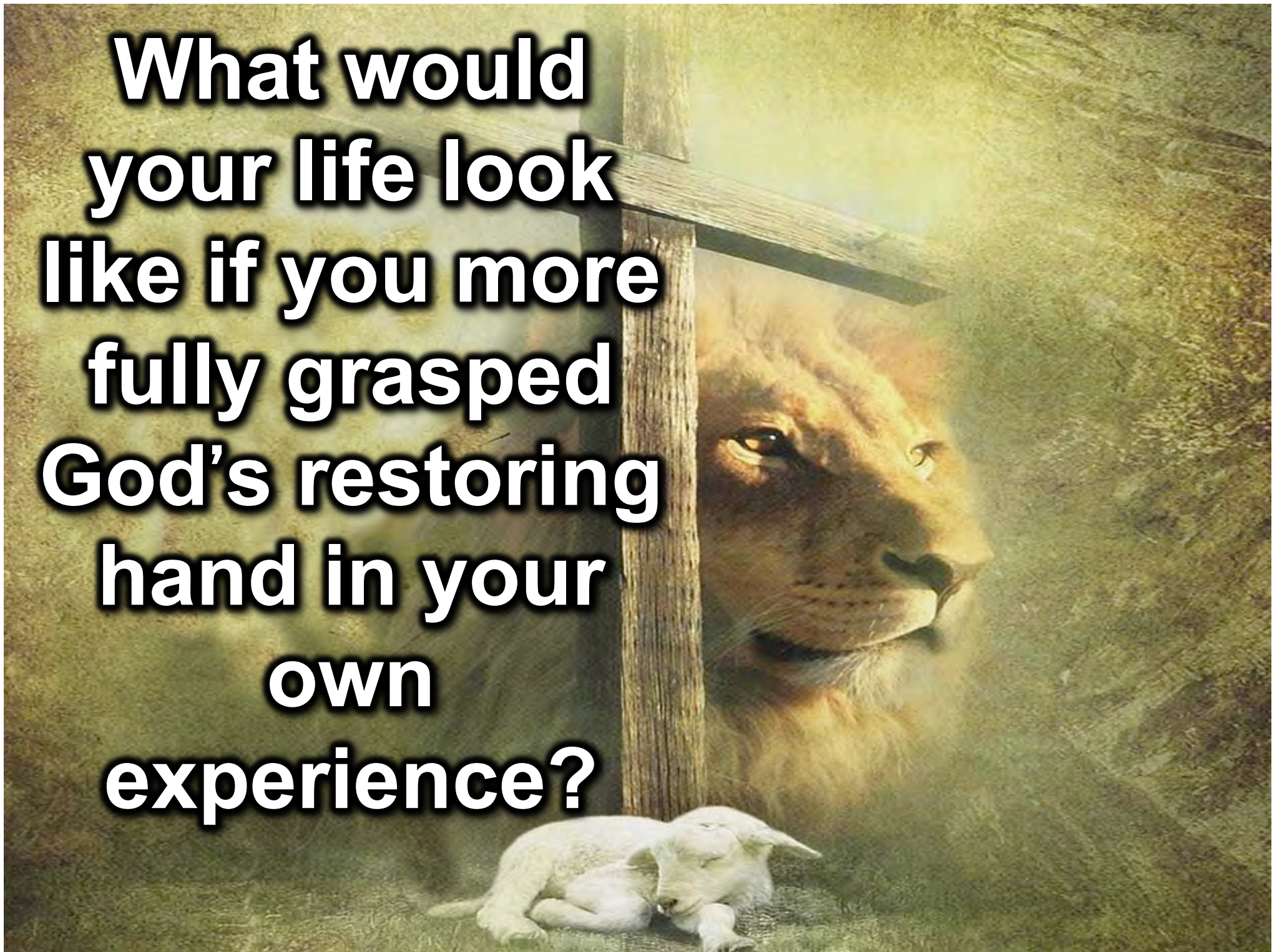


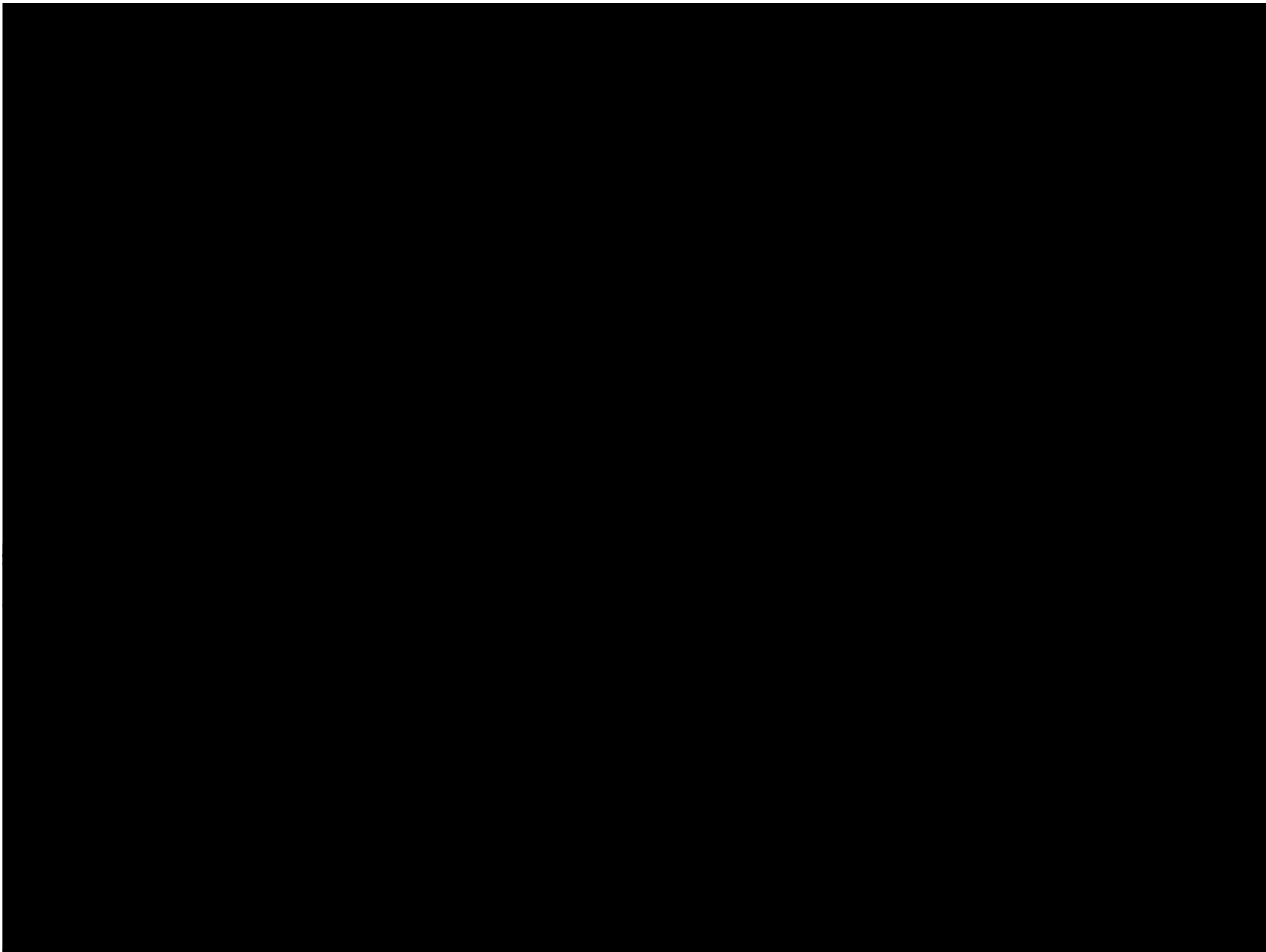
Main Idea

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

Nehemiah

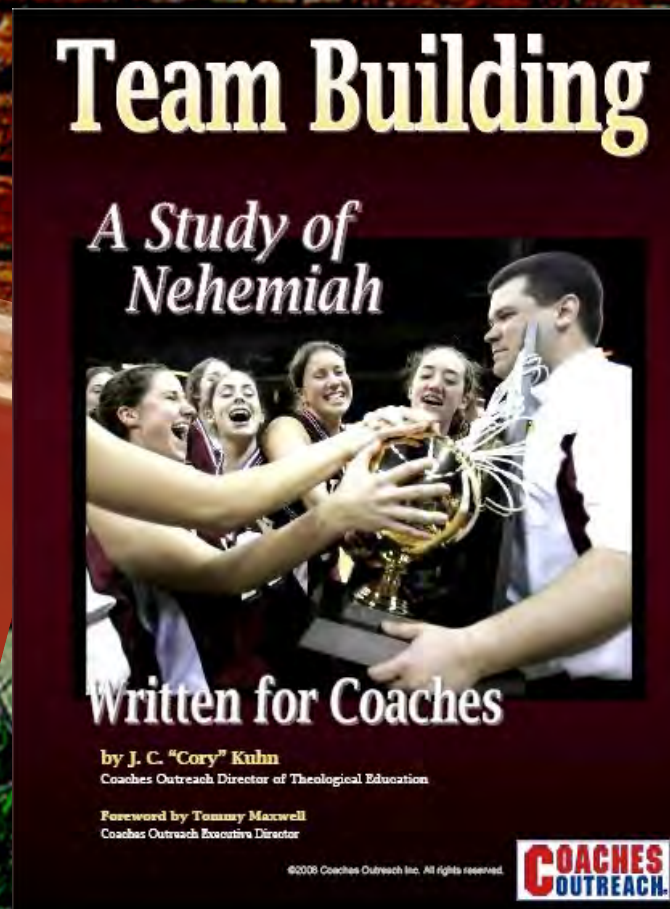
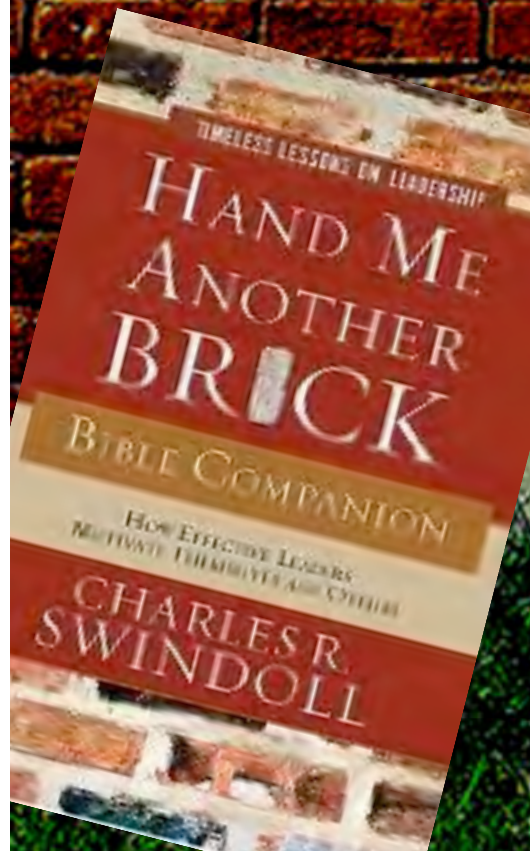
**What would
your life look
like if you more
fully grasped
God's restoring
hand in your
own
experience?**





Hand Me A Brick!

Books on Nehemiah



Thoughts from Nehemiah

Nehemiah's Responses to Problems

305

Gene Getz, "Nehemiah," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:681

Problems	Responses
Walls broken and gates burned (1:2-3)	Grief and prayer (1:4), & motivation of the people to rebuild (2:17-18)
False accusation of the workers (2:19)	Confidence that God would give them success (2:20)
Ridicule of the workers (4:1-3)	Prayer (4:4-5) & action (greater diligence in the work, 4:6)
Plot to attack the workers (4:7-8)	Prayer & action (posting a guard, 4:9)
Physical exhaustion & threat of murder (4:10-12)	Positioning people by families with weapons (4:13, 16-18), encouraging the people (4:14, 20)
Economic crisis and greed (5:1-5)	Anger (5:6), reflection, rebuke (5:7), & action (having the people return the debtors' interest, 5:7b-11)

Nehemiah's Responses to Problems

305

Gene Getz, "Nehemiah," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:681

Problems	Responses
Plot to assassinate (or at least harm) Nehemiah (6:1-2)	Refusal to cooperate (6:3)
Slander against Nehemiah (6:5-7)	Denial (6:8) & prayer (6:9)
Plot to discredit Nehemiah (6:13)	Refusal to cooperate (6:11-13) & prayer (6:14)
Tobiah moved into a temple storeroom (13:4-7)	Tossing out Tobiah's furniture (13:8)
Neglect of temple tithes & offerings (13:10)	Rebuke (13:11a), stationing the Levites at their posts (13:11b), & prayer (13:14)
Violation of the Sabbath by business activities (13:15-16)	Rebuke (13:17-18), posting of guards (13:19), & prayer (13:22)
Mixed marriages (13:23-24)	Rebuke (13:25-27), removal of a guilty priest (13:28), & prayer (13:29)

Nehemiah's Leadership

306

Donald K. Campbell, *Nehemiah: Man in Charge*, 23

While leadership is not the main purpose of the book, nevertheless, the man Nehemiah exemplifies many principles for good leadership. Some these include the following:

1. He established a reasonable & attainable goal.
2. He had a sense of mission.
3. He was willing to get involved.
4. He rearranged his priorities in order to accomplish his goal.
5. He patiently waited for God's timing.
6. He showed respect to his superior.
7. He prayed at crucial times.
8. He made his request with tact and graciousness.
9. He was well prepared and thought of his needs in advance.
10. He went through proper channels.

Nehemiah's Leadership

306

Donald K. Campbell, *Nehemiah: Man in Charge*, 23

While leadership is not the main purpose of the book, nevertheless, the man Nehemiah exemplifies many principles for good leadership.

Some these include the following:

11. He took time (3 days) to rest, pray, & plan.
12. He investigated the situation firsthand.
13. He informed others only after he knew the size of the problem.
14. He identified himself as one with the people.
15. He set before them a reasonable & attainable goal.
16. He assured them God was in the project.
17. He displayed self-confidence in facing obstacles.
18. He displayed God's confidence in facing obstacles.
19. He did not argue with opponents.
20. He was not discouraged by opposition.
21. He courageously used the authority of his position.

Hand Me ANOTHER Brick

*Timeless Lessons on Life
and Leadership*

Biblical Leadership Principles for Your Life at Work

Nehemiah:

A Leader and His Wall

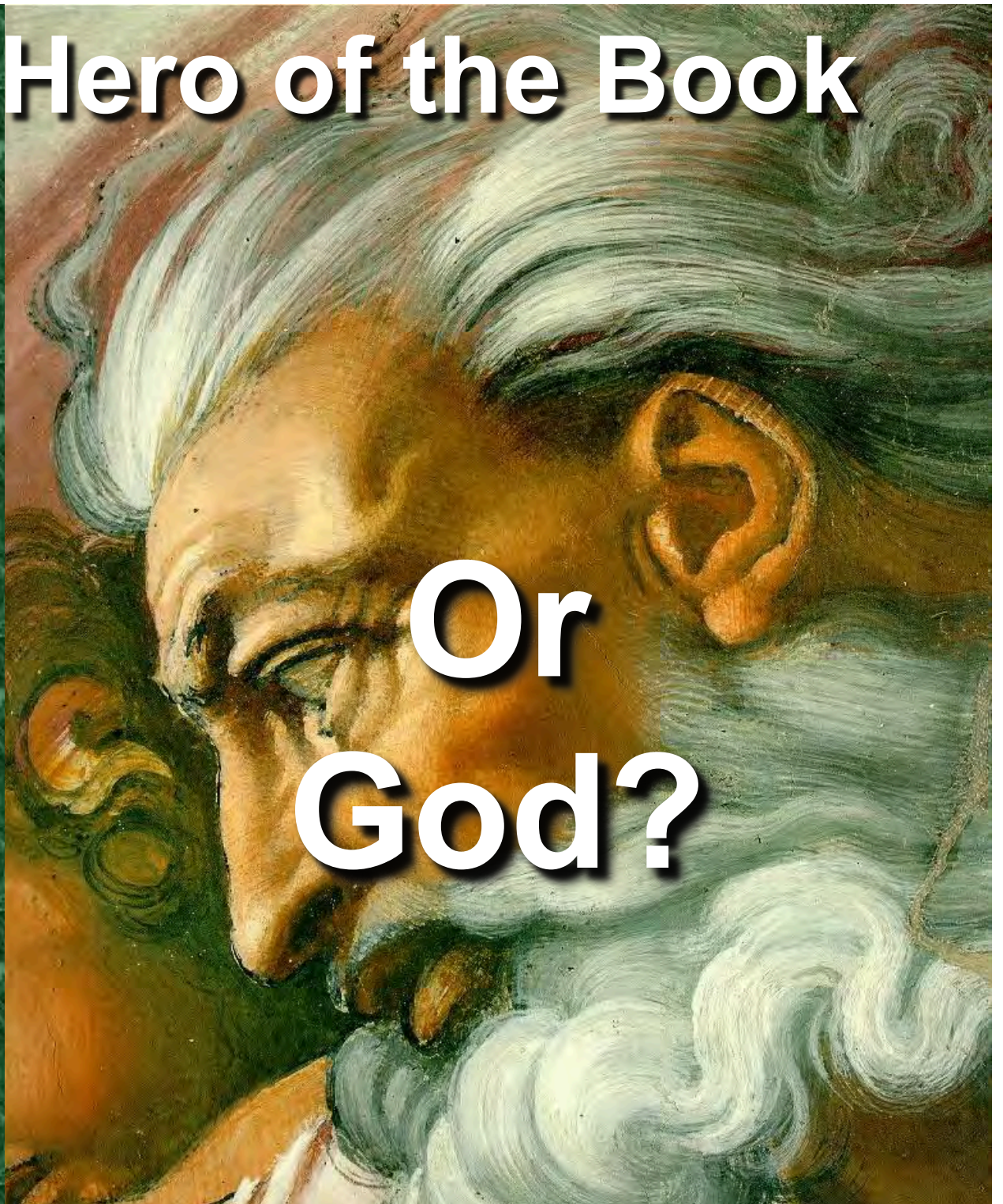
LEADERSHIP FROM
nehemiah

The *Real* Hero of the Book



Nehemiah?

Or God?



Problems with the Leadership Focus

1. Author's intent
2. God is credited



Nehemiah?

Focus on God



- **He was called “the God of heaven” (1:4b).**
- **He was “the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of love...” (1:5).**
- **God listens to prayer (1:6, 11a).**
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- **God redeemed this remnant by His great strength (1:10)**

Problems with the Leadership Focus

1. Author's intent
2. God is credited
3. Why, not how
4. Ezra-Neh. theme
5. Applies to all
6. Historical situation

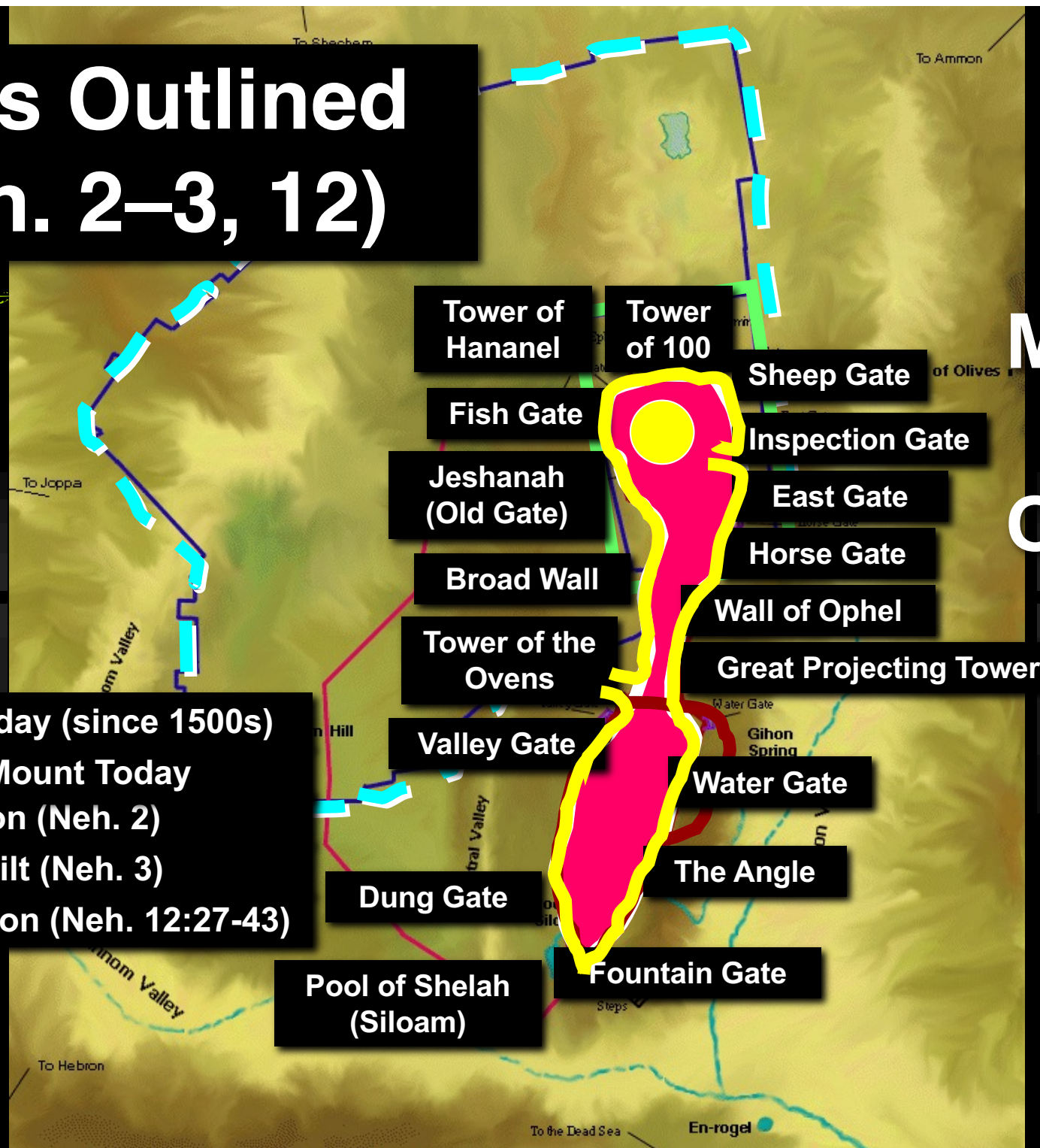


Nehemiah?

Walls Outlined (Neh. 2–3, 12)

Mount
of
Olives

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



Key Word

299

Walls

Key Verse

"So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this and all the surrounding nations saw it, our enemies lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God"
(Nehemiah 6:15-16)

- Ezra & Nehemiah originally formed a single book according to Josephus, Jerome, & the Talmud.
- The Hebrew Bible also has the 2 books together under the title Ezra Nehemiah (עֶזְרָא נְחֵמְיָהּ *ezra' nehemeyah*).
- However, the repetition of Ezra 2 in Nehemiah 7 may mean that the two were originally separate works.
- Nehemiah means "Yahweh comforts." Once again the names are significant in that Nehemiah functioned as God's comfort through building Jerusalem's protective wall.

External Evidence

- The Book of Nehemiah has long been considered as being named after its author and chief character, Nehemiah himself.

Internal Evidence

- The inspired title of the book reads, "The Words of Nehemiah, Son of Hacaliah" (1:1) & much of the content appears in the 1st person, making it clear that Nehemiah recorded this book.
- Some believe the 3rd person sections (7:6–12:26; 12:44–13:2a) were written by Ezra since Nehemiah was absent for these events as he was in Babylon during this time (13:6).

Circumstances

300

Date

Nehemiah left Persia in the 20th year of Artaxerxes (445 BC) & returned to the king in his 32th year (433 BC). "Some time later" he came again to Jerusalem (13:6b), but the specific time is not designated. Perhaps it was ca. 425 BC or even 420 BC. This chronology places the writing after 425 BC, perhaps even as late as 400 BC.

This dating of approximately 425 BC makes Nehemiah a contemporary of Malachi, which finds support in their common descriptions of post-exilic Judaism.

Recipients

Those who 1st read Nehemiah comprised Jews who had returned from Persia with Ezra 3 or 4 decades before, as well as the grandchildren & great-grandchildren of the returnees with Zerubbabel about 125 years earlier.

Occasion

300

- This story continues from Ezra about 11 years after Ezra's spiritual reforms among the remnant in Jerusalem.
- However, whereas Ezra helped the spiritual establishment of the new community, Nehemiah gave it physical, geographical, and political stability.
- Nehemiah's faith in God saw Him accomplish in 52 days what had not been done in the 93 years since the return under Zerubbabel.
- This account undoubtedly helped his original readers to see that obedient faith can accomplish God's will despite what appears impossible.

Characteristics

301

- A. Although Esther follows Nehemiah in our Christian Bibles, Nehemiah actually is later chronologically. Thus it concludes the account of the historical books of the Christian Old Testament.**
- B. Perhaps no other book of Scripture provides a better depiction of the balance between dependence and discipline, as well as prayer and planning.**
- C. One difficulty in reconciling Nehemiah with Ezra concerns the walls themselves. At the beginning of the account, Nehemiah seems surprised that the walls were broken down. One clue is perhaps that the walls had begun to be rebuilt under Ezra during the reign of Artaxerxes, but the work had stopped.**
- D. Nehemiah is the only biblical book written mostly in the 1st person.**

Argument

301

- **The Book of Nehemiah continues the account of Ezra. As they originally were a single work, they have the same theme: the restoration of God's people in the land. This was written to encourage the remnant in covenant obedience, especially true temple worship.**
- **Nehemiah completes the restoration with the 3rd & final return under Nehemiah to rebuild the walls (chs. 1–7), followed by the restoration of the people (chs. 8–13).**
- **The book also includes some very insightful teaching on leadership principles (chs. 1–7), spiritual principles (chs. 8–10), and moral and social principles (chs. 11–13).**

Synthesis

301

Restoring the walls and people

1–7 Walls

8–13 People

Summary Statement

The ***restorations of the walls and people*** in the land under Nehemiah record God's faithfulness to His promise of restoration to ***encourage the remnant in covenant obedience*** rooted in temple worship at Jerusalem.

Outline

302-303

I. (Chs. 1–7) The rebuilding of the walls in the third return under Nehemiah's carefully executed plan despite opposition is given to encourage the remnant in covenant obedience rooted in temple worship at Jerusalem.

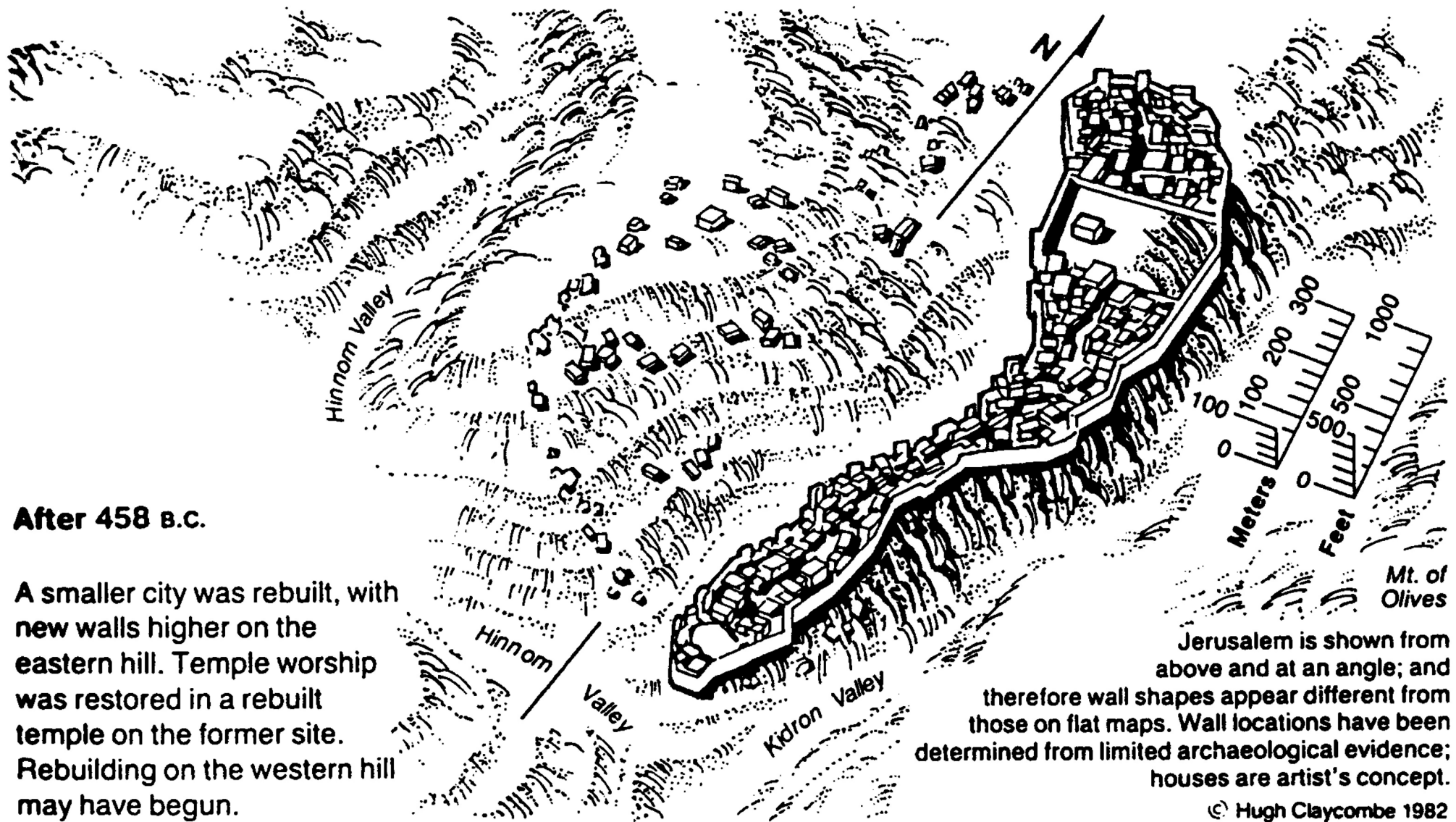
II. (Chs. 8–13) The restoration of the people through Nehemiah's leading Israel to obey its renewal of the covenant is provided as a stimulus to encourage the remnant in covenant obedience and commitment to the temple.

Application

**God helping us
complete His projects
should lead us to
further obedience**

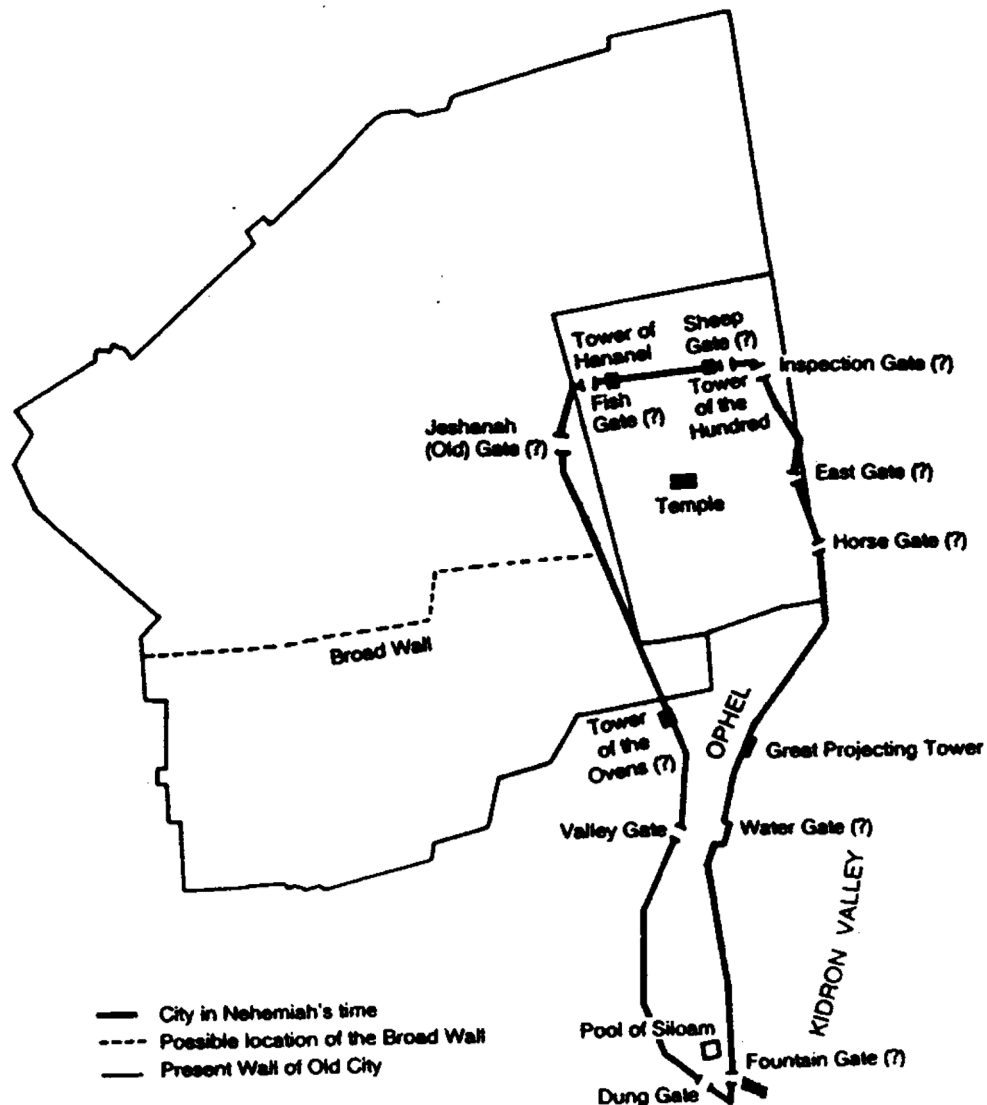
Jerusalem of the Returning Exiles

Bible Visual Resource Book, 99



Jerusalem of the Returning Exiles

Gene Getz, "Nehemiah," in *Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:679



JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF NEHEMIAH
Nehemiah 3



Be Diligent *Nehemiah*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
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**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

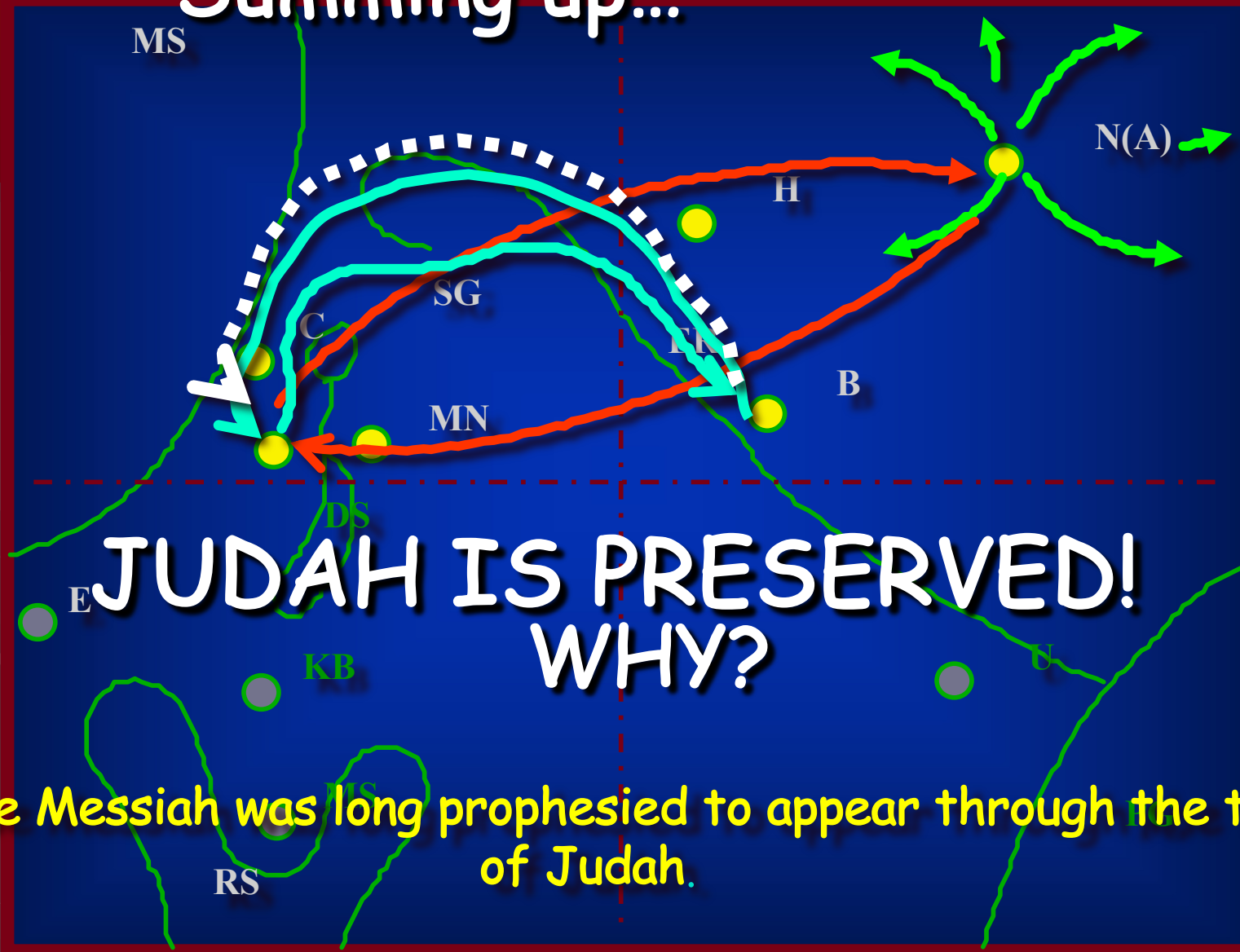
EDZÆNK I Æ L

PUNISHMENT

SIN

DISOBEDIENCE

Summing up...



Because Messiah was long prophesied to appear through the tribe of Judah.

7

ZERUBBABEL...returns to begin
rebuilding the Temple.

EZRA...returns to teach the
Law of the Lord.

100 YEARS / 50,000

Z - E - N

NEHEMIAH...returns as
the great Old Testament
leader and rebuilder of
the city's gates and its
walls.

CAPTIVITY

70 Years

3 Treks

100 Years / 50,000

Z - E - N

7

ZERUBBABEL...returns to begin
rebuilding the Temple.

EZR
Law

Z-E-N

THREE DIPLOMAT
PRIESTS

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

CAPTIVITY

70 Years

3 Treks

100 Years / 50.000

Z - E - N

Handbook pg. 37-38

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

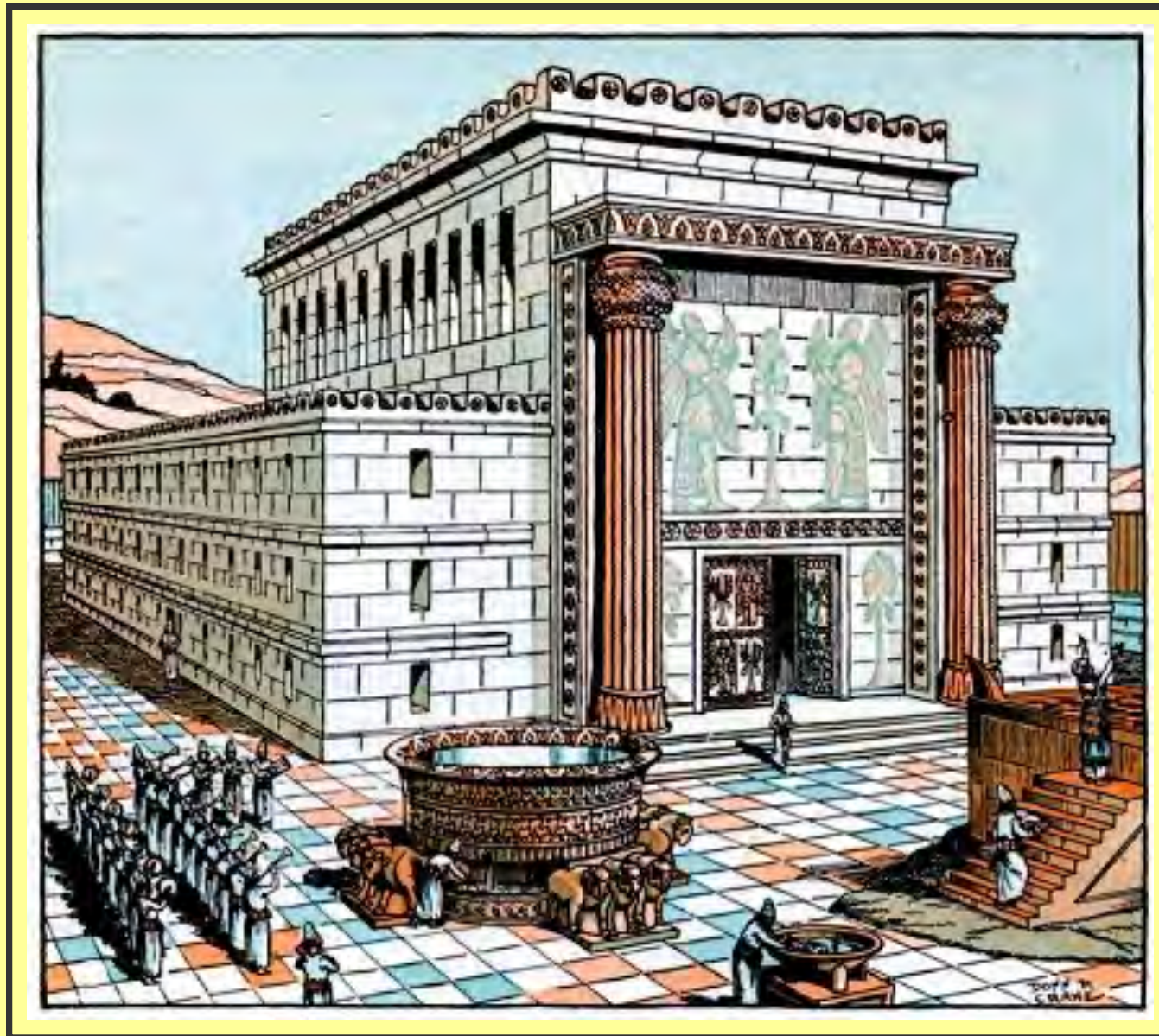
Ends
6:13-22

Qualifications
& Provisions
7

Returnees
& Protection
8

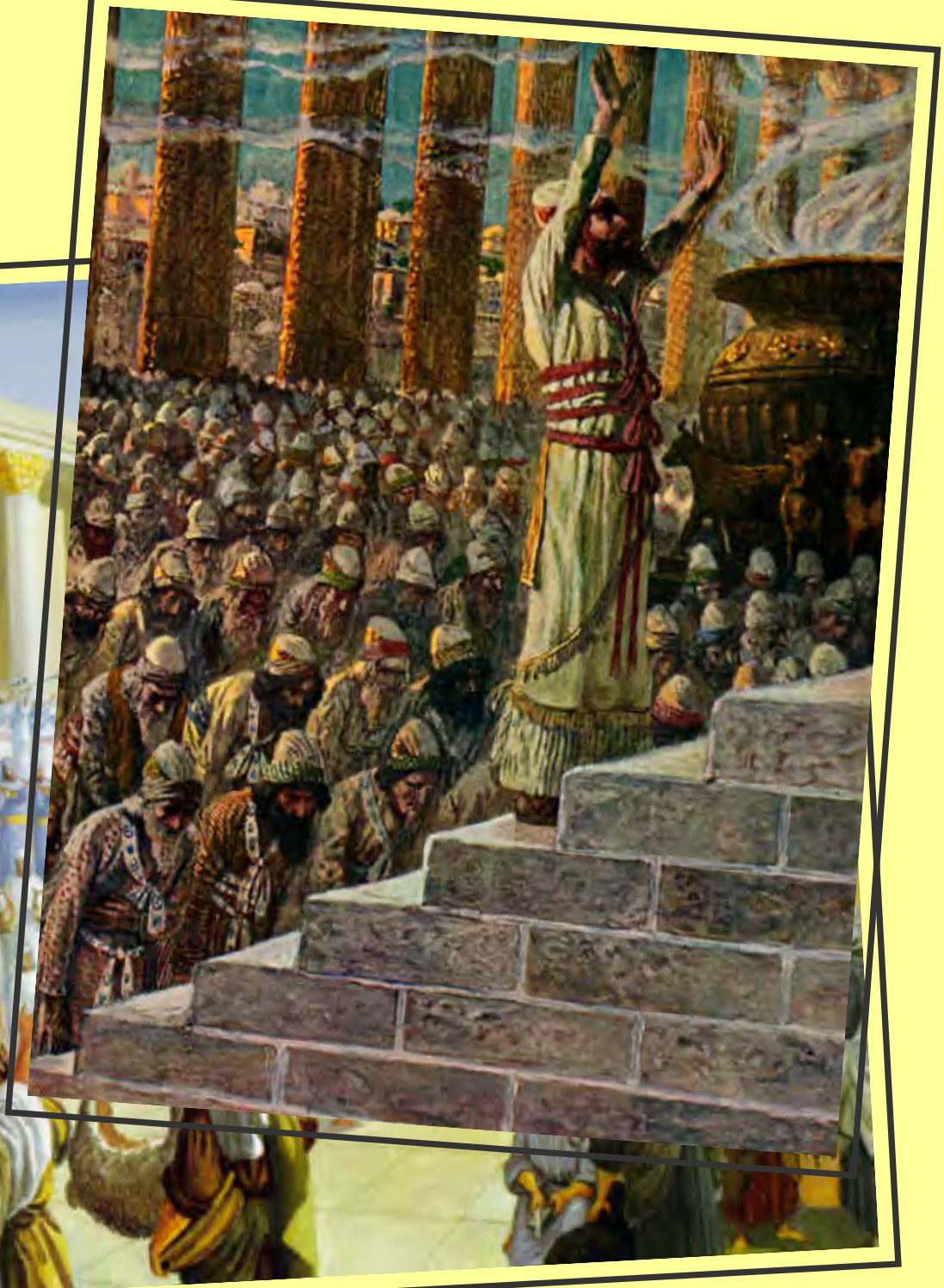
Inter-
marriage
& Lament
9

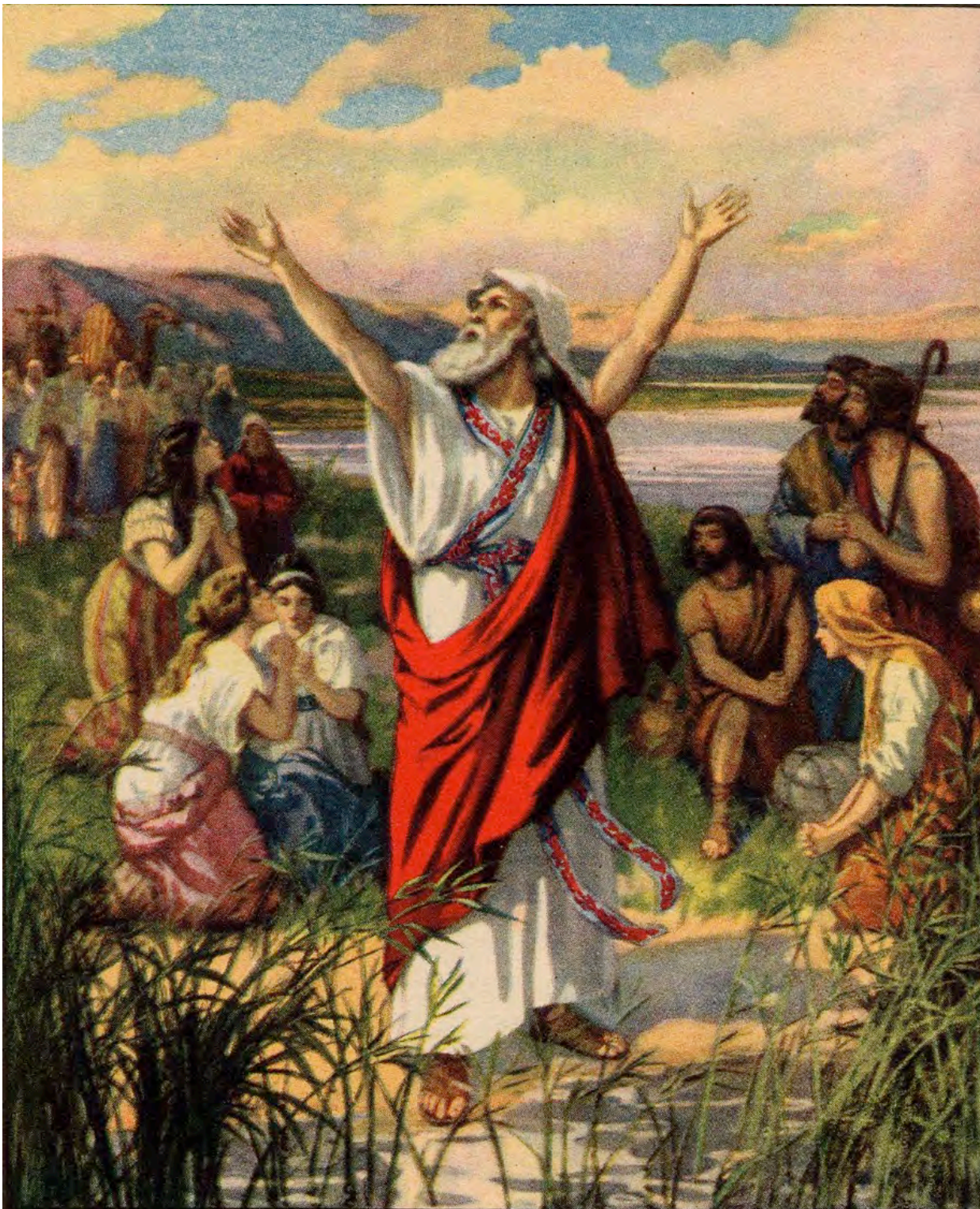
Divorces
Carried Out
10



God rebuilt the temple (Ezra 6:15)

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





Ezra
thanks
God for
his help

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



The Three "Rs" (1:3)

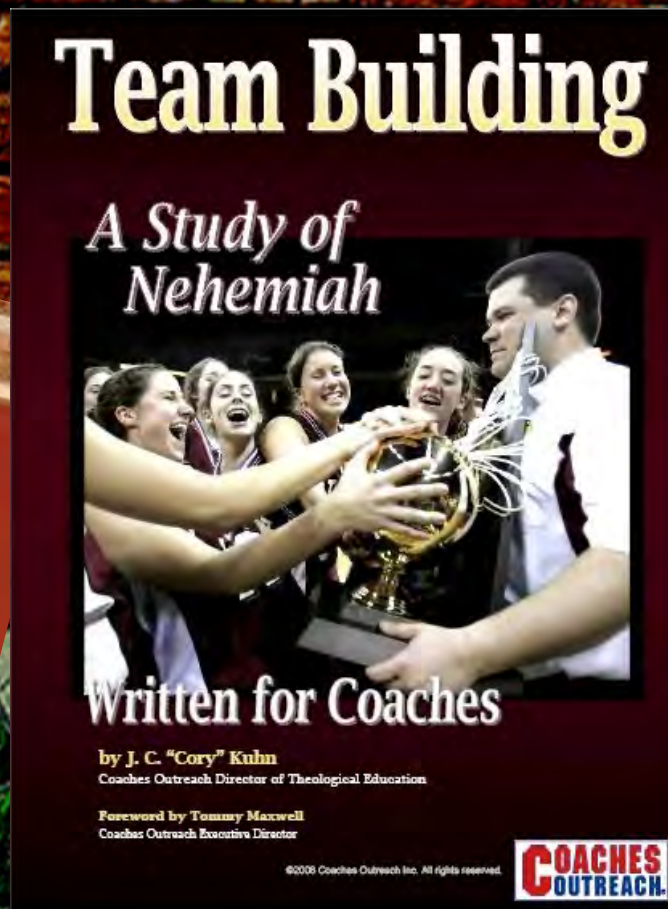
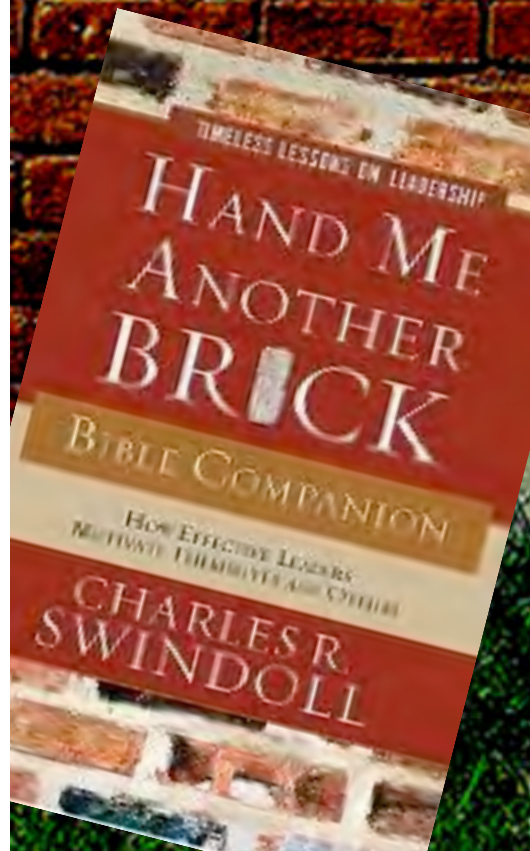
NEHEMIAH

Rebuilding Broken Dreams

July-October 2013

Listen to the Sermon Series

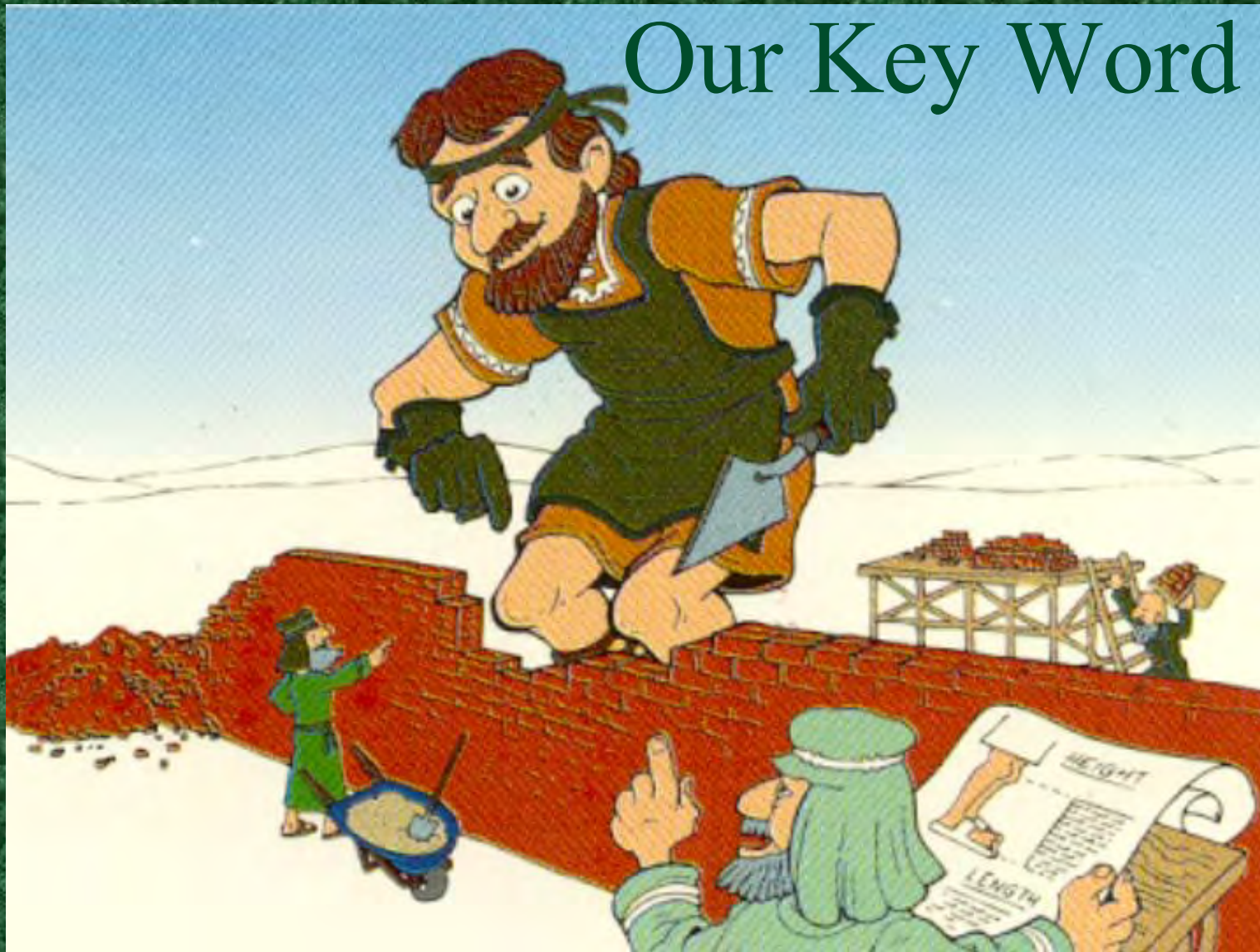
Hand Me A Brick!



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” (1:4b).**
- **He was “the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of love...” (1:5).**
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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?**



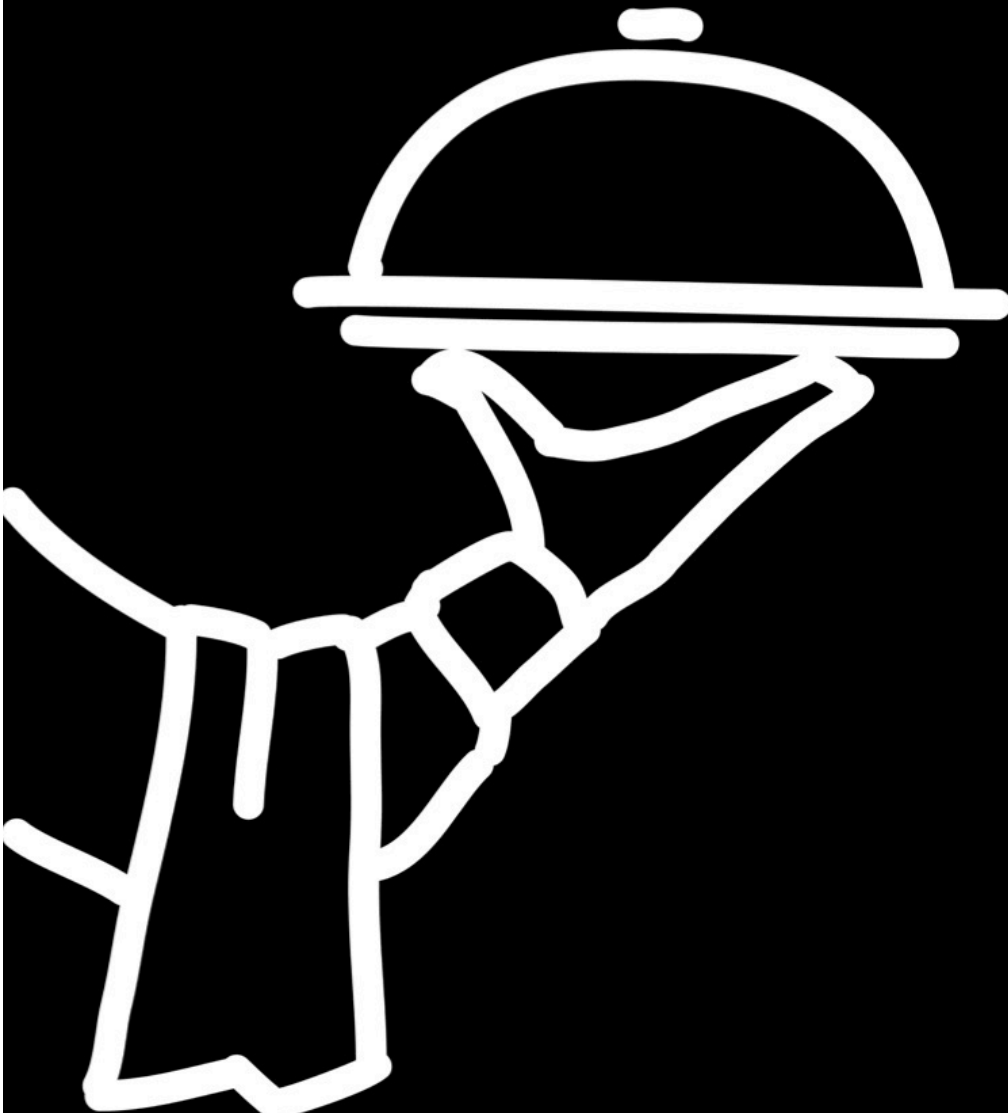
**Diligent
Response
#1**

then

**Diligent
Response
#2**

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

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

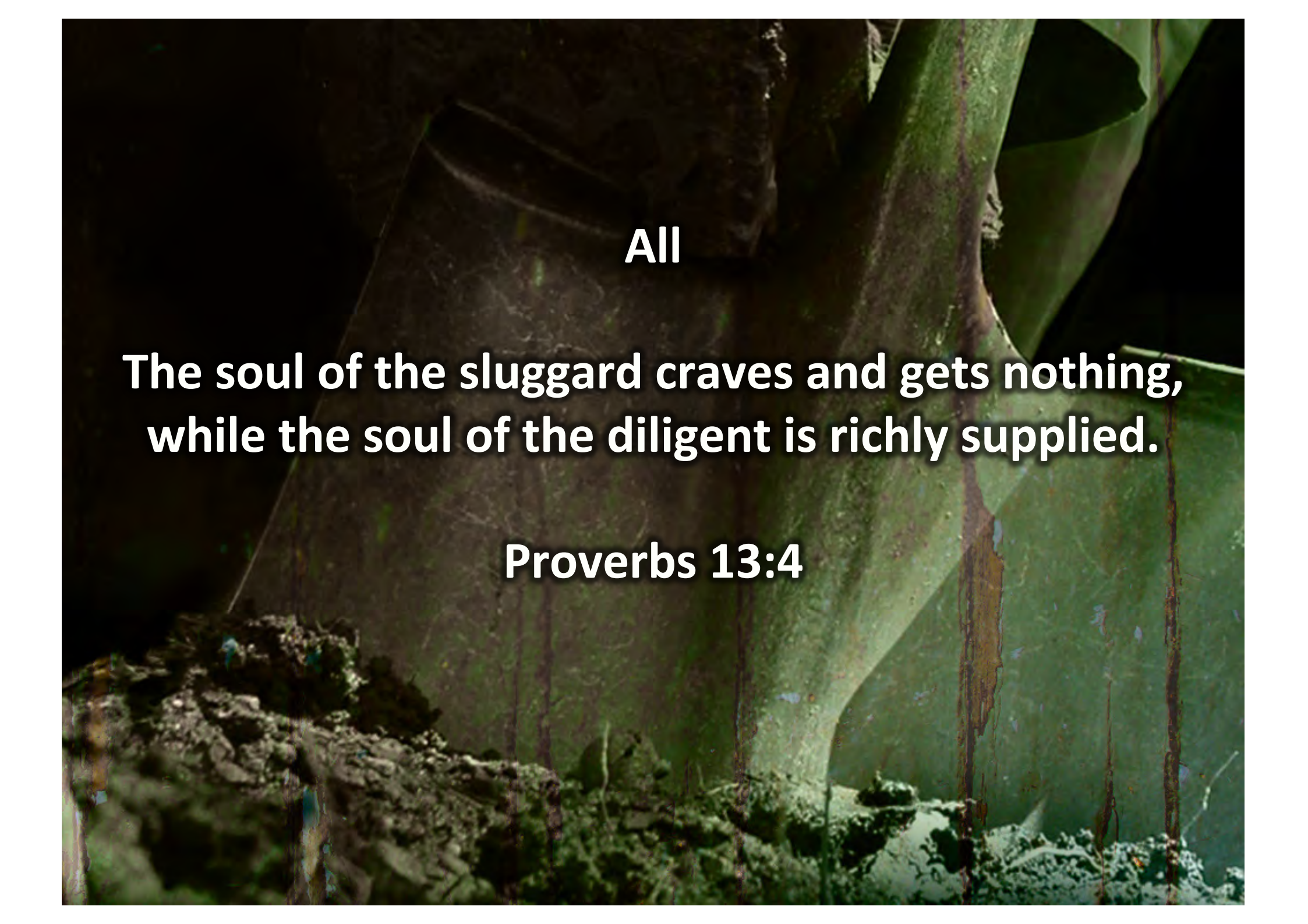


**The remnant
responded to God's
faithful restoration
of Jerusalem's wall
under Nehemiah by
diligent service
(Neh 1–7).**



20 Verses on Diligence

*(Each group or individual
read aloud)*



All

**The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing,
while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.**

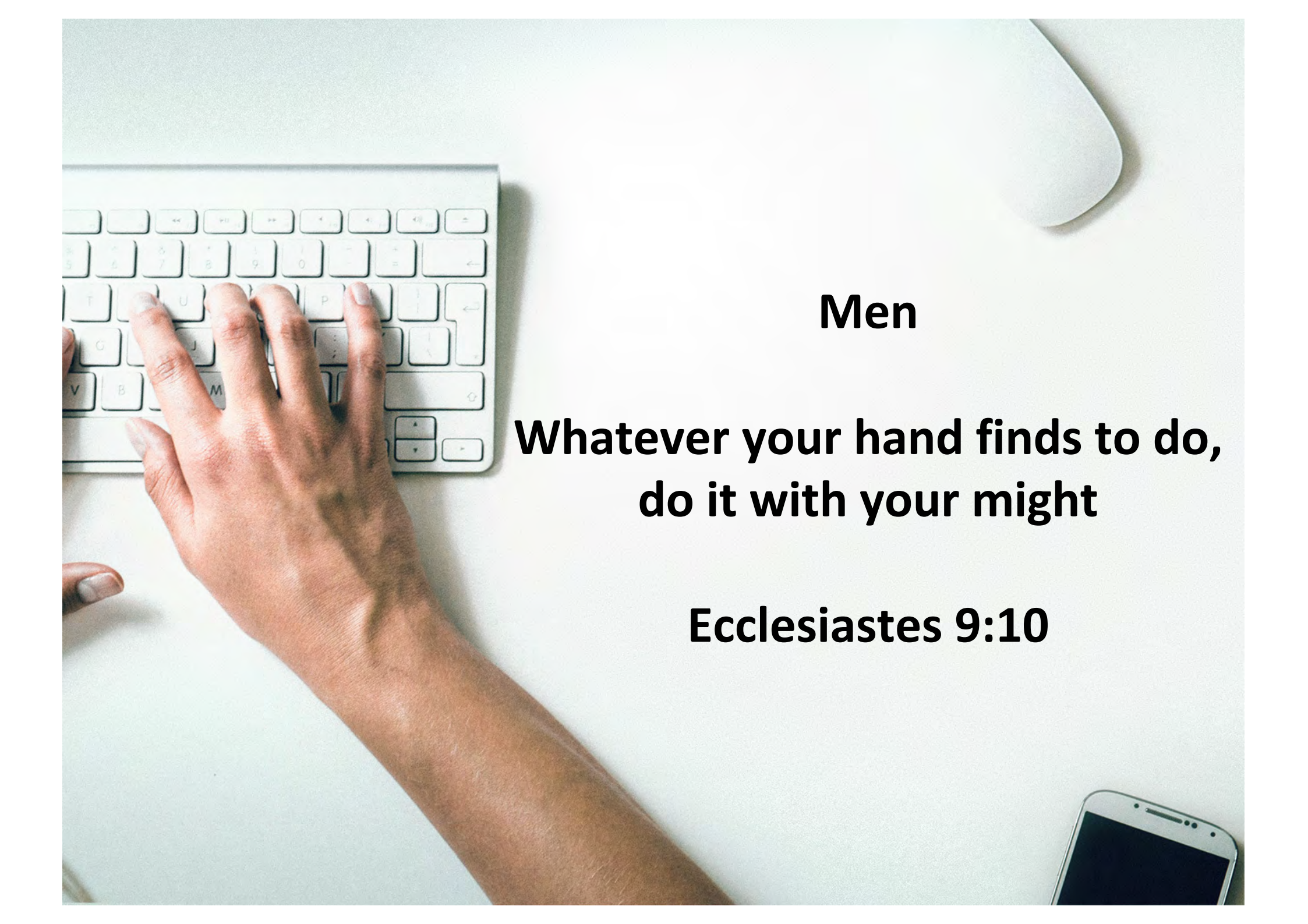
Proverbs 13:4



Women

**And let us not grow weary
of doing good,
for in due season we will
reap,
if we do not give up.**

Galatians 6:9

A photograph of a person's hand typing on a white keyboard. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with fingers pressing keys. The keyboard is white and has a modern, minimalist design. In the background, a white mouse is visible on the right, and a smartphone is partially visible in the bottom right corner. The overall scene is set on a light-colored surface, possibly a desk.

Men

**Whatever your hand finds to do,
do it with your might**

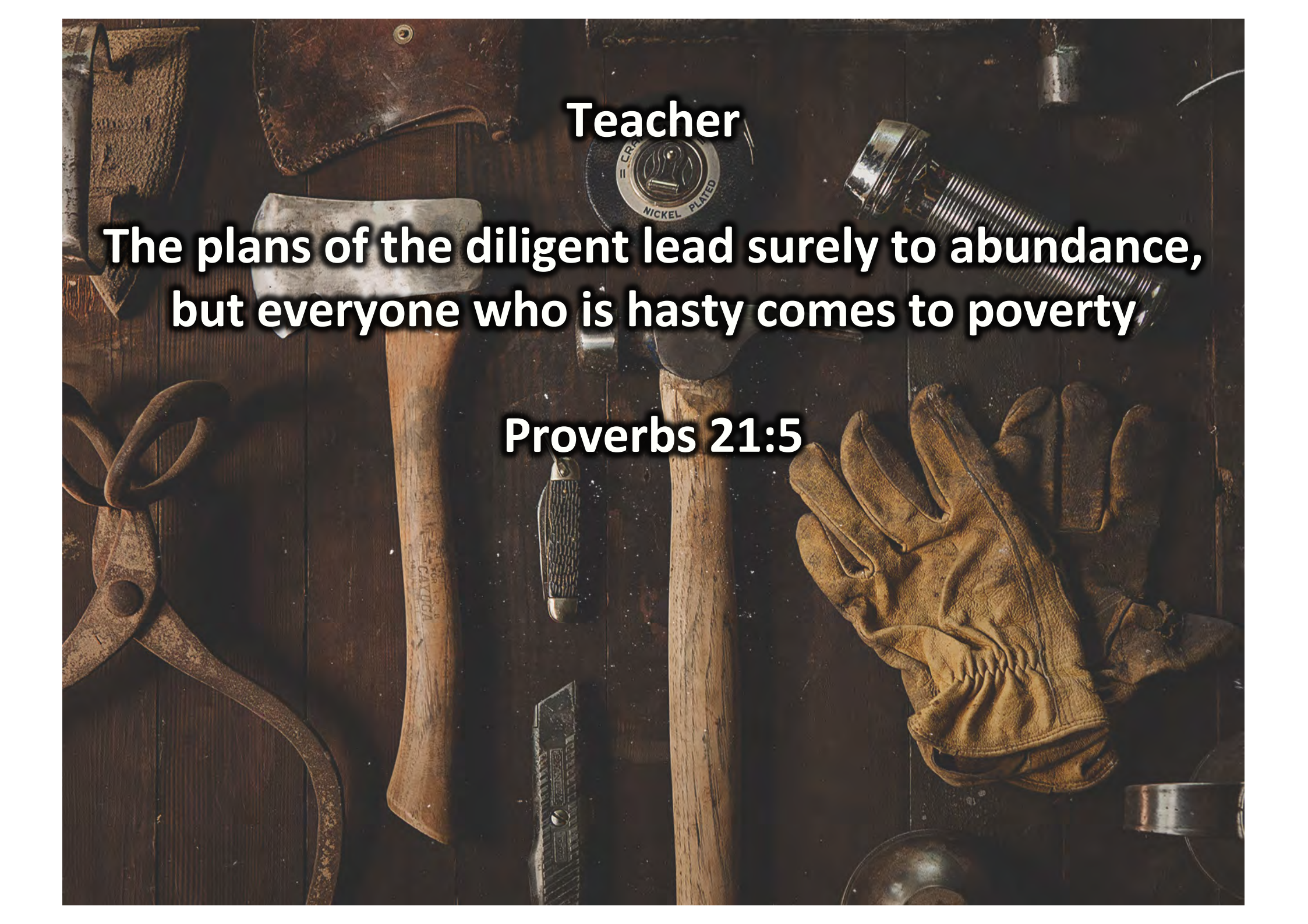
Ecclesiastes 9:10

All

**The hand of the diligent will rule,
while the slothful will be put to forced labor.**

Proverbs 12:24





Teacher

**The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,
but everyone who is hasty comes to poverty**

Proverbs 21:5

Women

**Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.**

Proverbs 4:23

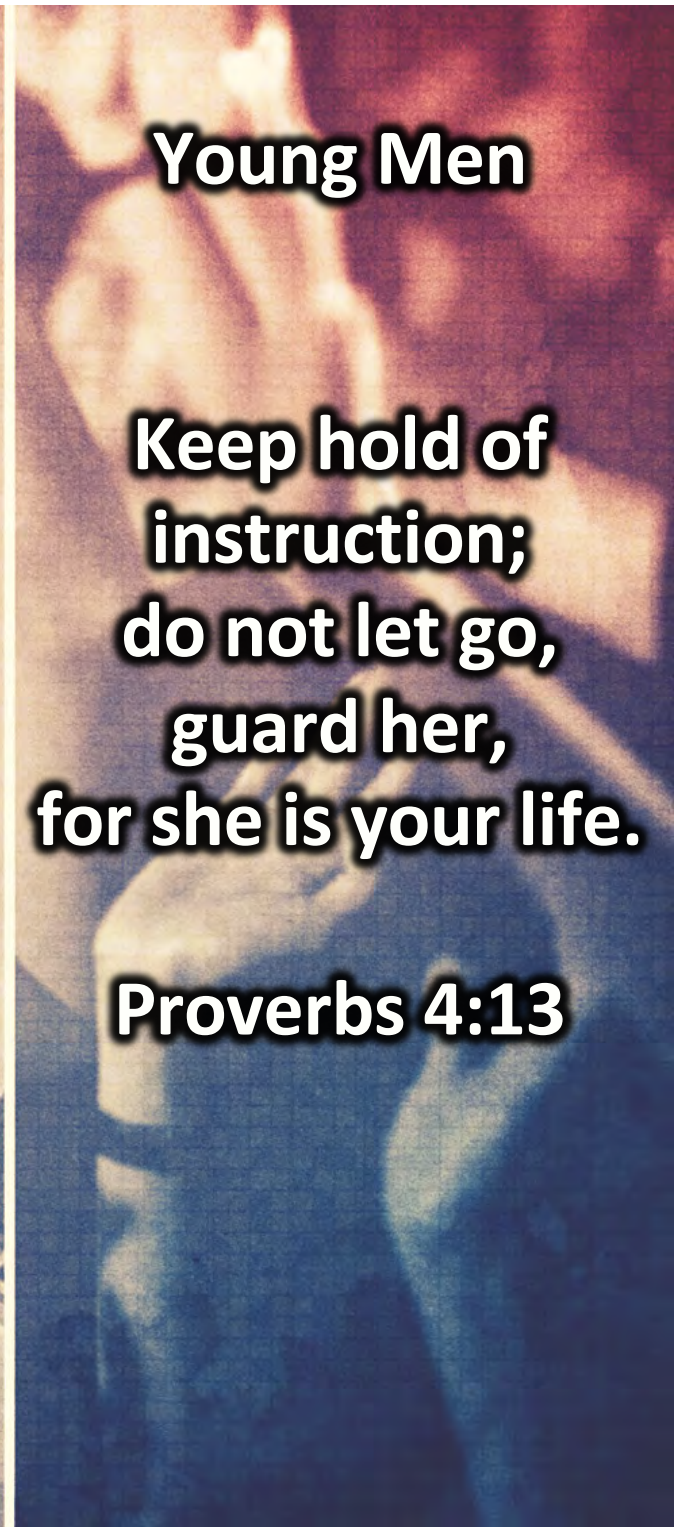
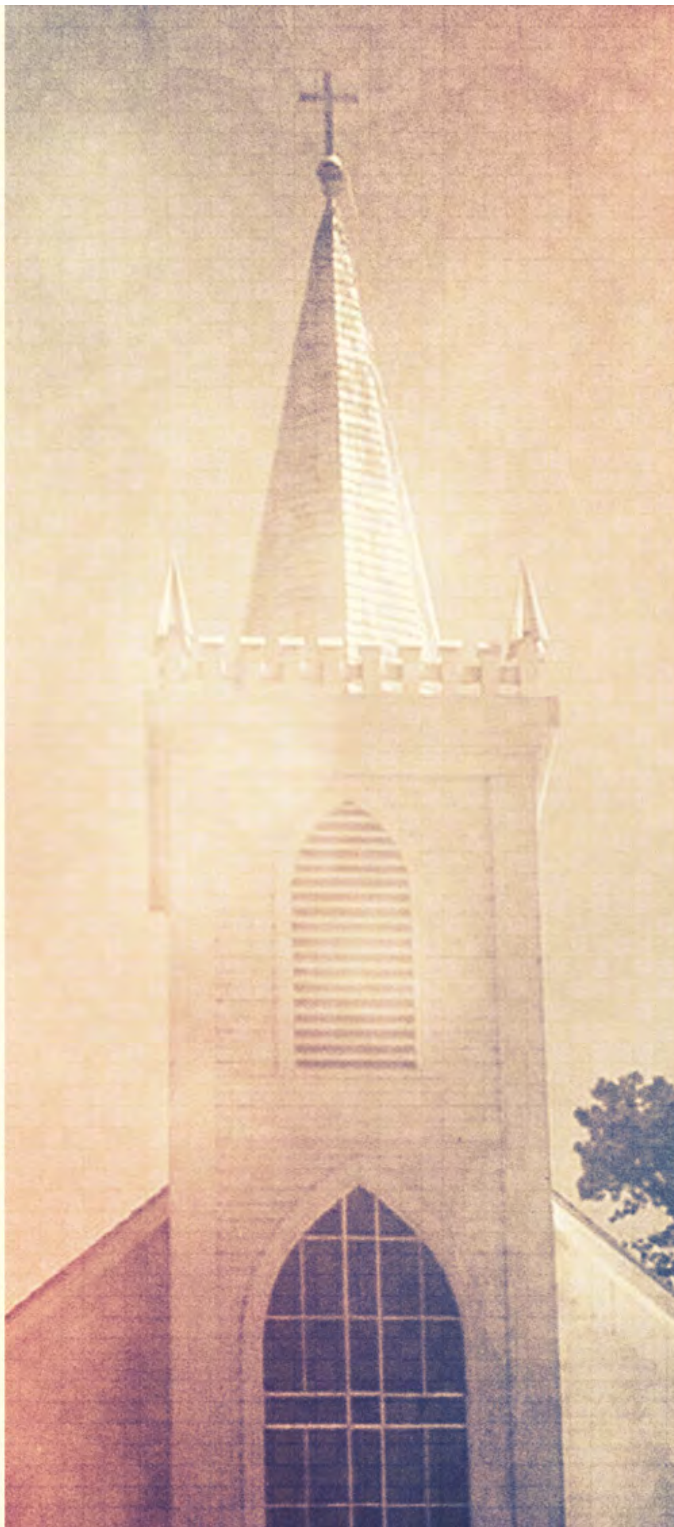
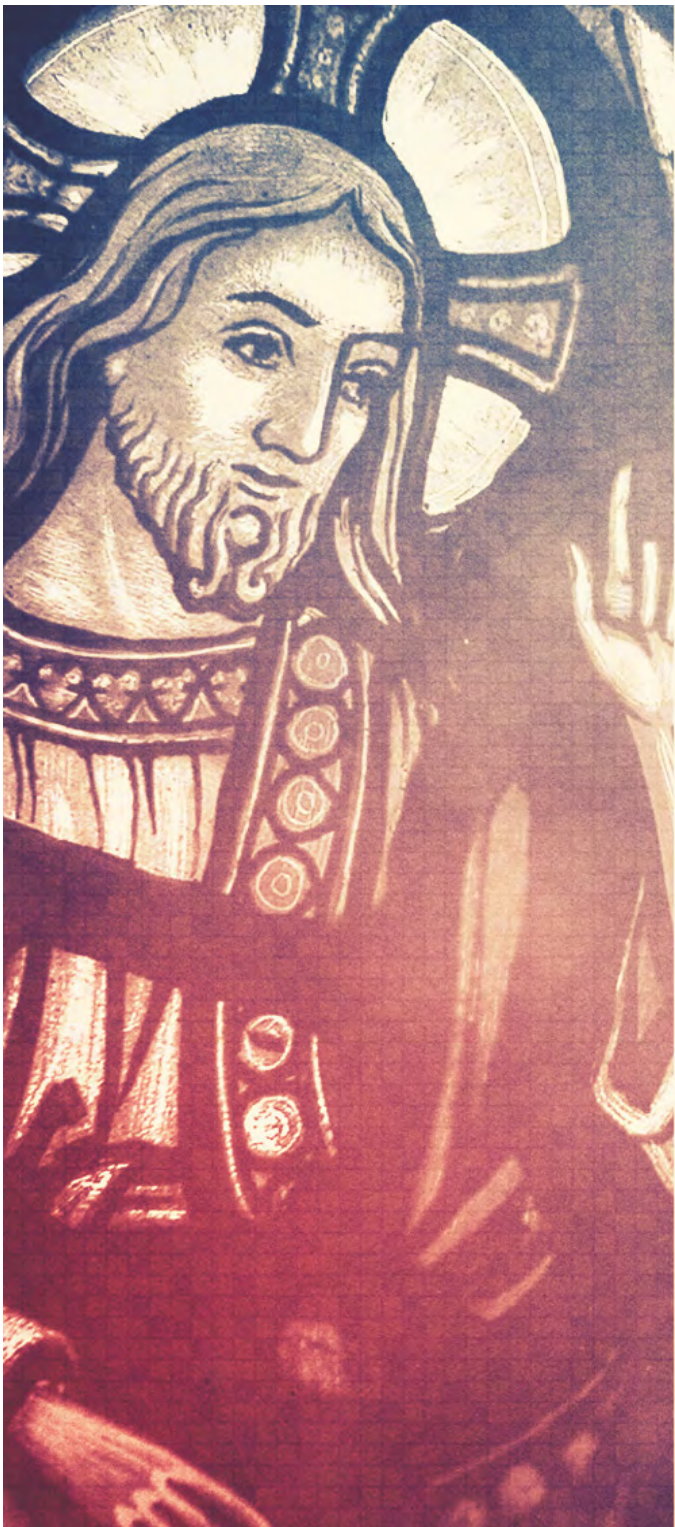




Men

**In all toil there is profit,
but mere talk tends
only to poverty.**

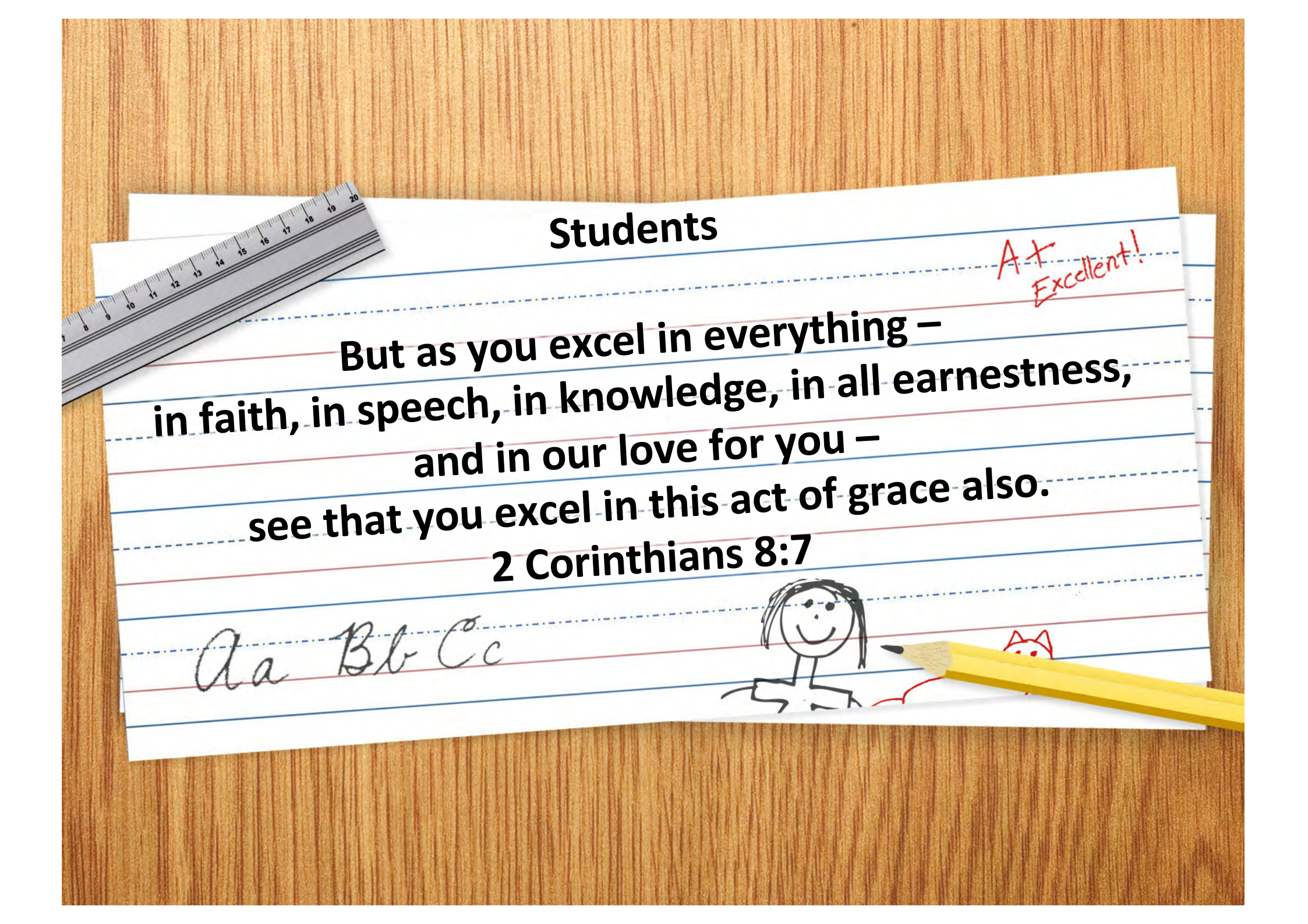
Proverbs 14:23



Young Men

**Keep hold of
instruction;
do not let go,
guard her,
for she is your life.**

Proverbs 4:13



Students

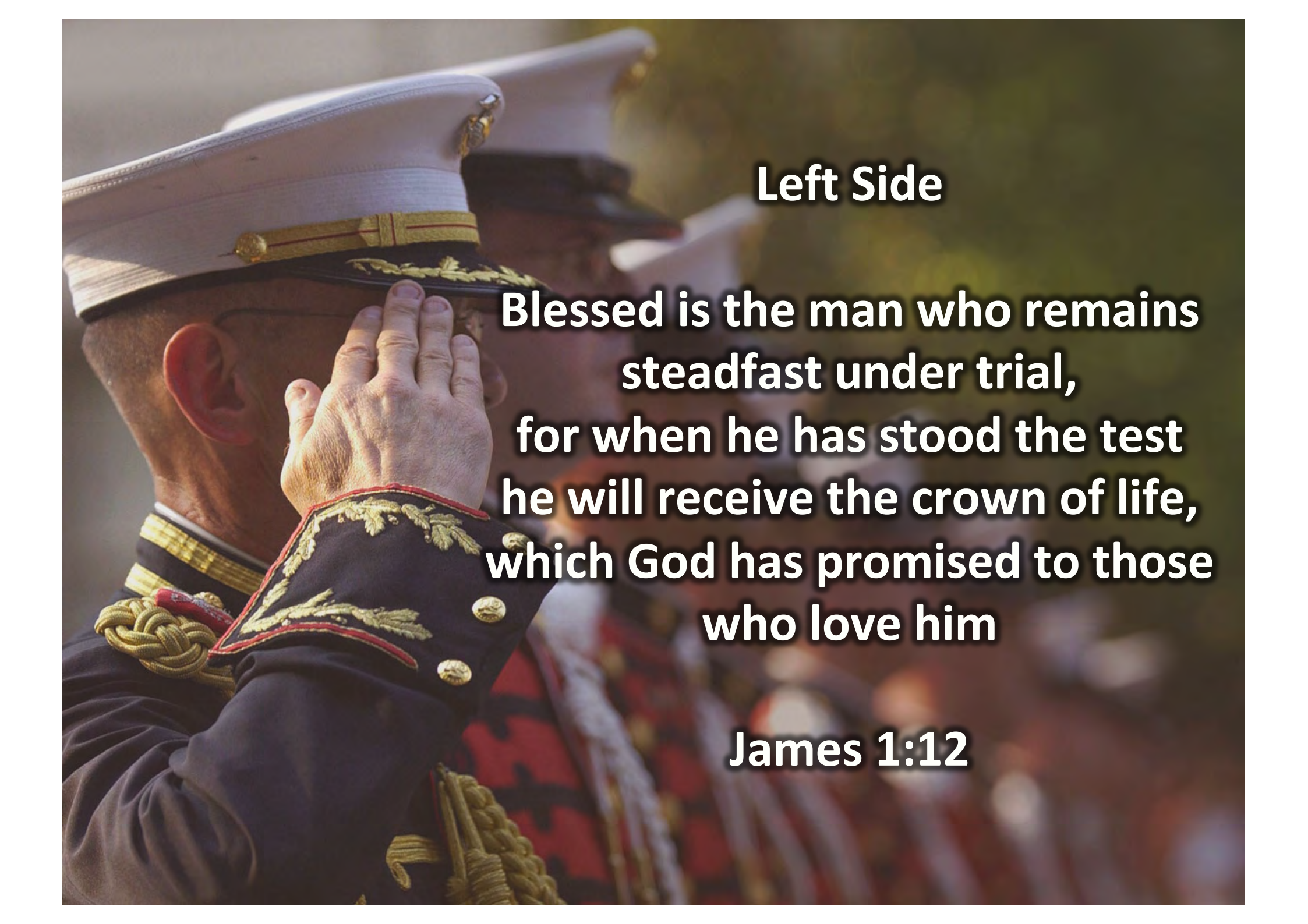
A+
Excellent!

But as you excel in everything –
in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness,
and in our love for you –
see that you excel in this act of grace also.

2 Corinthians 8:7

Aa Bb Cc





Left Side

**Blessed is the man who remains
steadfast under trial,
for when he has stood the test
he will receive the crown of life,
which God has promised to those
who love him**

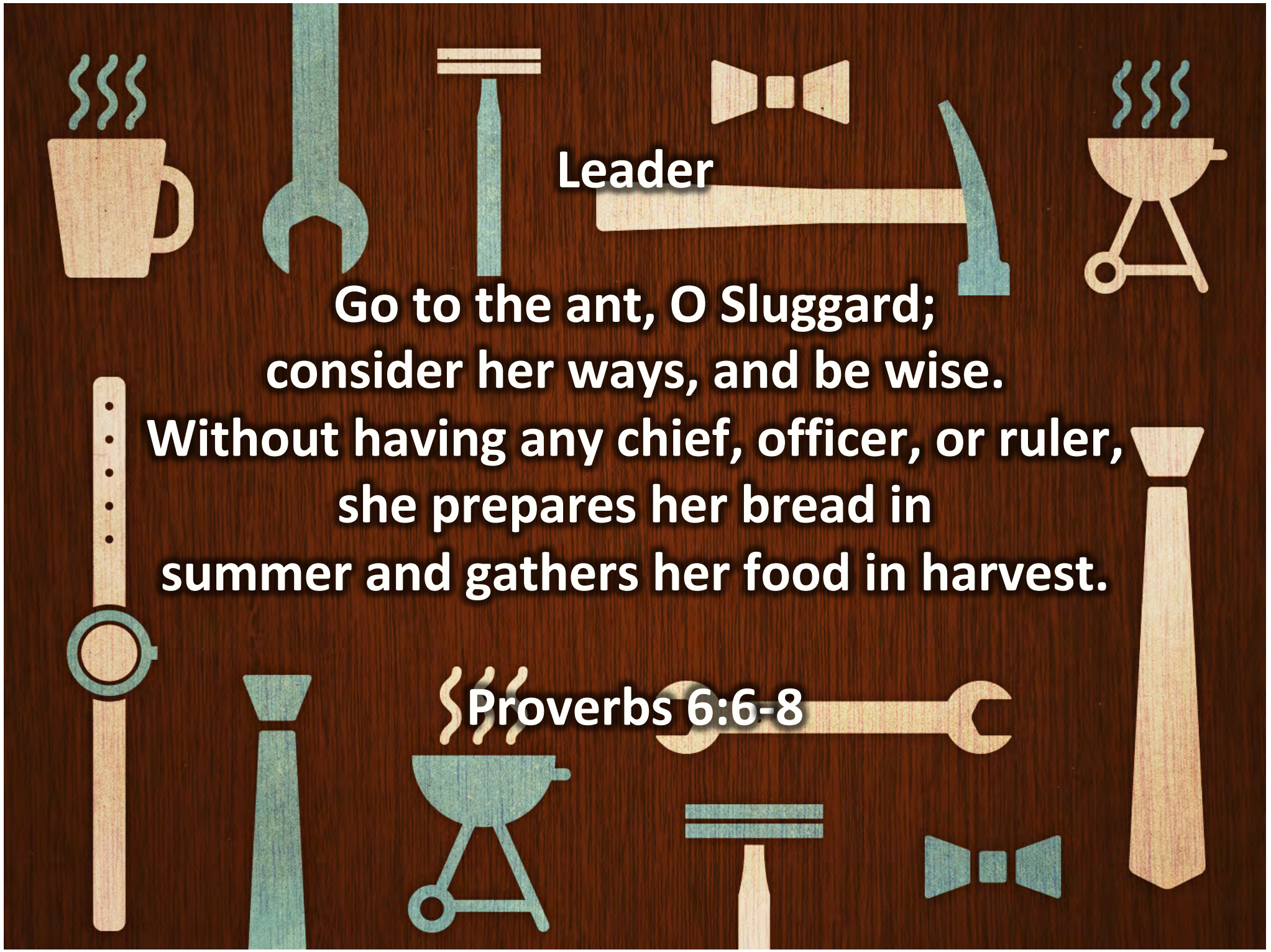
James 1:12

Women

**Whoever is slothful will not roast his game,
but the diligent man will get precious wealth.**

Proverbs 12:27





Leader

**Go to the ant, O Sluggard;
consider her ways, and be wise.**

**Without having any chief, officer, or ruler,
she prepares her bread in
summer and gathers her food in harvest.**

Proverbs 6:6-8

A group of people are seated around a dining table in a restaurant. The table is set with various dishes, including a large bowl of food in the foreground, and glasses. A centerpiece of white flowers is visible on the left. The lighting is warm and ambient, creating a cozy atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Right Side

**A slack hand causes poverty,
but the hand of the diligent makes rich.**

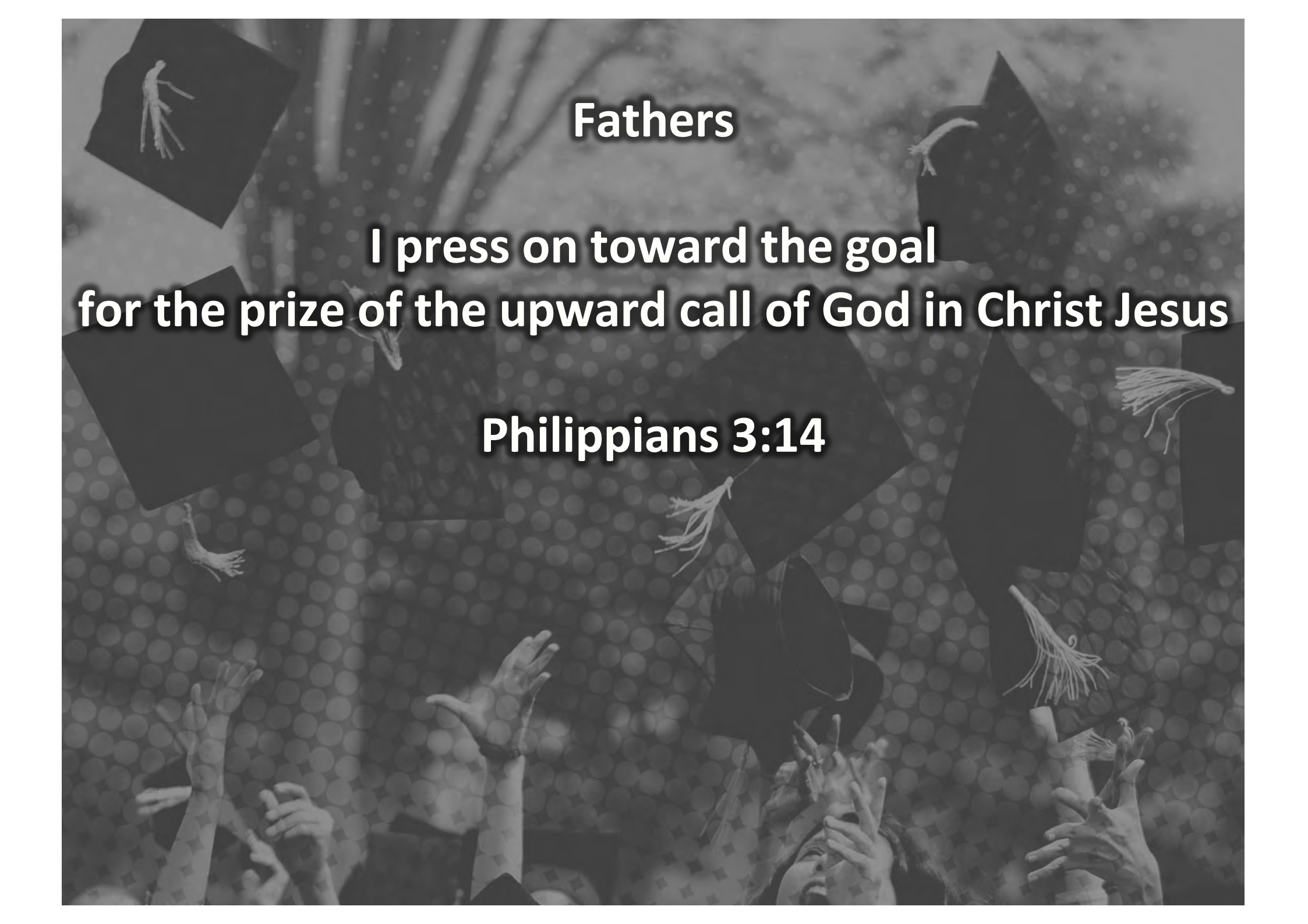
Proverbs 10:4



Mothers

**Whatever you do,
work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,**

Colossians 3:23

A black and white photograph of a graduation ceremony. Numerous black graduation caps with white tassels are seen flying through the air, having been tossed by graduates. In the lower portion of the image, several hands are visible, some reaching up and others clapping. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a crowd of people and possibly trees or a large tent structure.

Fathers

**I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus**

Philippians 3:14

Women

**Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that by testing you may discern what is the will of
God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

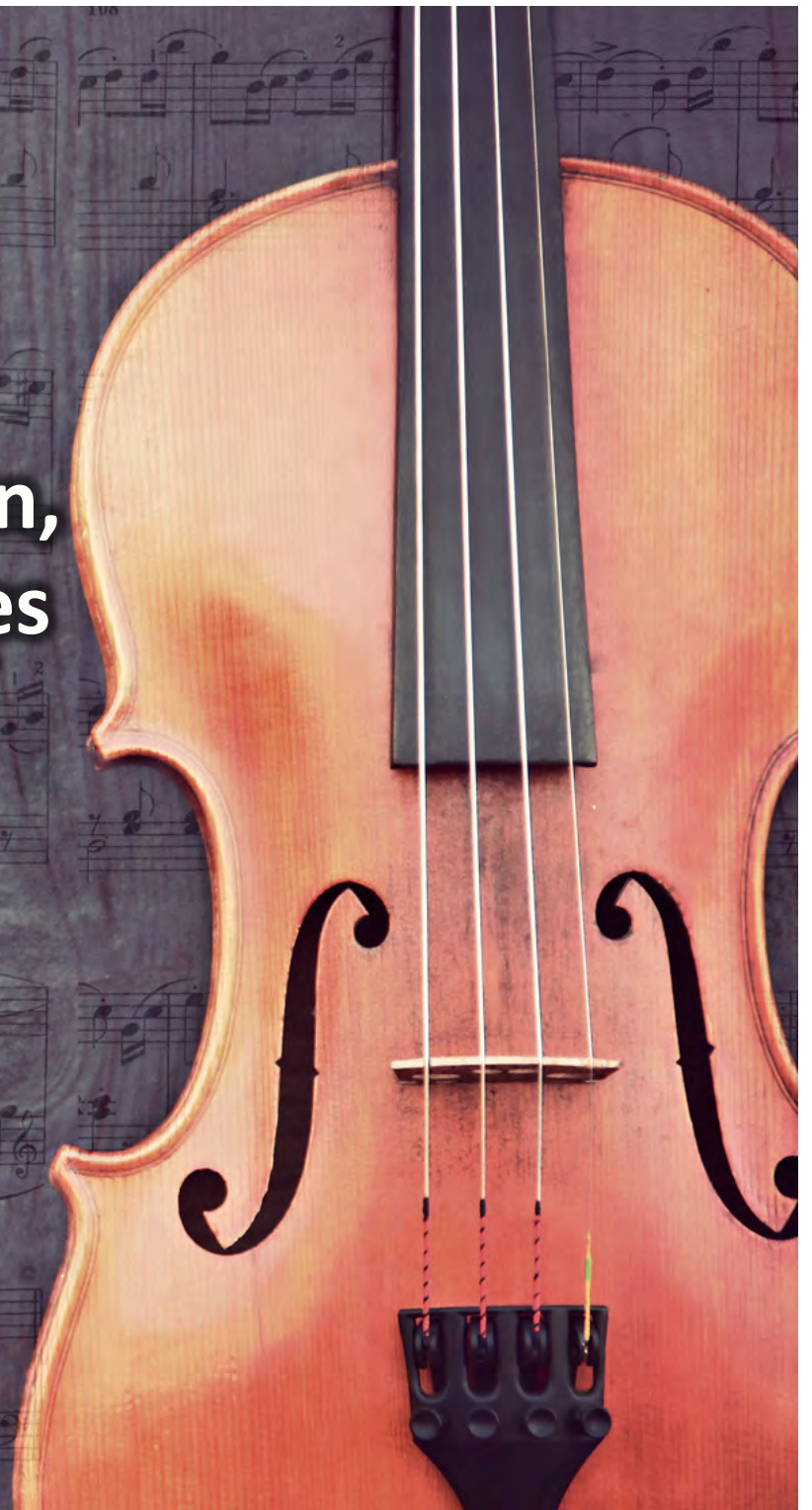
Romans 12:2



Back Row

**Therefore, brothers,
be all the more diligent to
confirm your calling and election,
for if you practice these qualities
you will never fall.**

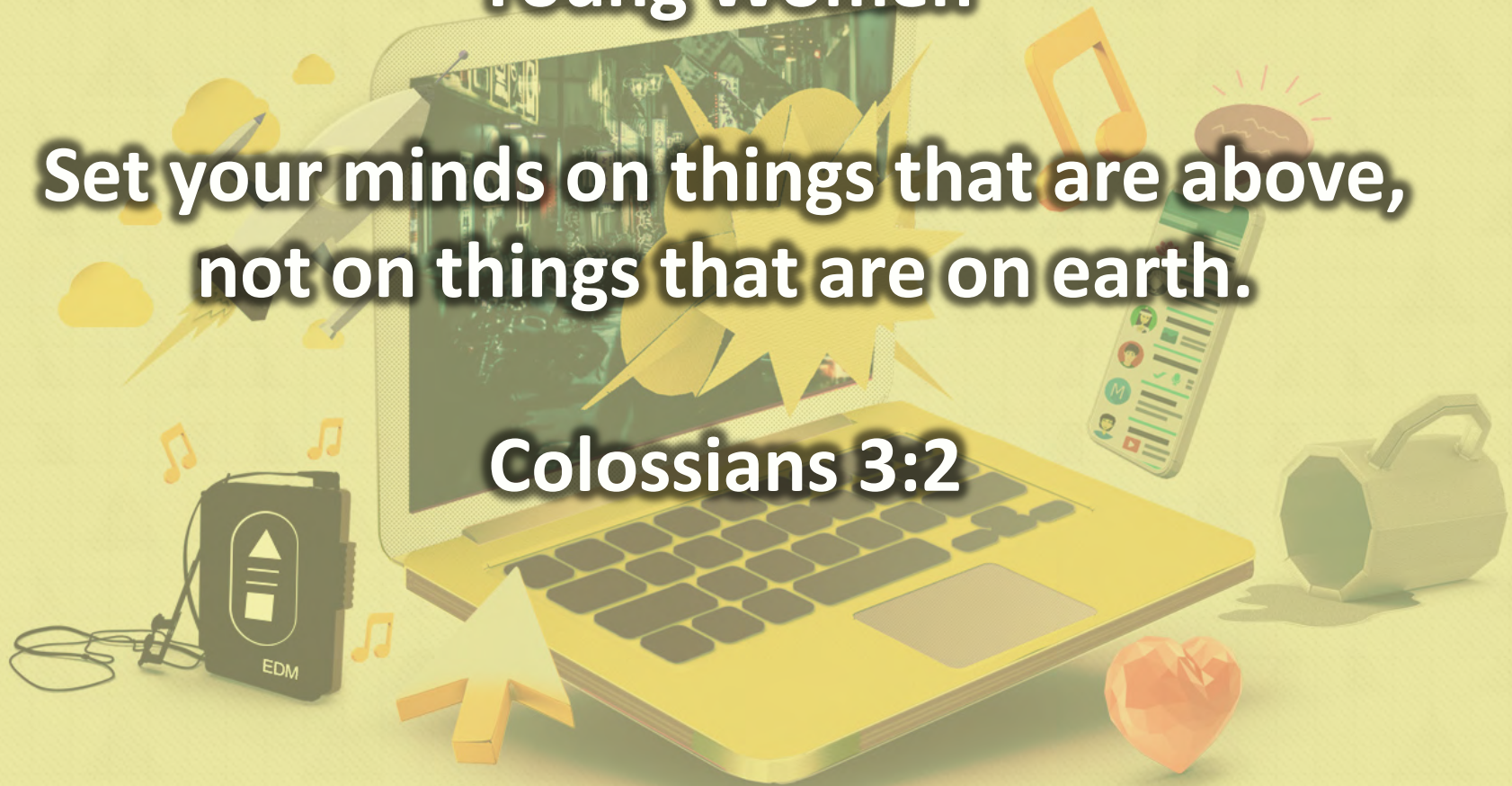
2 Peter 1:10



Young Women

**Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on earth.**

Colossians 3:2



Young Men

**Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these,
be diligent to be found by Him without spot or
blemish, and at peace.**

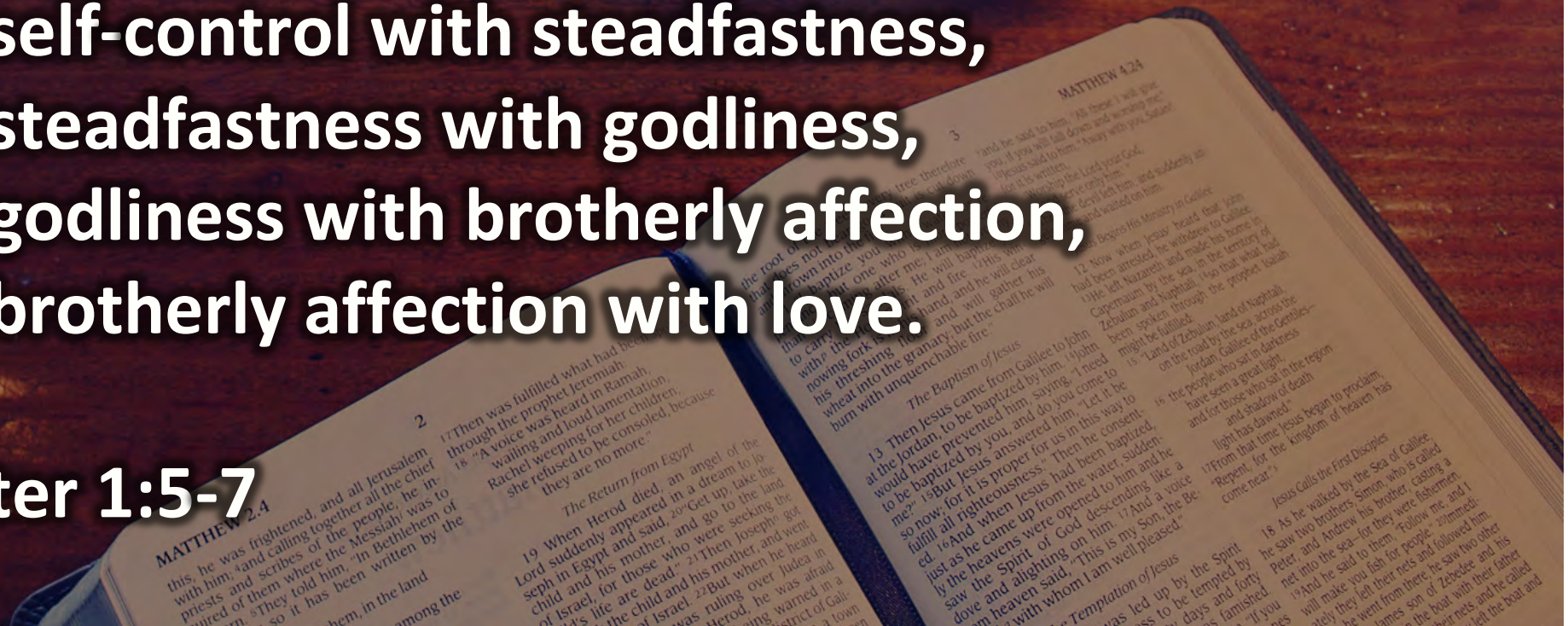
2 Peter 3:14



Everyone

For this very reason,
make every effort to supplement
your faith with virtue,
and virtue with knowledge,
and knowledge with self-control,
and self-control with steadfastness,
and steadfastness with godliness,
and godliness with brotherly affection,
and brotherly affection with love.

2 Peter 1:5-7



Nehemiah 1

Jerusalem

December 1995



Mongolia

December 1995

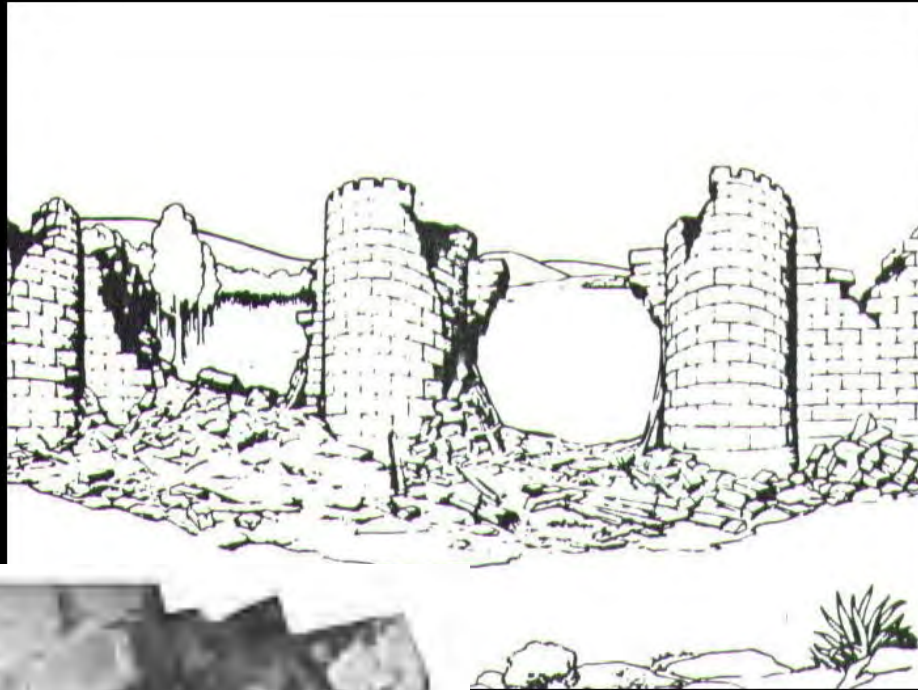




**How can you know if
God **wants** you to do
a certain task?**

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).**

The Postexilic Era

295
296
560

 Temple work

Prophets:

Haggai
Zechariah

Malachi

605

586

539

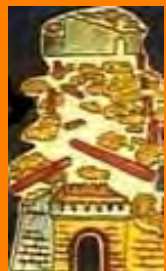
536

520

516

483-473

444-425



72 years

Others:

Zerubbabel

Esther Ezra

Nehemiah

Persian Kings:

Cyrus

Darius

Xerxes

Artaxerxes

The Persian Empire



*The Persian Empire in the 5th century BC
extended "from India and Ethiopia" (Esther 1:1)*

**The boundaries of the empire that Cyrus II initiated
and Darius I consolidated stretched from Greece to India**

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



The Three "Rs" (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

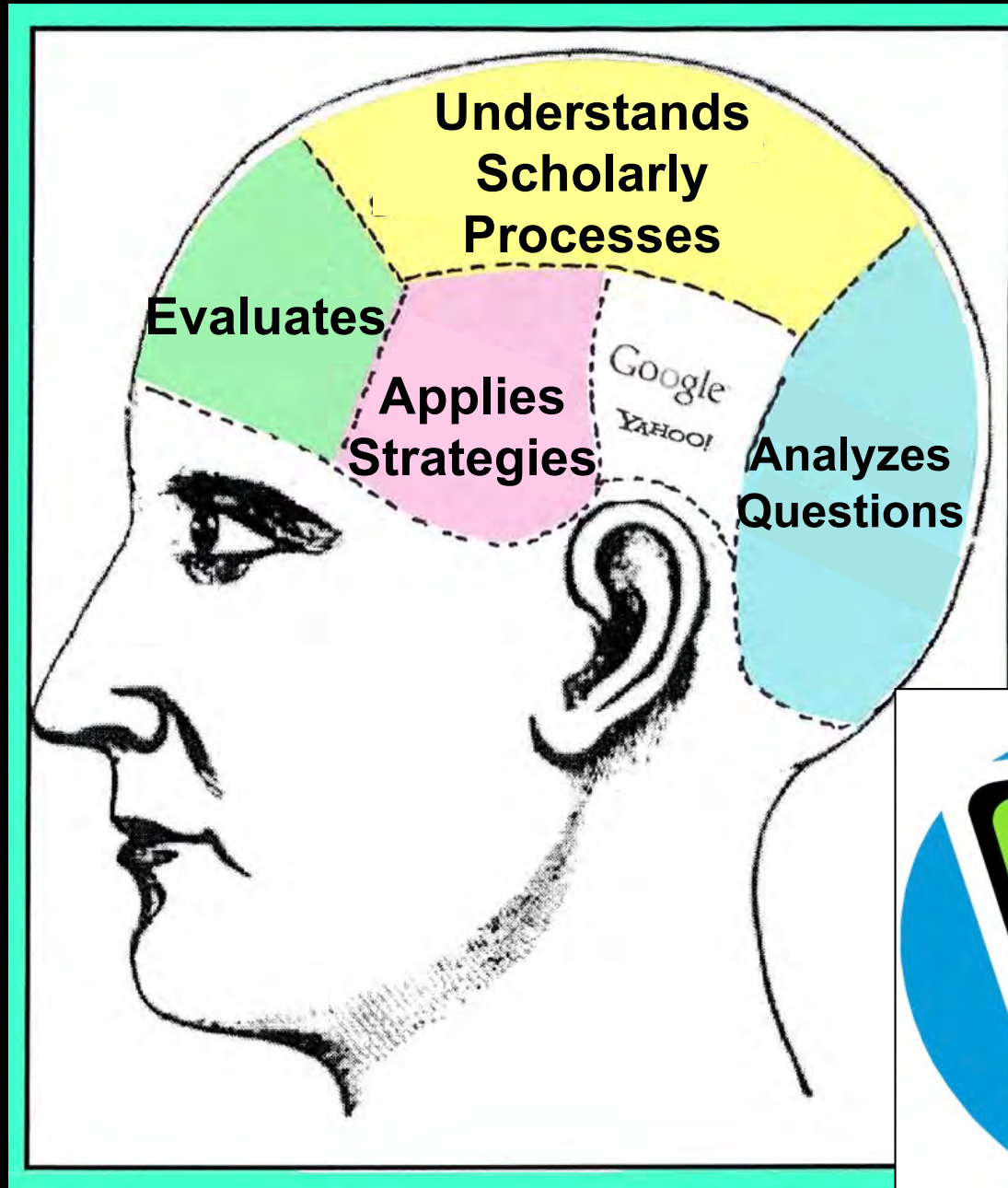
Mar Elias

Har Homa

Ramat Rahel

Bethlehem aerial from north near Jerusalem





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



**Get all the information
you can. We'll think of
a use for it later.**





God *wants* you
informed!

Speaking of information...

Statistics on church guests show that:

- 85% of guests return if visited in 36 hours**
- 60% of guests return if visited in 72 hours**
- 15% of guests return if visited in 7 days.**

So follow up after they visit with a gift bag or something to thank them for visiting your church.



The Form Gallery, Issue #063 "How to Get Church Visitor Contact Information" 9 July 2013

Mongolia

January 1996



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



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



"When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵Then I said,

⁶O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands, listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! ⁷We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses"
(Nehemiah 1:4-7 NLT).

"Please remember what you told your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. ⁹But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.'

¹⁰"The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants. ¹¹O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me"
(Nehemiah 1:8-11 NLT).

Impossible project?



Focus on God



- **He was called “the God of heaven” (1:4b).**
- **He was “the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of love...” (1:5).**
- **God listens to prayer (1:6, 11a).**
- **God graciously gave commands, decrees, and laws through Moses (1:7).**
- **God promised not only exile but also return (1:8-9).**
- **God redeemed this remnant by His great strength (1:10)**



The end of his prayer...

**O LORD, let your ear be attentive
to the prayer of this your servant
and to the prayer of your servants
who delight in revering your name.**

—Nehemiah 1:11



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



Wiersbe on God's Leading...

"Like large doors, great life-changing events can swing on very small hinges. It was just another day when Moses went out to care for his sheep, but on that day he heard the Lord's call and became a prophet (Ex. 3). It was an ordinary day when David was called home from shepherding his flock; but on that day, he was anointed king (1 Sam. 16). It was an ordinary day when Peter, Andrew, James, and John were mending their nets after a night of failure; but that was the day Jesus called them to become fishers of men (Luke 5:1–11)."

Wiersbe on God's Leading...

"You never know what God has in store, even in a commonplace conversation with a friend or relative; so keep your heart open to God's providential leading. I attended a birthday party one evening when I was nineteen years old, and a statement made to me there by a friend helped direct my life into the plans God had for me; and I will be forever grateful."

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Determined* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1992), Neh. 1:1.

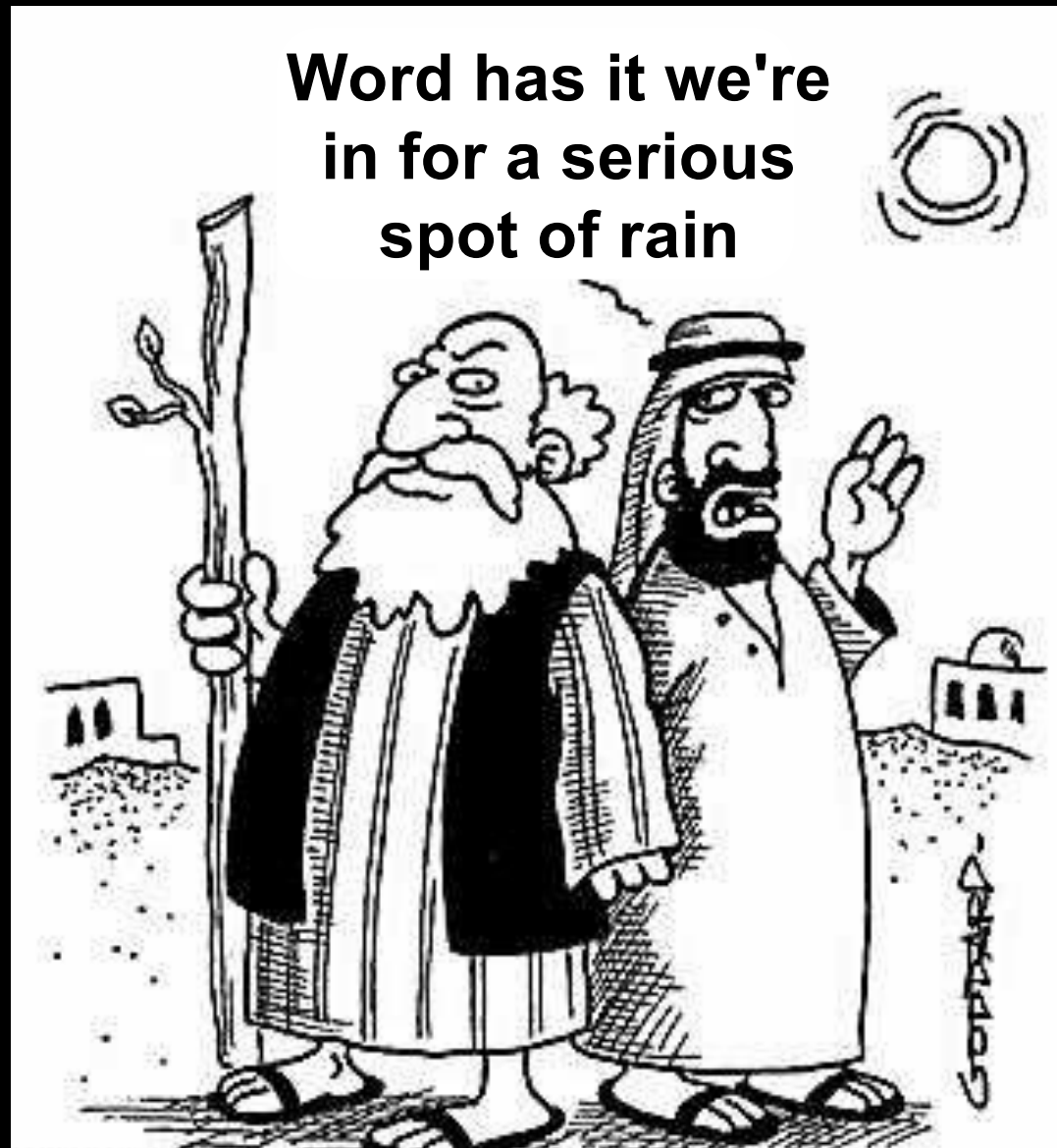
**Just a
simple
word...**



DALLAS
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY



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



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



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





The Cupbearer

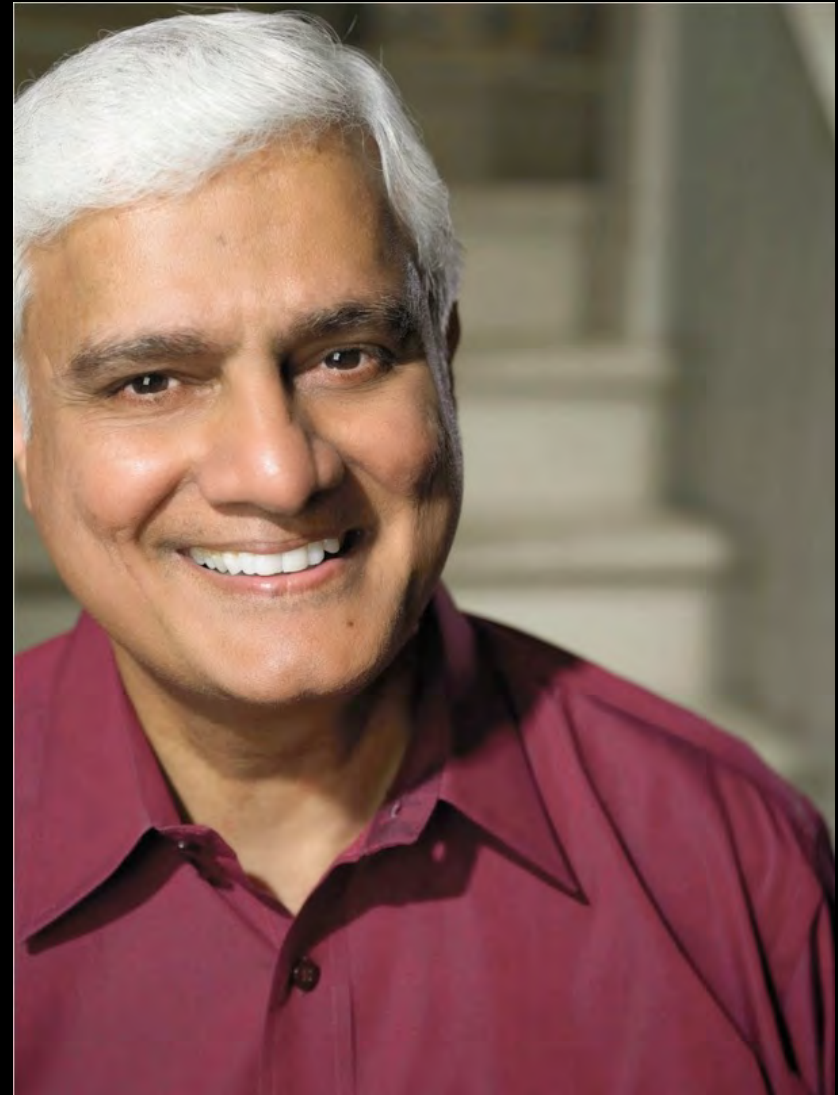


Warren Wiersbe...

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* —





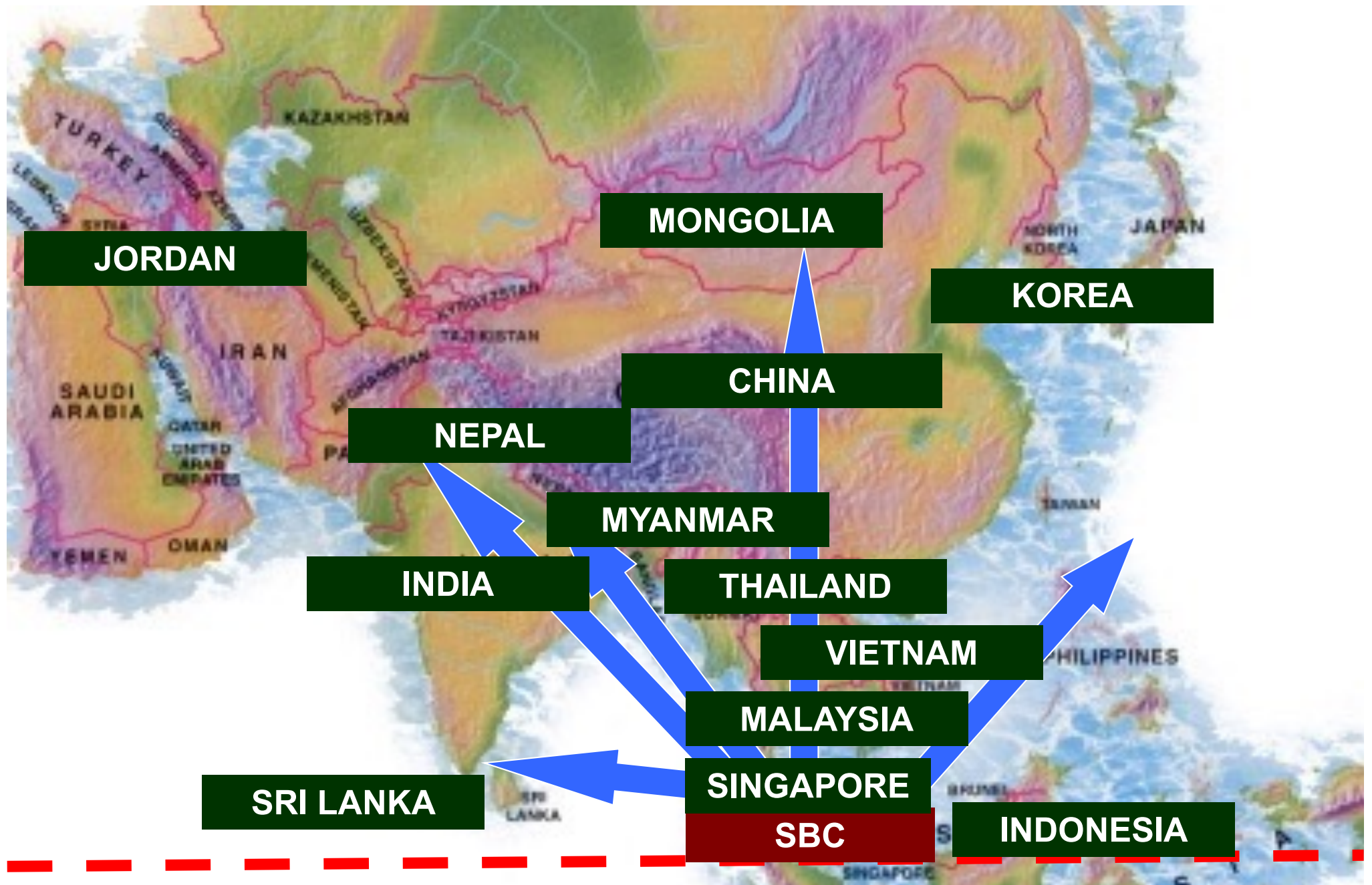
Motive is Everything

"Ask **not what** a man does to determine whether his work is sacred or secular. Ask **why** he does it. The motive is everything. Let a man sanctify the Lord God in his heart and he can thereafter do no secular act" — A.W. Tozer

Mongolia

July 2013





Teaching Ministry 1997-2021



17 believers from 6 countries
at our first meeting Friday, 6 Oct 06

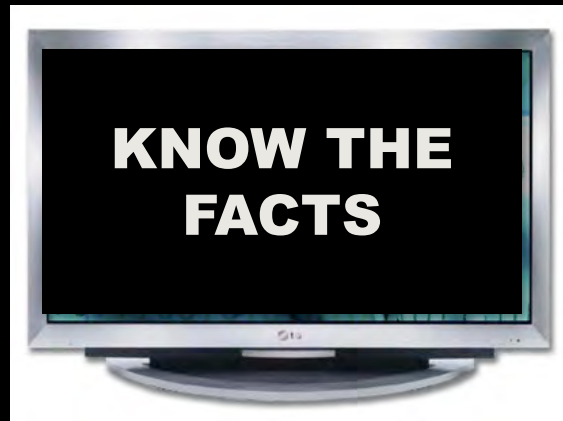


**How can you know if
God **wants** you to do
a certain task?**

Key Idea of Nehemiah 1

God gives you the

information, vision, & position



you need to do His will.

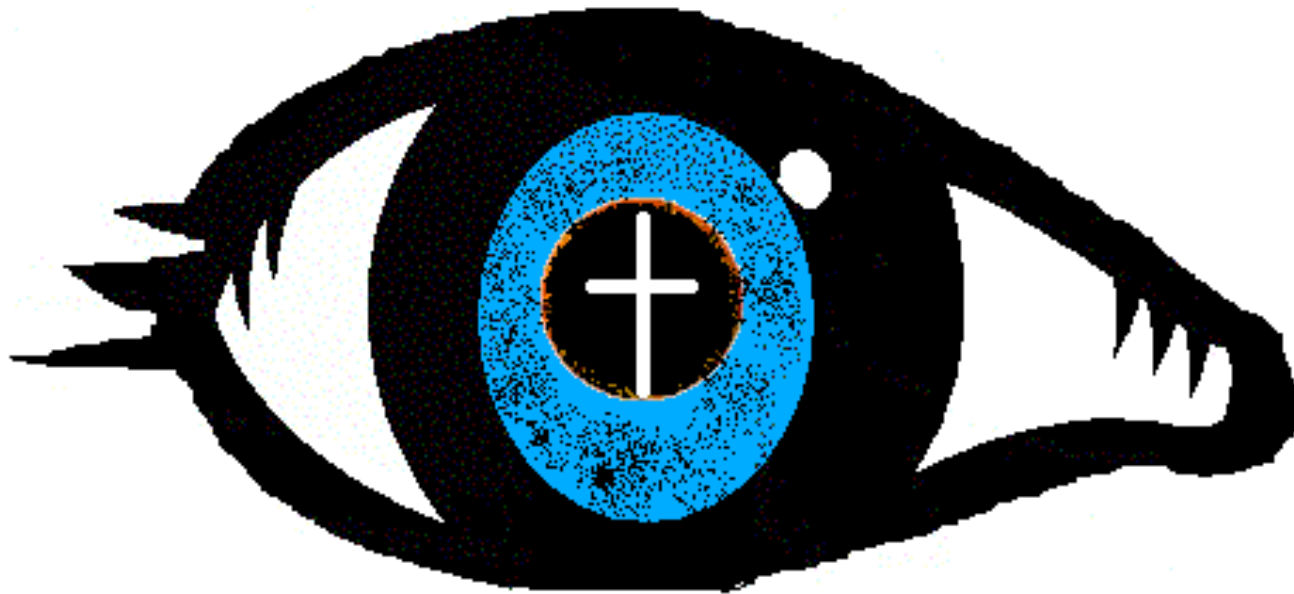


**When GOD guides,
HE provides**

**Where
God
guides,
we must
respond!**



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



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

Why Walls?

The restoration to the land under Ezra & Nehemiah related directly to God's purposes for Israel in the promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3).

Relationship to the Abrahamic Covenant

- a) God promised Abraham that his descendants would occupy the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates (Gen. 15:18), yet Israel in Babylon was living outside of these boundaries. The nation needed to return to the land.**
- b) The Messiah had already been prophesied to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).**

The Walls Today Enclose Two Mosques



Walls Enclose Temple Mount





Nehemiah

**BUILDING A CITY
WITHIN A CITY**

Wall-to-Wall People

NEHEMIAH

Rebuilding Broken Dreams

July-October 2013

Listen to the Sermon Series



SOLITUDE

Stop. Stand still. Enjoy the beauty life has to offer.



LEAD WITH VISION



DETERMINATION

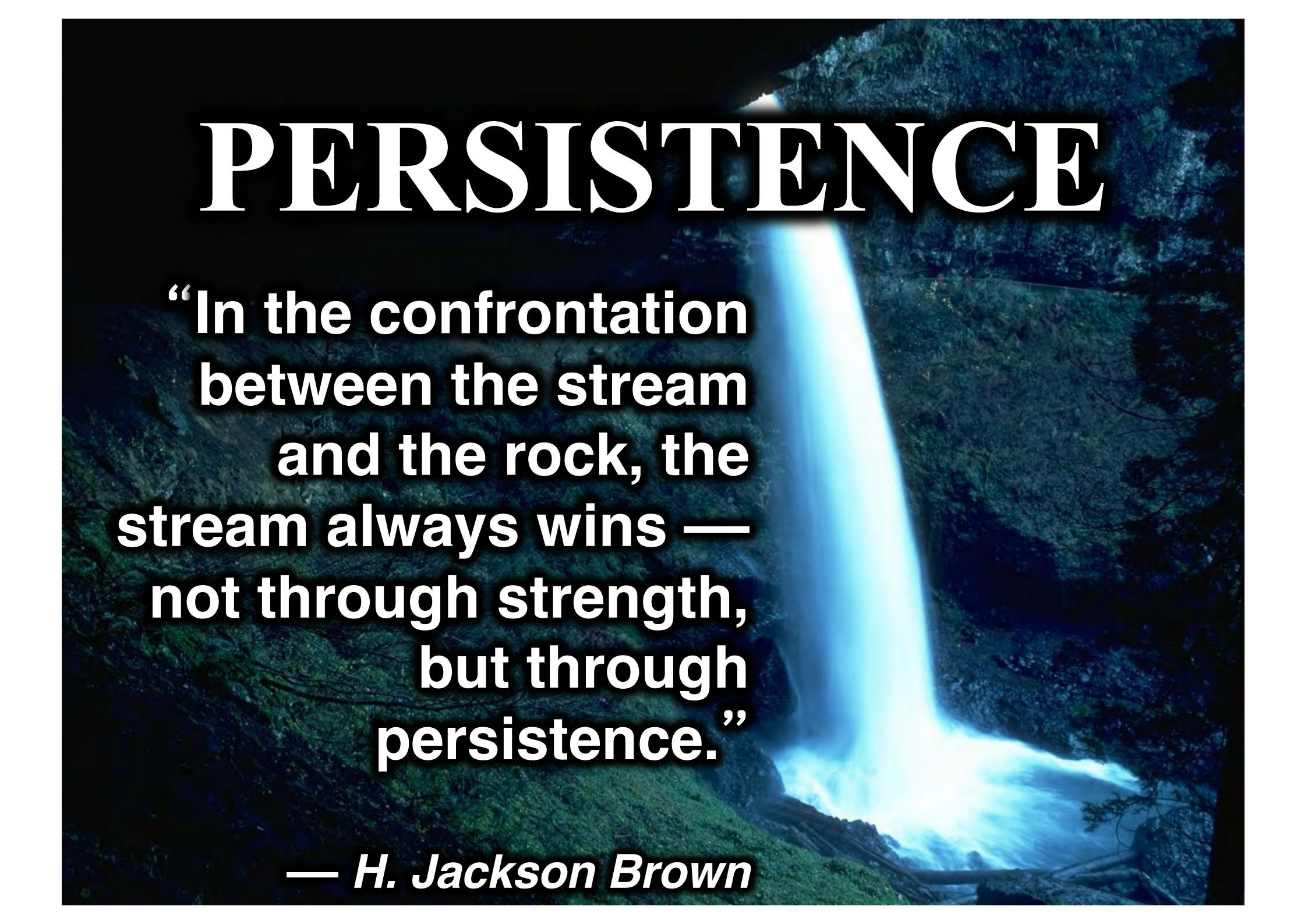
Overcome the obstacles before they overcome you.

— Persistence —



There is no GIANT step that does it.
It's a lot of LITTLE steps.

PERSISTENCE

A photograph of a waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff. The water is white and frothy as it falls, surrounded by dense green foliage and trees. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking up at the waterfall.

**“In the confrontation
between the stream
and the rock, the
stream always wins —
not through strength,
but through
persistence.”**

— *H. Jackson Brown*



VISION

**How can the future be so hard to predict when all
of my worst fears keep coming true?**



SUCCESS

Some people dream of success, while other people live to crush those dreams.



RETARDS

We all know one.



**Do YOU experience
opposition right now?**



**Whenever something goes wrong, I just
push this little button and restart. I wish
my whole life was like that!**

Rebuilding
(Neh. 1–7)

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Returning 1–2

Restoring 3–6

Returning 7–8

Restoring 9–10

Planning 1–2

Progress 3–7

Rebuilding
1-6

Redirecting
7–10

Rebuilding
1–7

Zerubbabel

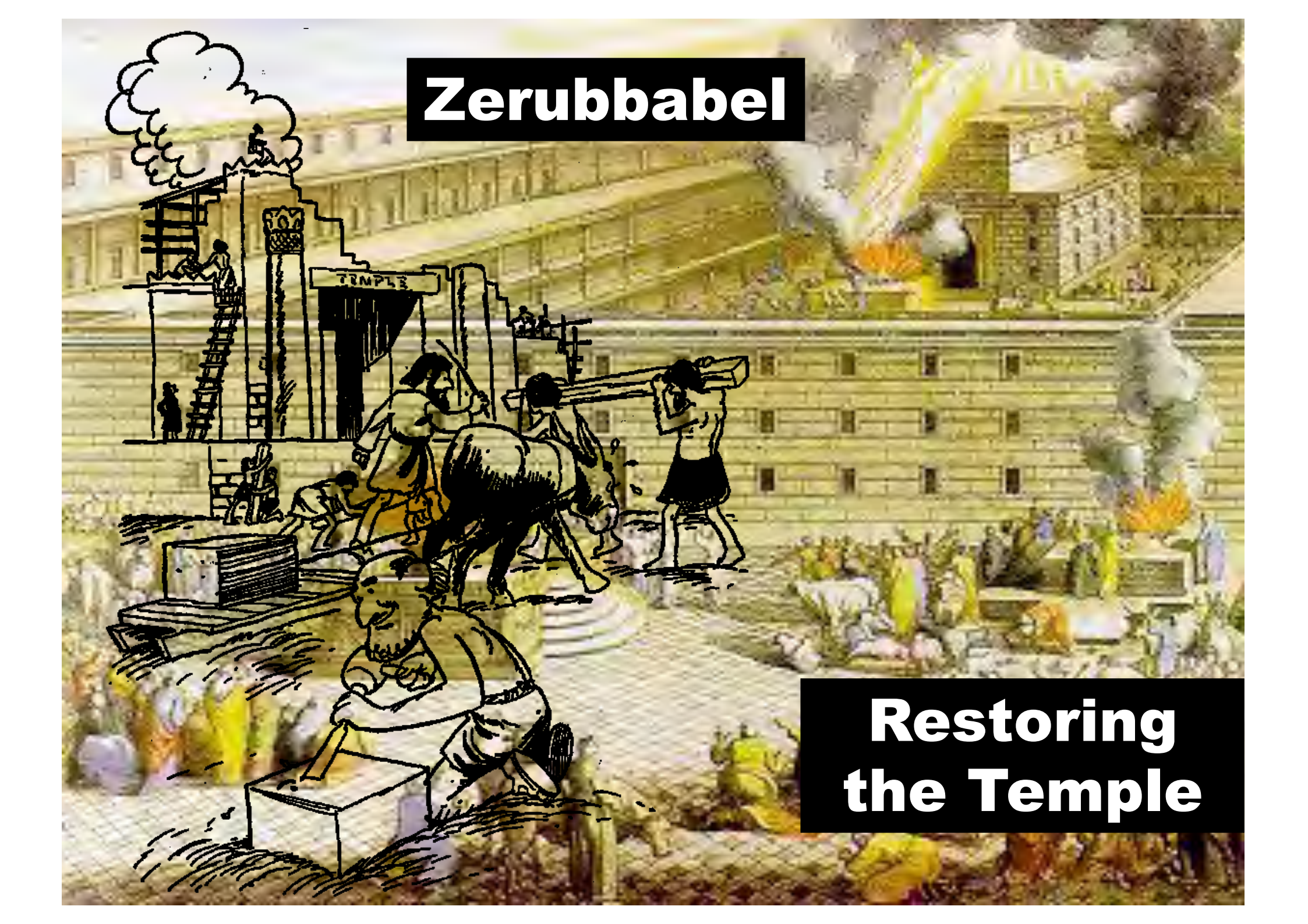
Ezra

Nehemiah

537

457

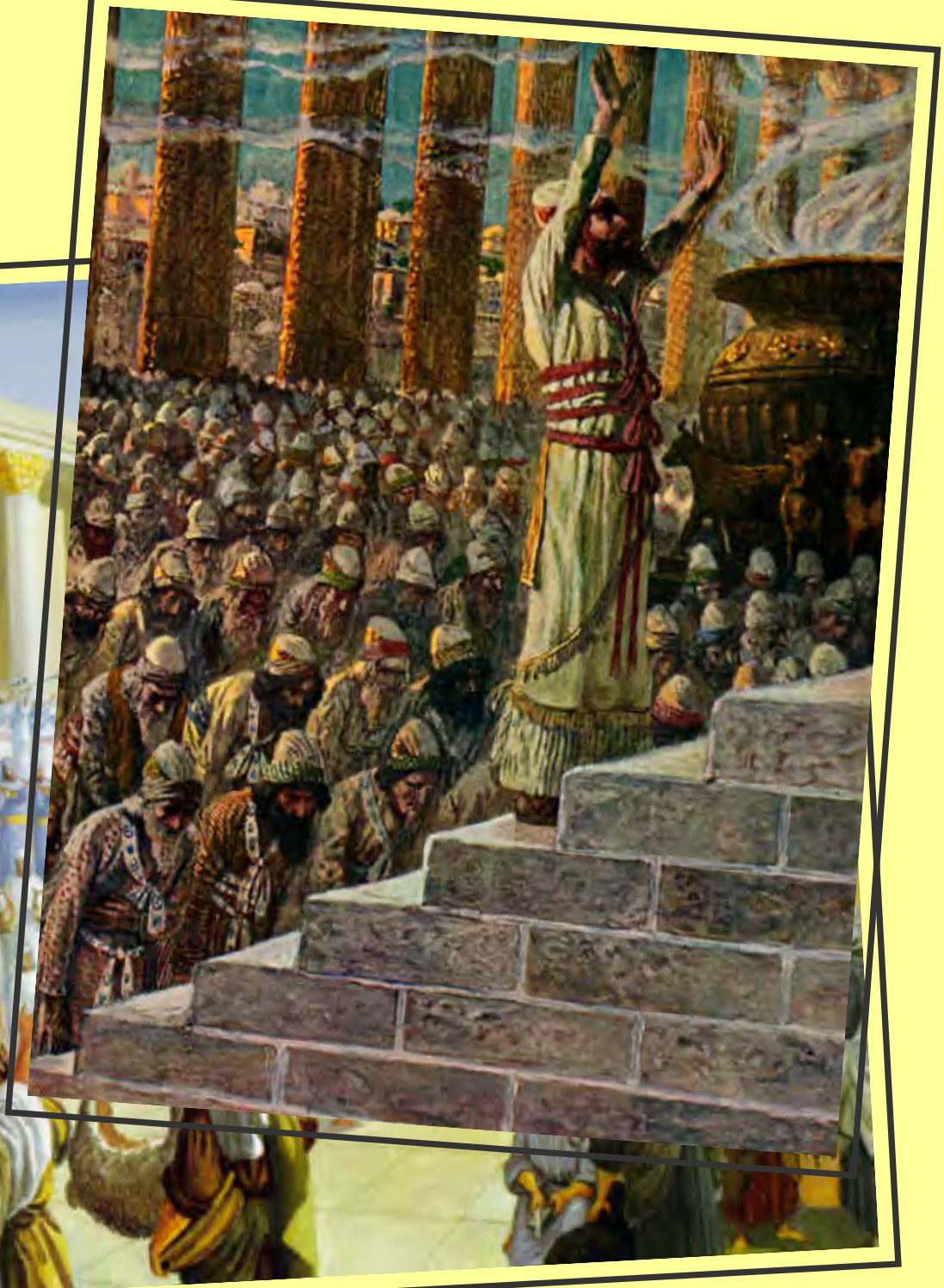
444



Zerubbabel

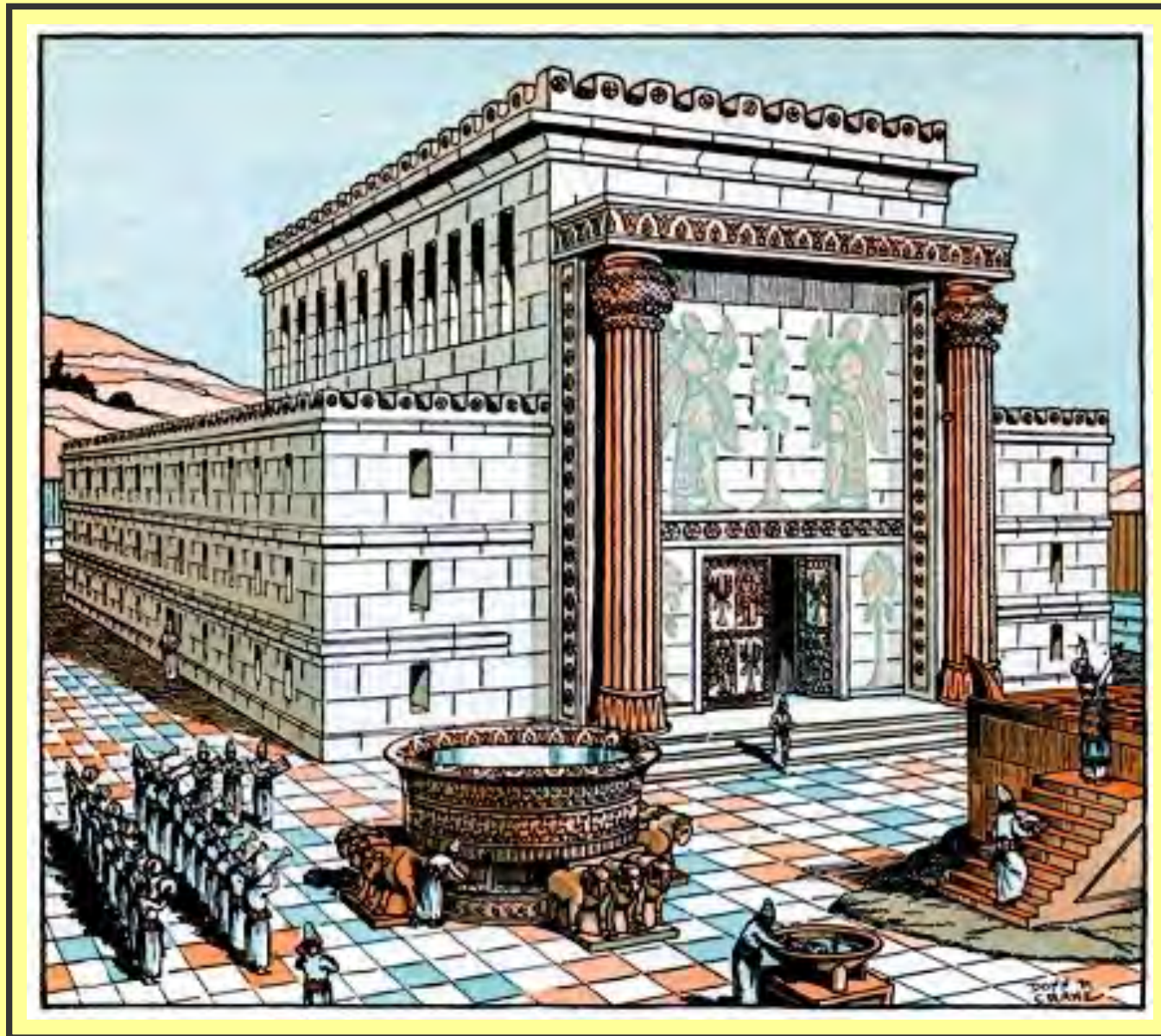
Restoring the Temple

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





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



The temple was unprotected without city walls



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, stretching from the bottom left towards the top center. The ground is a mix of light brown and tan colors with deep, irregular cracks.

Nehemiah 2:11-20

Restoring God's Honor

OMG
"Jesus"
Marriage

God
Dishonored





**How does
God
restore us?**

NEHEMIAH

Our Need

The Postexilic Era

295
296
560

 Temple work

Prophets:

Haggai
Zechariah

Malachi

605

586

539

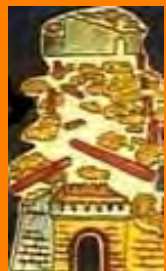
536

520

516

483-473

444-425



72 years

Others:

Zerubbabel

Esther Ezra

Nehemiah

Persian Kings:

Cyrus

Darius

Xerxes

Artaxerxes

Temple But No Walls



HAGGAI

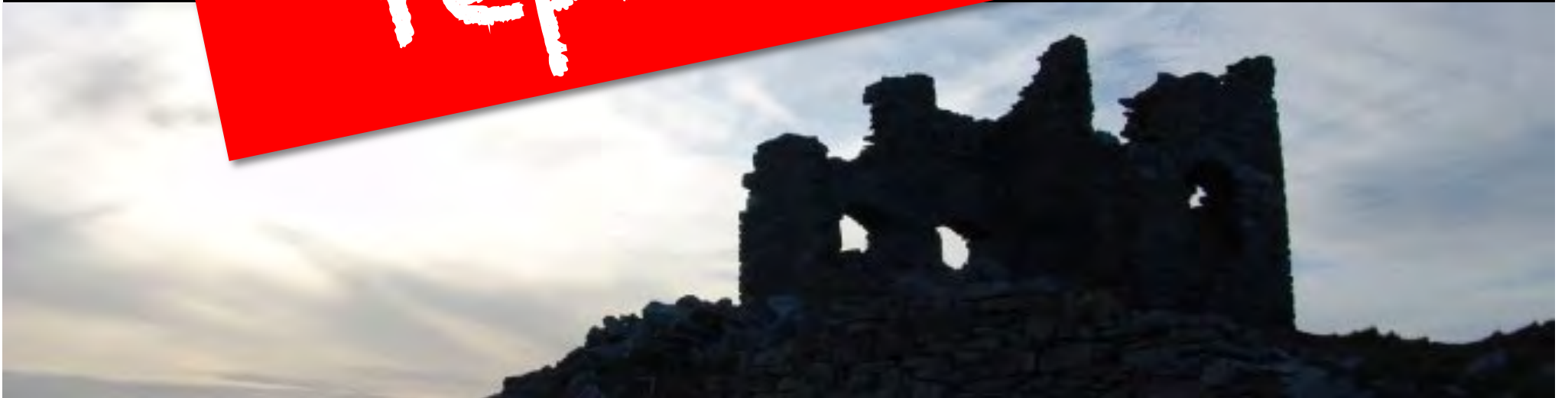
Temple But No Walls



Nehemiah 1:1–2:10

Summary

God
reproached!



The Persian Empire

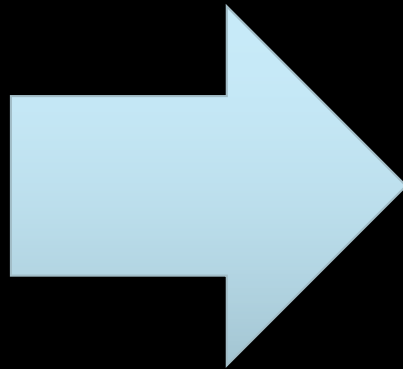


The Persian Empire in the fifth century BC, extending 'from India to Ethiopia' (Est. 1:1).

The boundaries of the empire that Cyrus II initiated and Darius I consolidated stretched from Greece to India



The Cupbearer

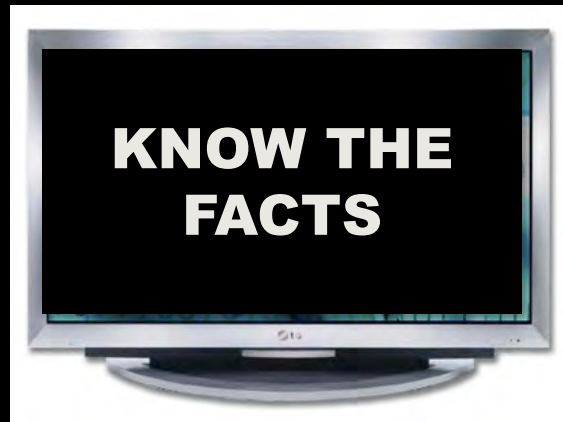


**Willing to be a
foreman**

Key Idea of Nehemiah 1

God gives you the

information, vision, & position



you need to do His will.

Nehemiah 2:1-10 Key Idea



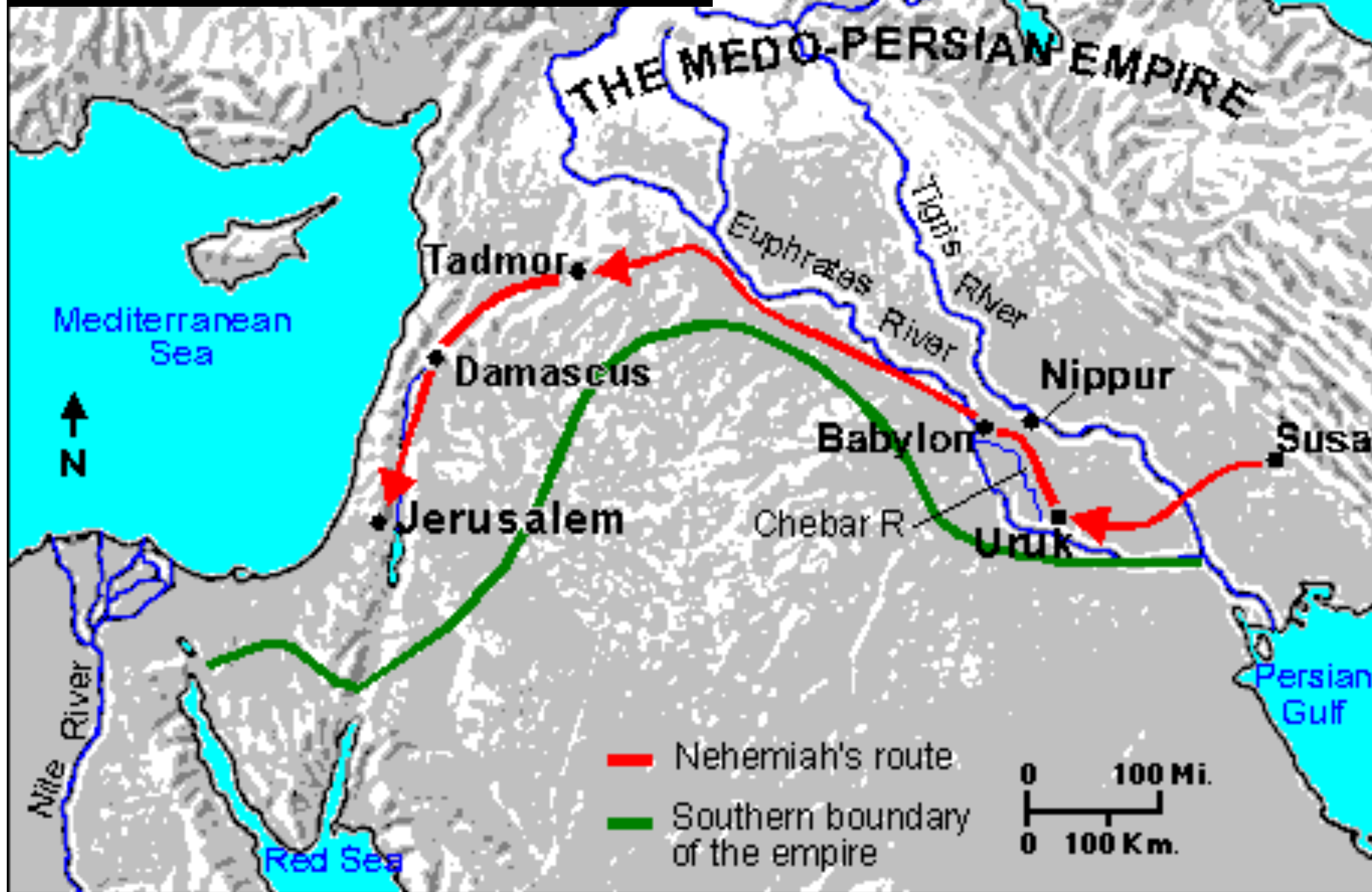
**God gives us a burden
to make unconventional
requests.**

Nehemiah 2:1-10 Key Idea



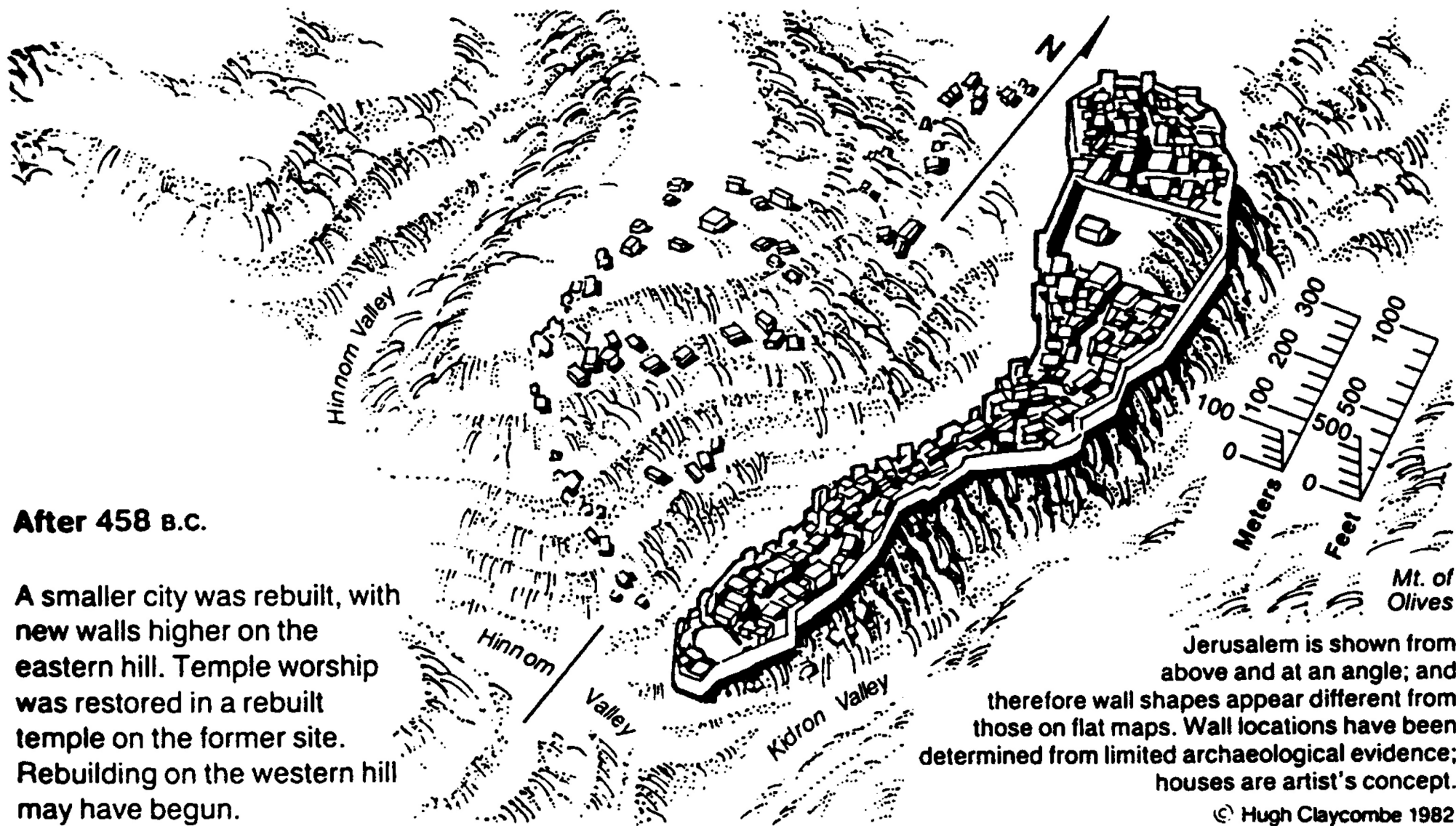
**God also prepares others
to grant our requests.**

Nehemiah's Journey



Jerusalem of the Returning Exiles

Bible Visual Resource Book, 99; Gene Getz, Nehemiah," in Bible Knowledge Commentary, 1:679

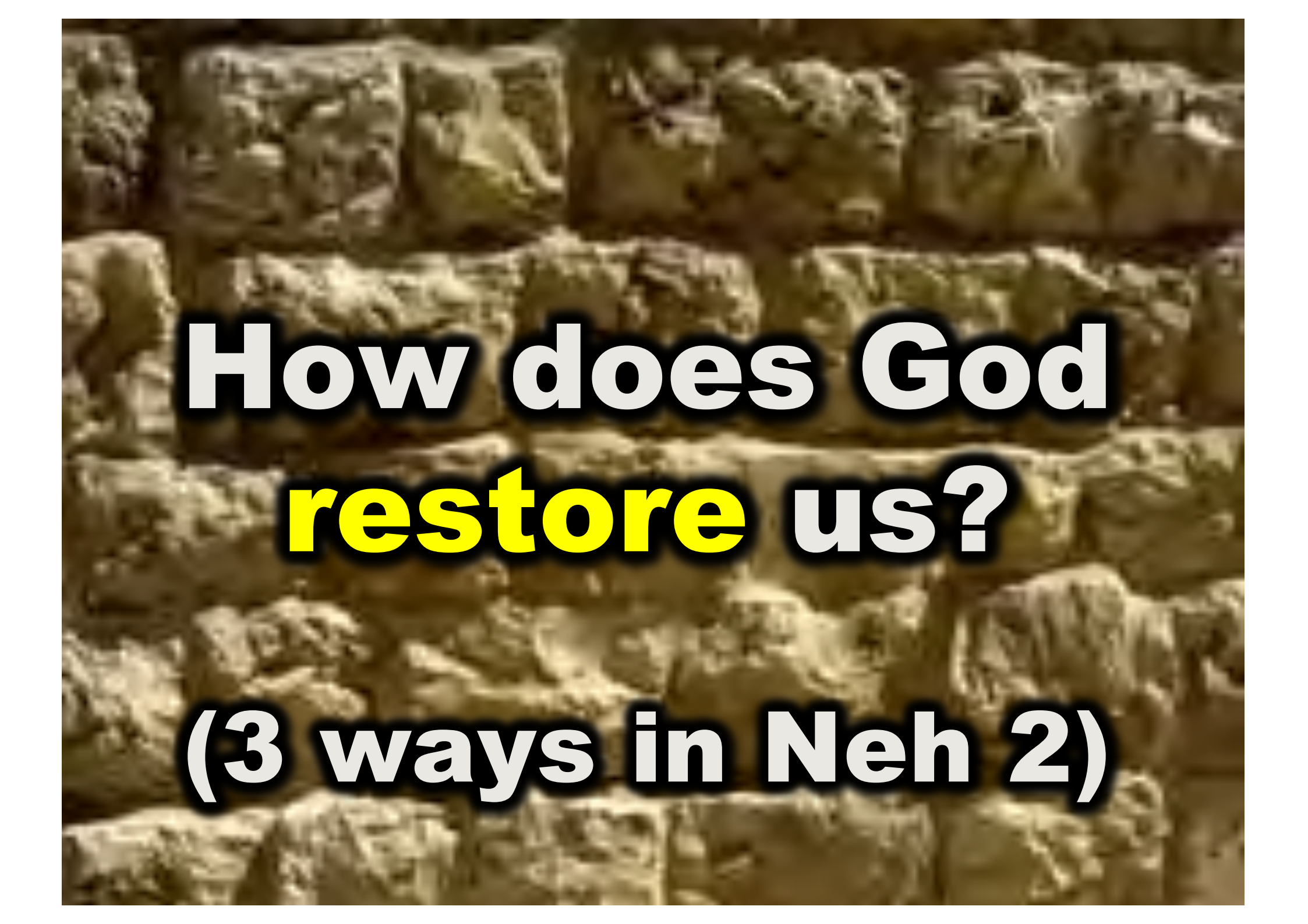


After 458 B.C.

A smaller city was rebuilt, with new walls higher on the eastern hill. Temple worship was restored in a rebuilt temple on the former site. Rebuilding on the western hill may have begun.

Jerusalem is shown from above and at an angle; and therefore wall shapes appear different from those on flat maps. Wall locations have been determined from limited archaeological evidence; houses are artist's concept.

© Hugh Claycombe 1982



**How does God
restore us?**

(3 ways in Neh 2)

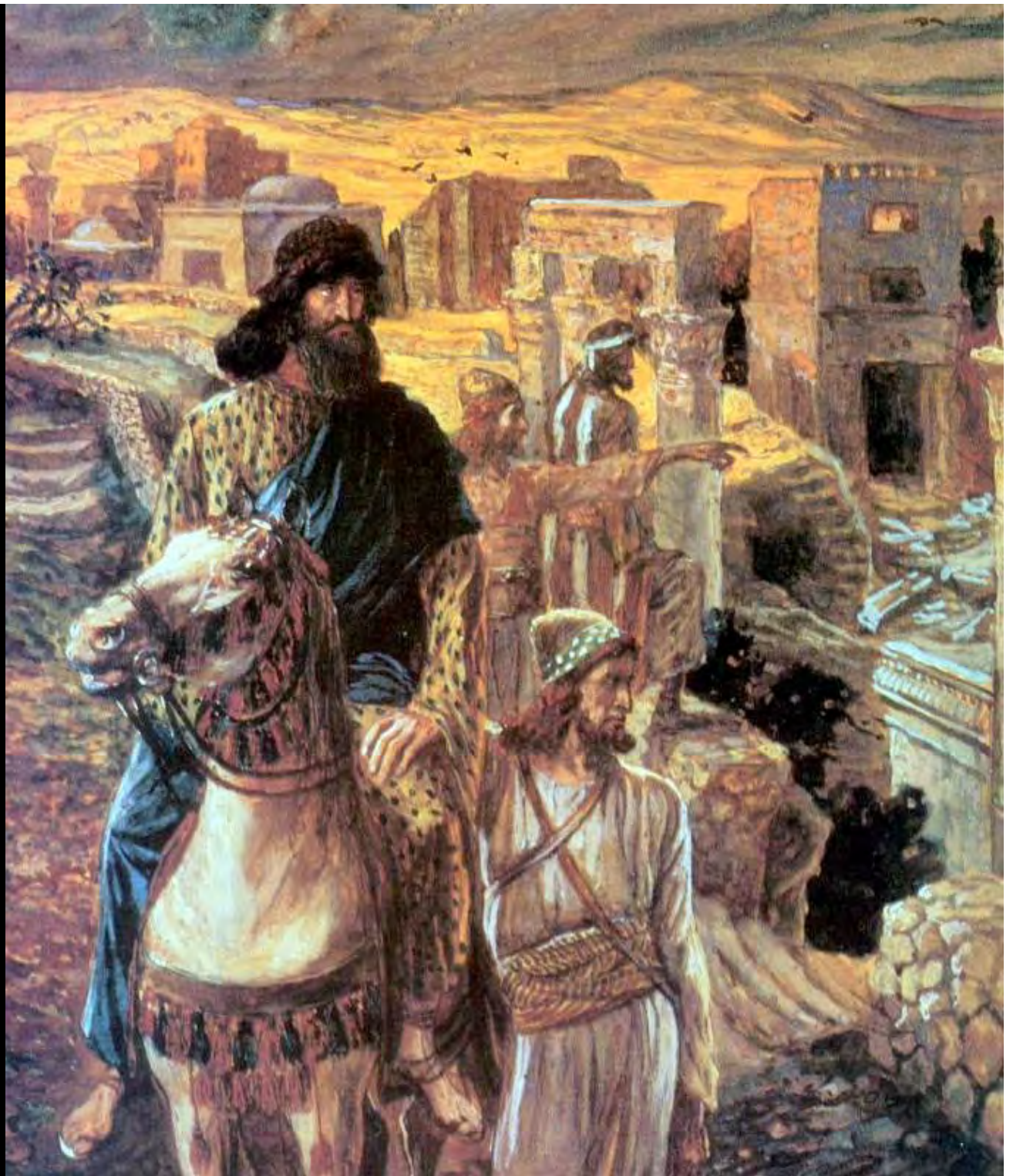
1. God **informs us of our
sad state of affairs
(2:11-15).**





“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).



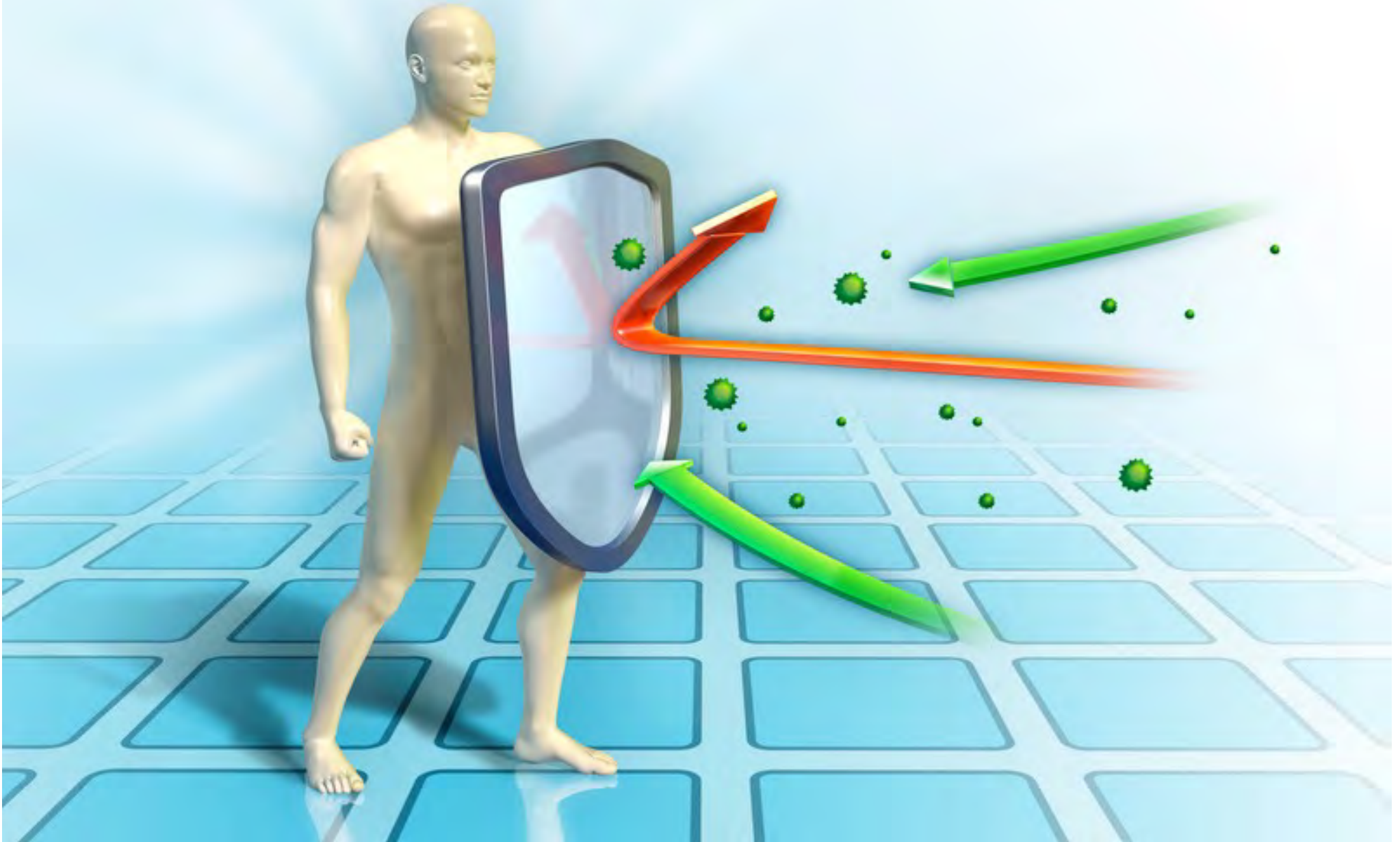


**Nehemiah
wisely
investigated
the situation
before
getting
started**

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

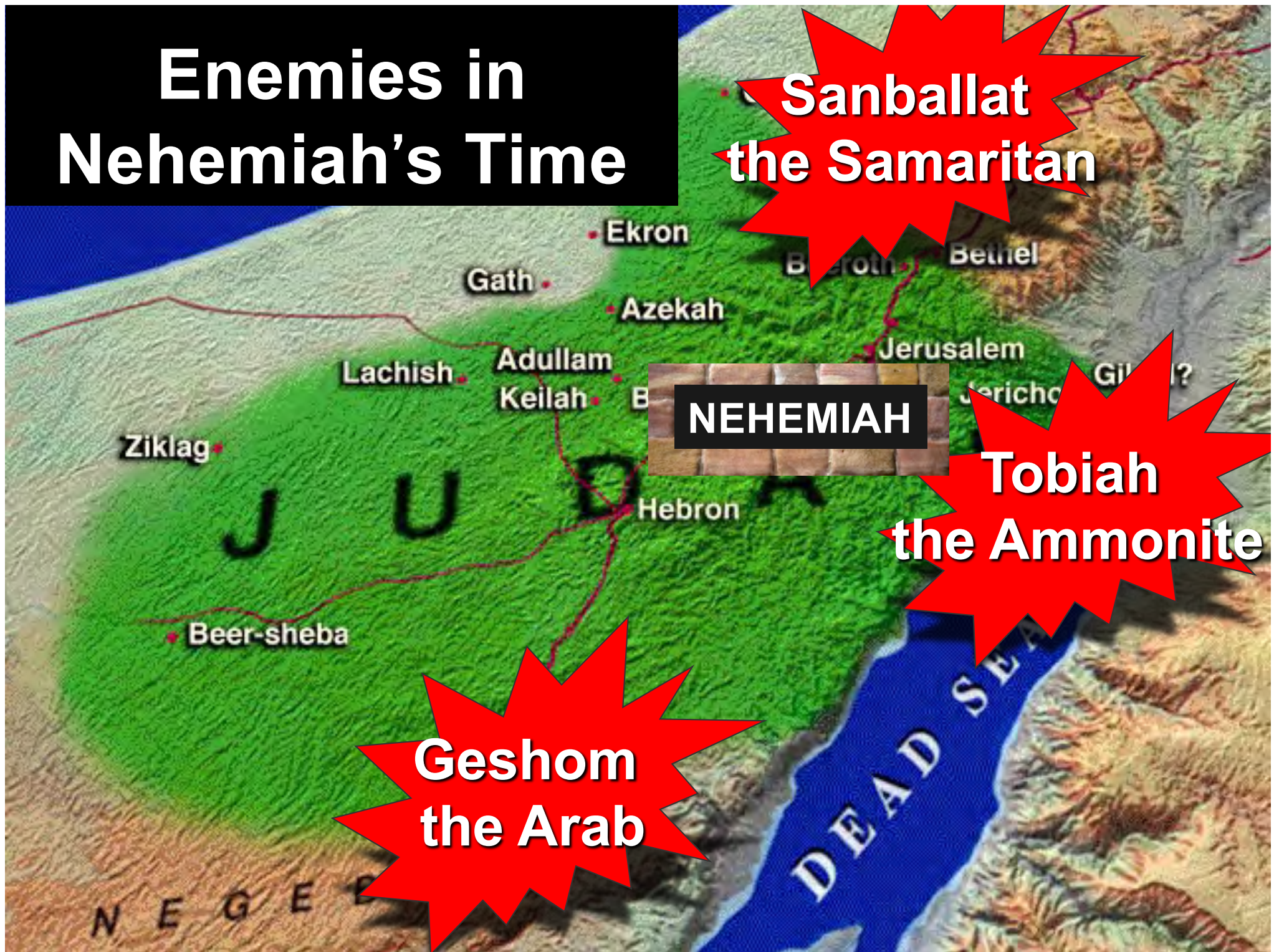
Enemies in Nehemiah's Time

**Sanballat
the Samaritan**

NEHEMIAH

**Tobiah
the Ammonite**

**Geshom
the Arab**





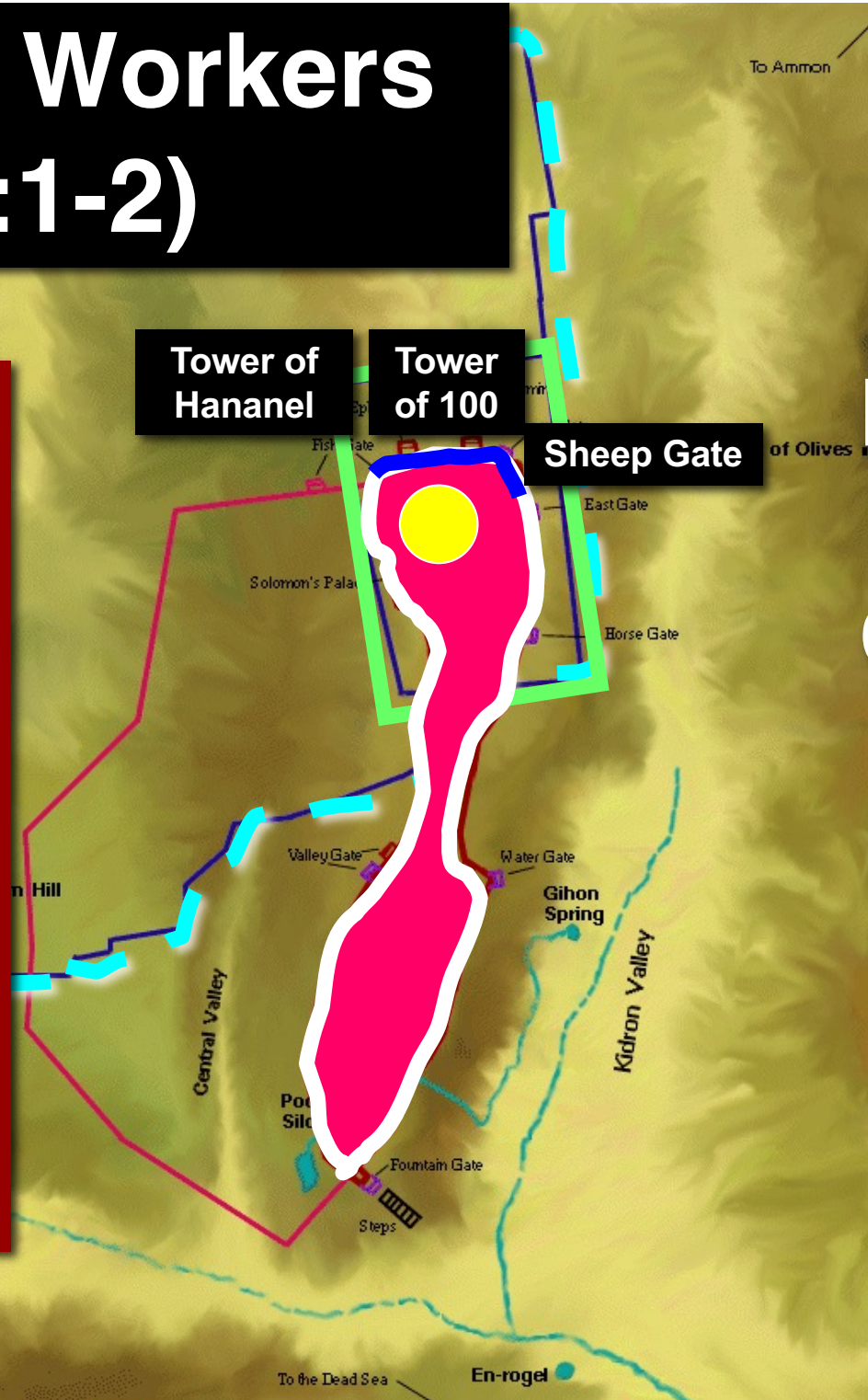
**How does God help us serve
Him when we're **opposed**?**

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.



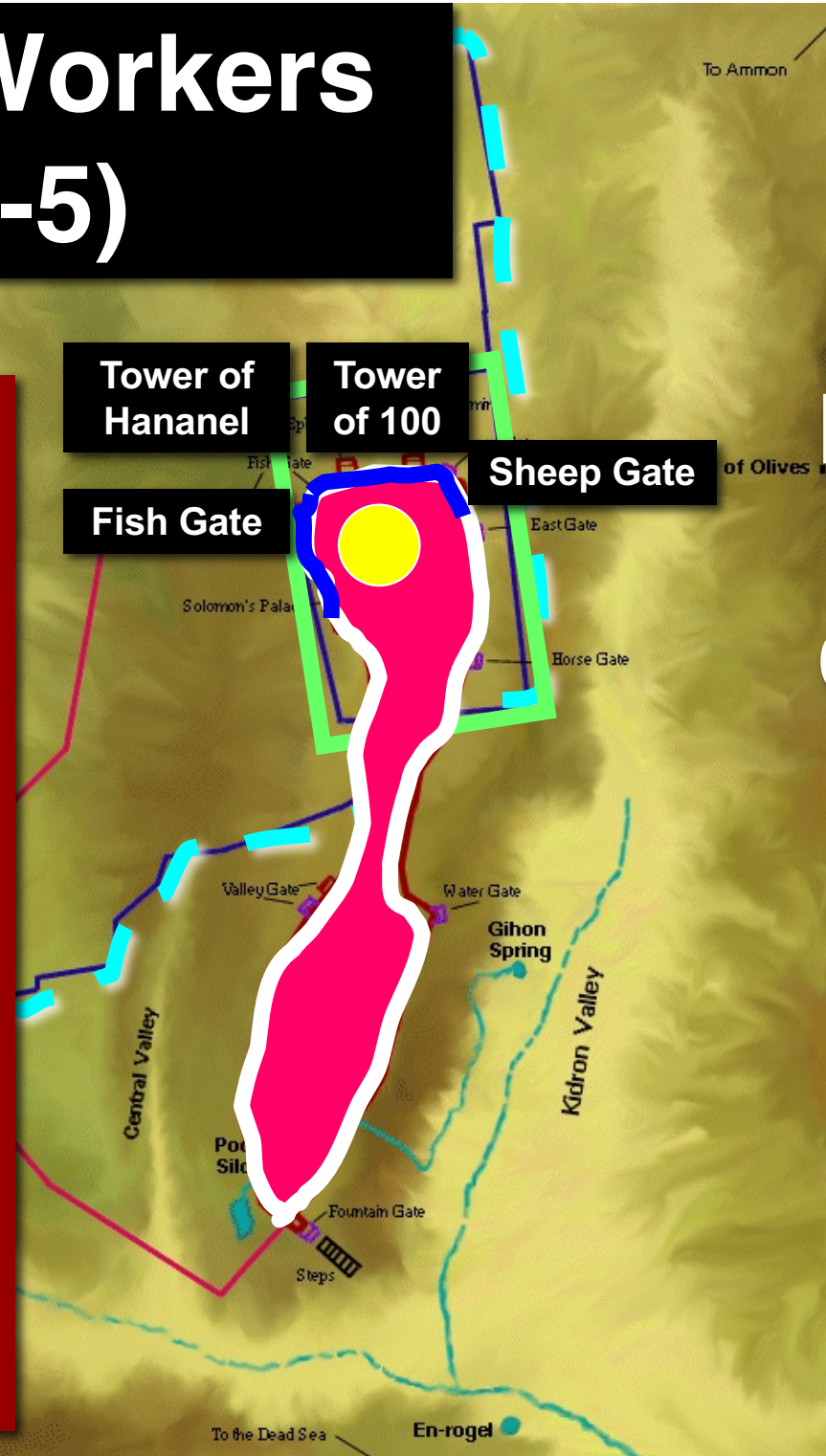
Mount
of
Olives

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:3-5)

304

Mount
of
Olives

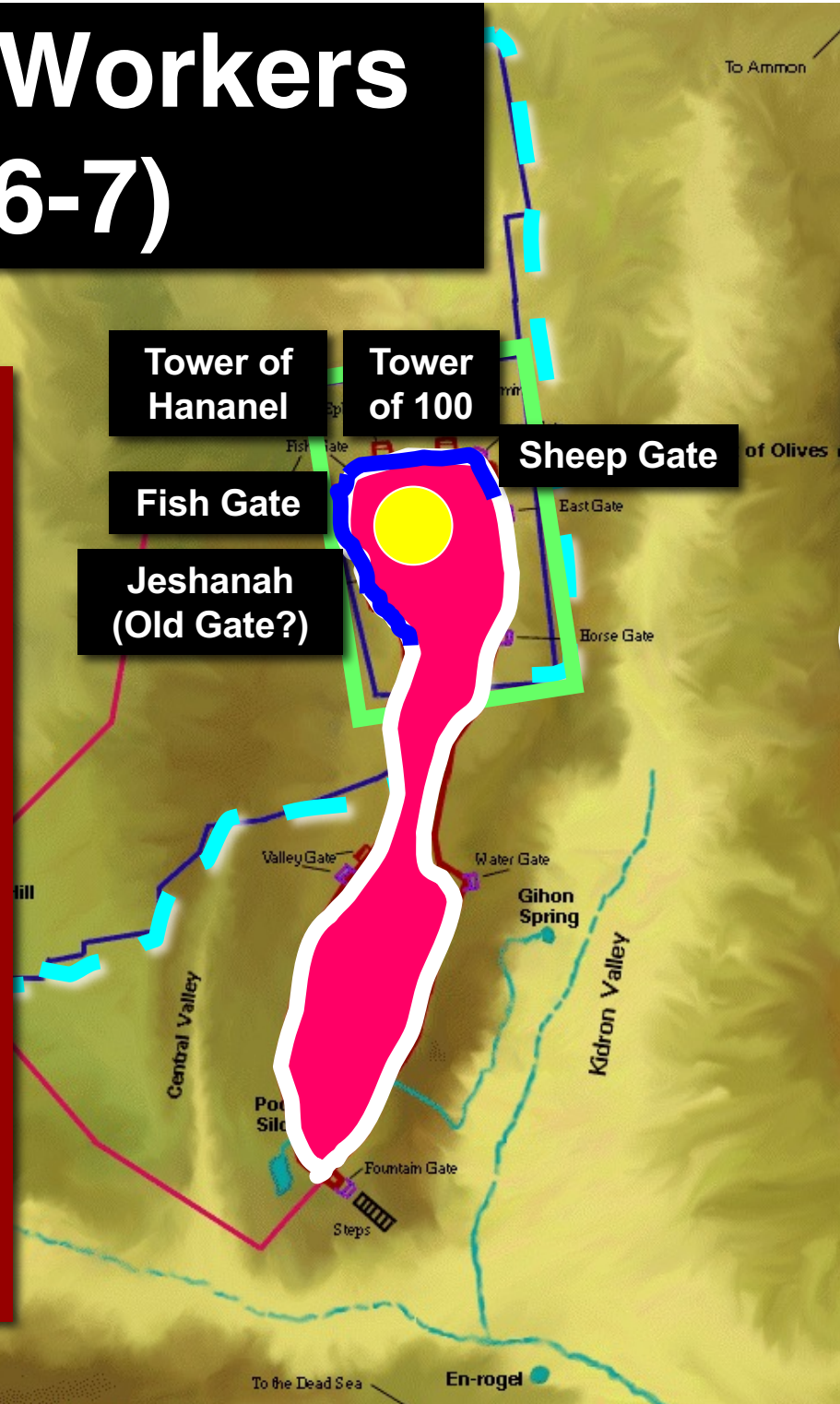
³The Fish Gate was built by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. ⁴Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz repaired the next section of wall. Beside him were Meshullam son of Berekiah and grandson of Meshezabel, and then Zadok son of Baana. ⁵Next were the **people from Tekoa**, though **their leaders refused to work** with the construction supervisors.



Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:6-7)

304

⁶The Old City Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. ⁷Next to them were • Melatiah from Gibeon, Jadon from Meronoth, people from Gibeon, and people from Mizpah, the headquarters of the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River.



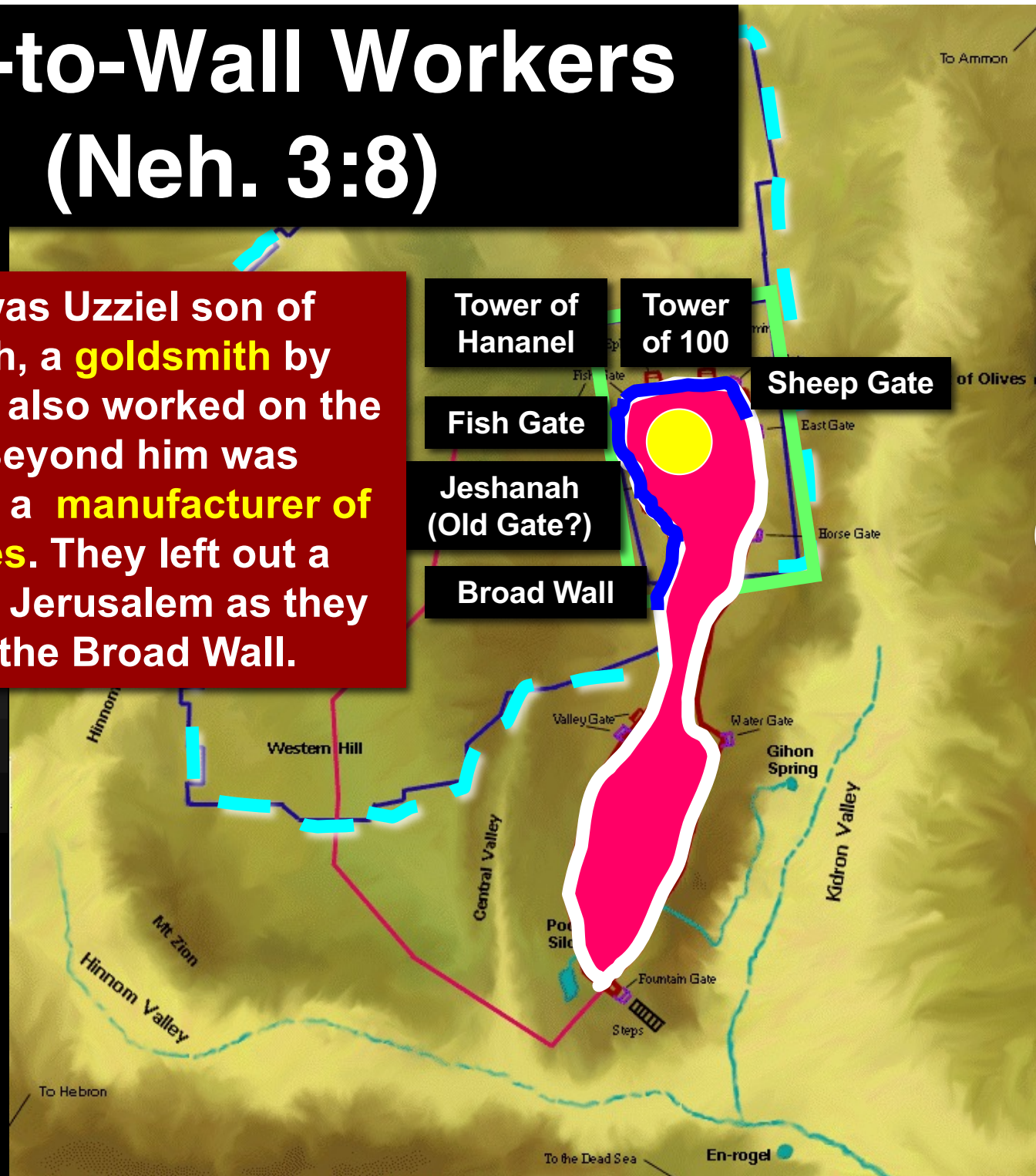
Mount
of
Olives

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:8)

304

⁸Next was Uzziel son of Harhaiah, a **goldsmith** by trade, who also worked on the wall. Beyond him was Hananiah, a **manufacturer of perfumes**. They left out a section of Jerusalem as they built • the Broad Wall.

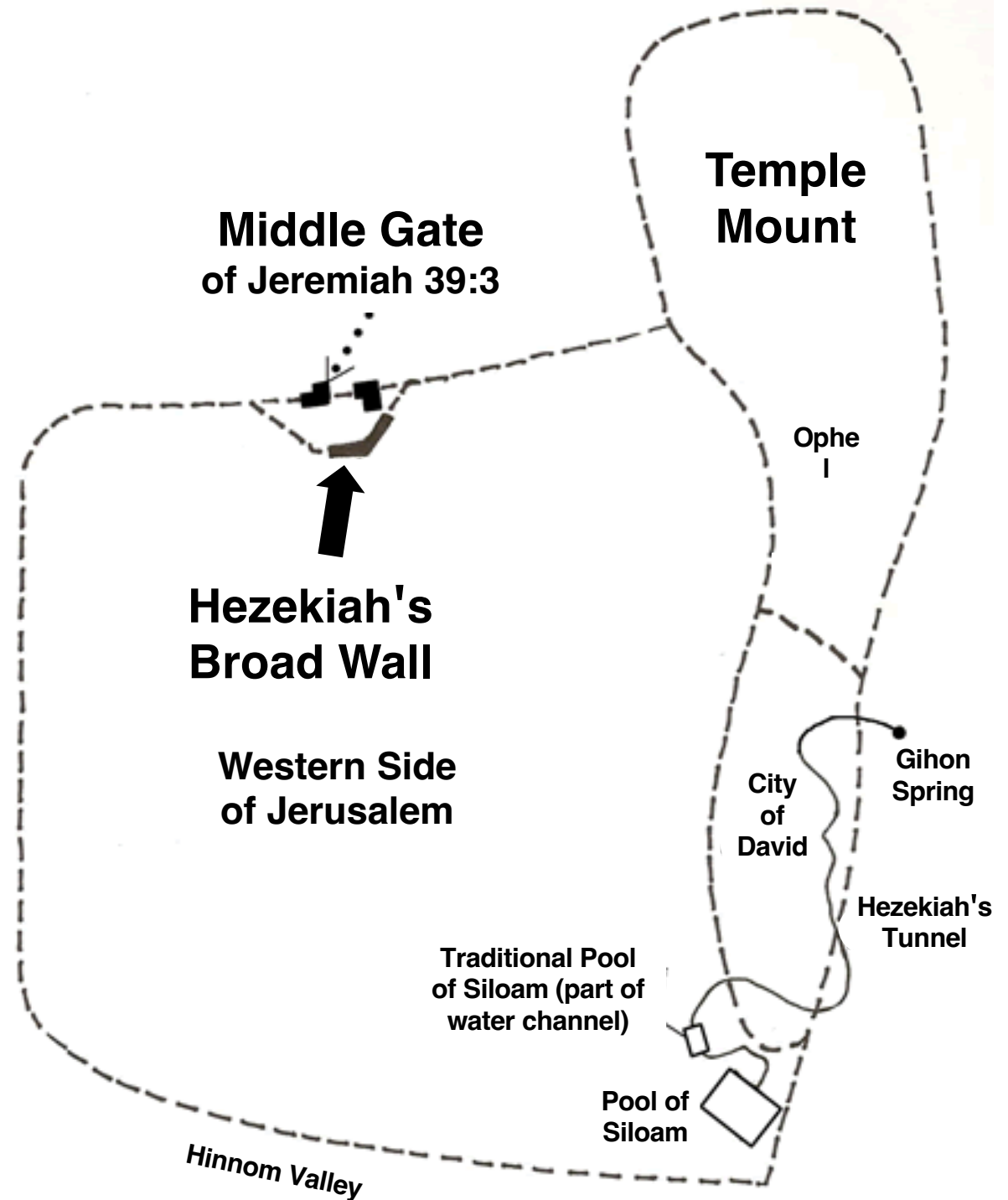
Mount
of
Olives



The Two Broad Walls

Hezekiah's was
an earlier
western
extension before
Nehemiah's
broad wall

<http://www.generationword.com/jerusalem101/24-broad-wall.html>



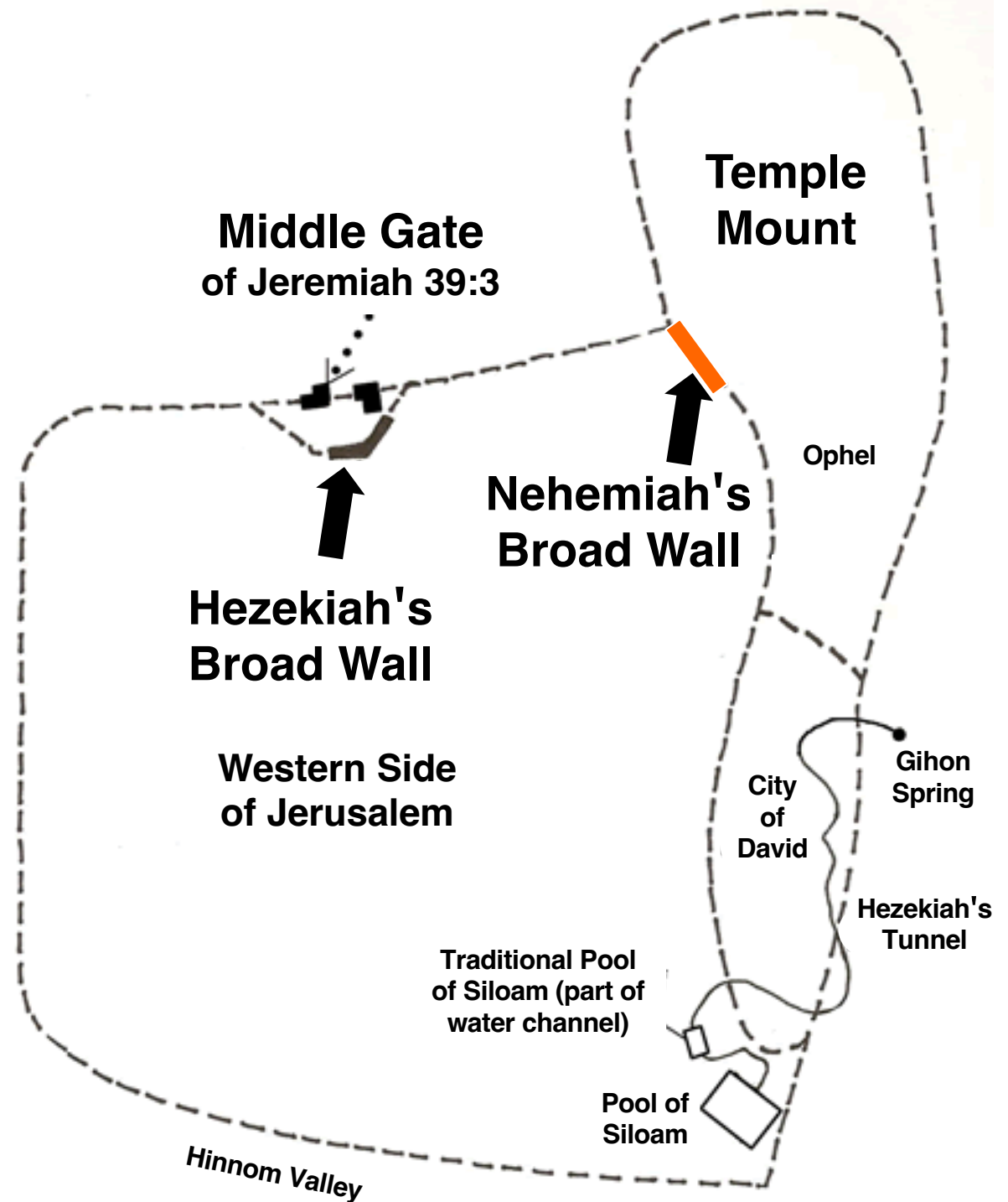
Hezekiah's Broad Wall



The Two Broad Walls

Hezekiah's was
an earlier
western
extension before
Nehemiah's
broad wall

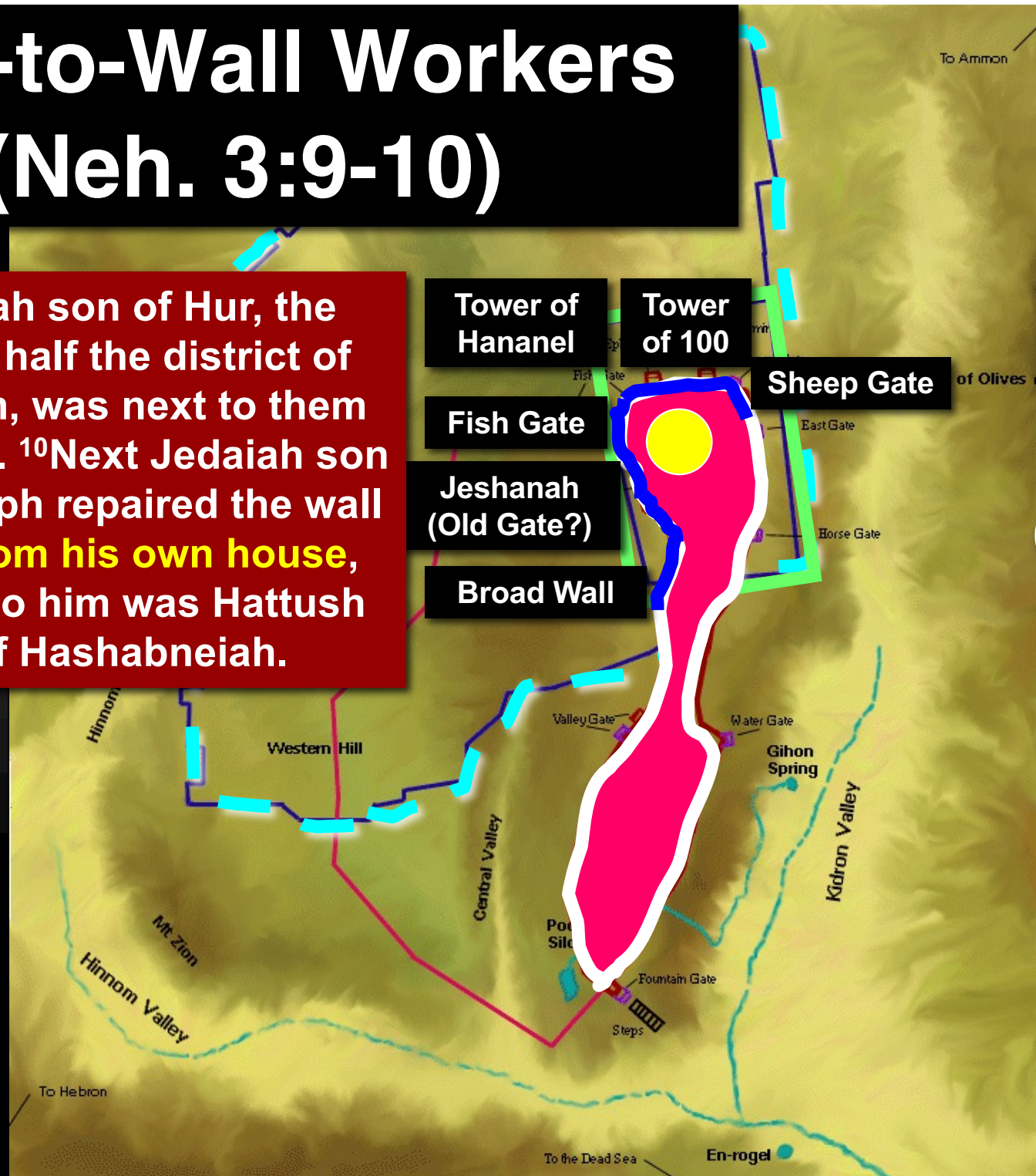
<http://www.generationword.com/jerusalem101/24-broad-wall.html>



Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:9-10)

304

⁹Rephaiah son of Hur, the leader of half the district of Jerusalem, was next to them on the wall. ¹⁰Next Jedaiah son of Harumaph repaired the wall across from his own house, and next to him was Hattush son of Hashabneiah.

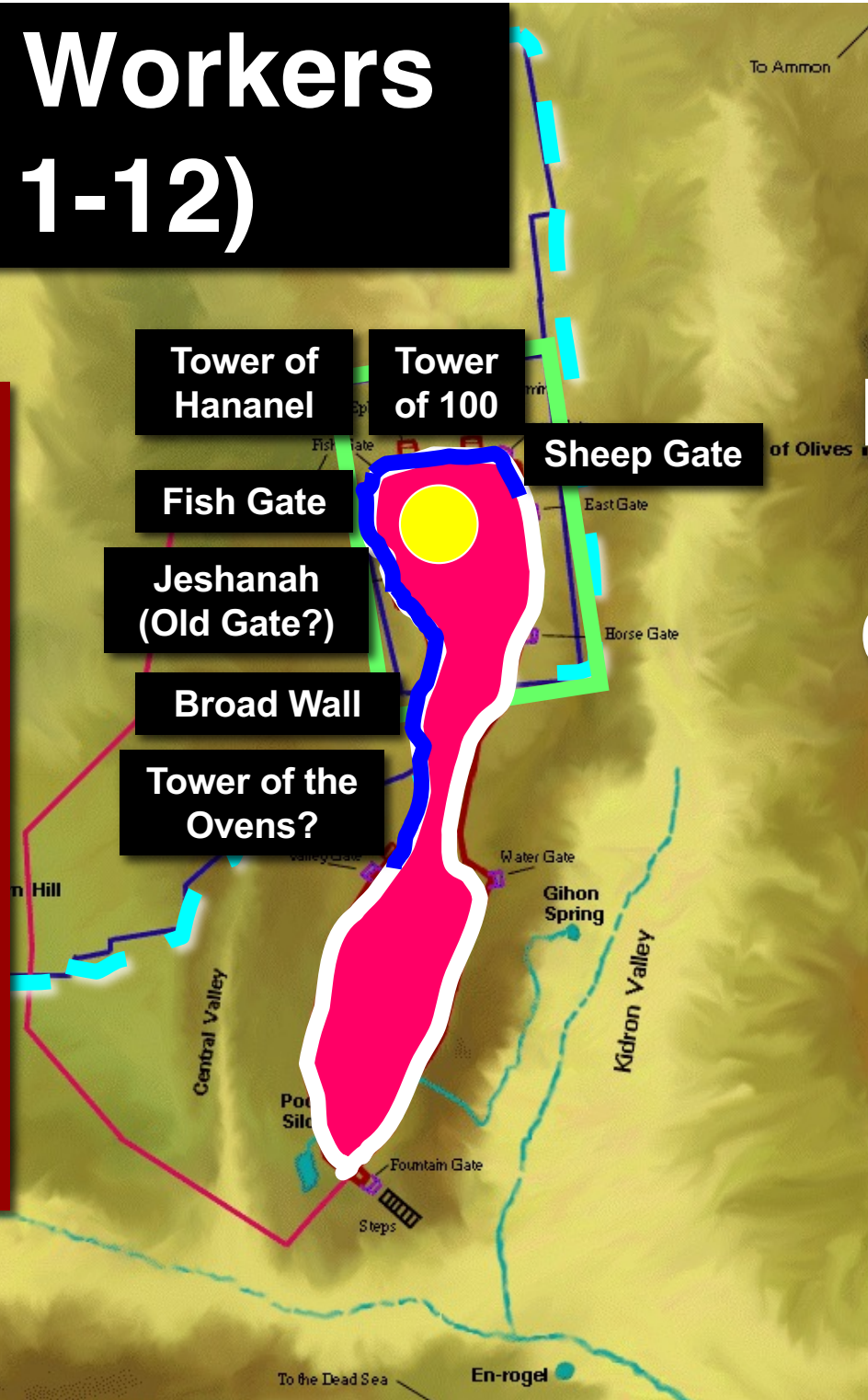


Mount of Olives

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:11-12)

304

¹¹Then came Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab, who repaired another section of the wall • and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹²Shallum son of Hallohesh **and his daughters** repaired the next section. He was the **leader** of the other half of the district of Jerusalem.



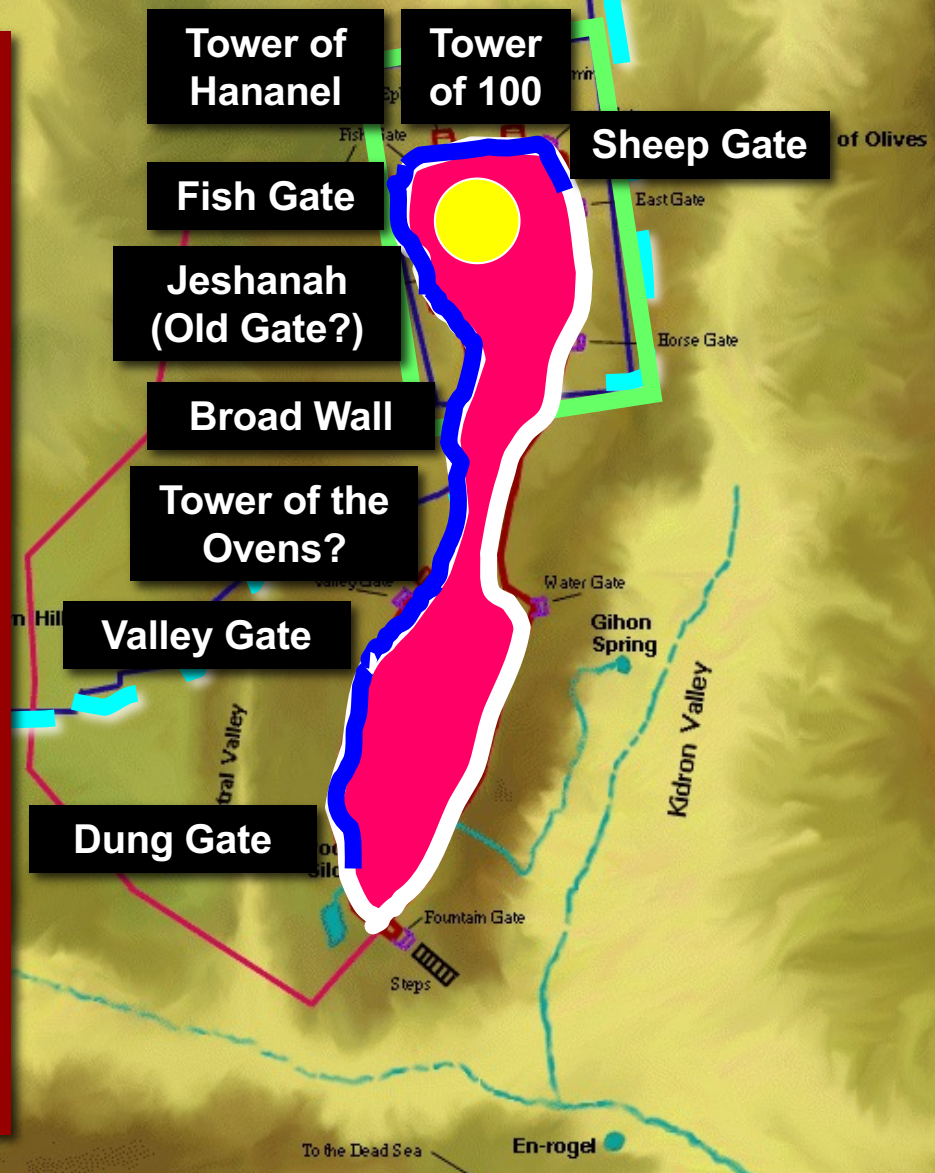
Mount
of
Olives

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:13-14)

304

Mount
of
Olives

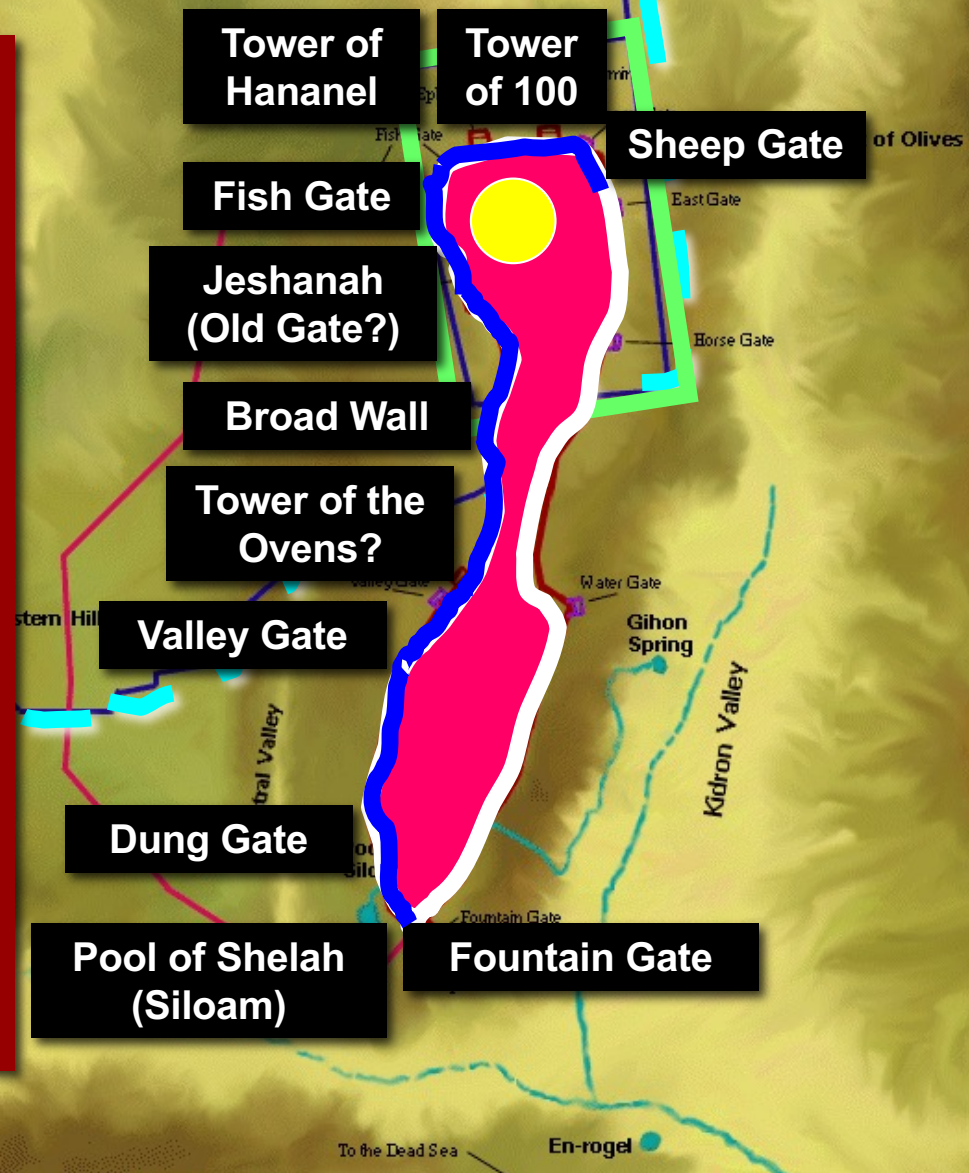
¹³The Valley Gate was repaired by the people from Zanoah, led by Hanun. They set up its doors and installed its bolts and bars. They also repaired the 1,500 feet of wall to the Dung Gate. • ¹⁴The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, the leader of the Bethhakerem district. He rebuilt it, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars.



Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:15)

304

¹⁵The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallum son of Col-hozeh, the **leader** of the Mizpah district. He rebuilt it, roofed it, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. • Then he repaired the wall of the pool of Siloam near the king's garden, and he rebuilt the wall as far as the stairs that descend from the City of David.

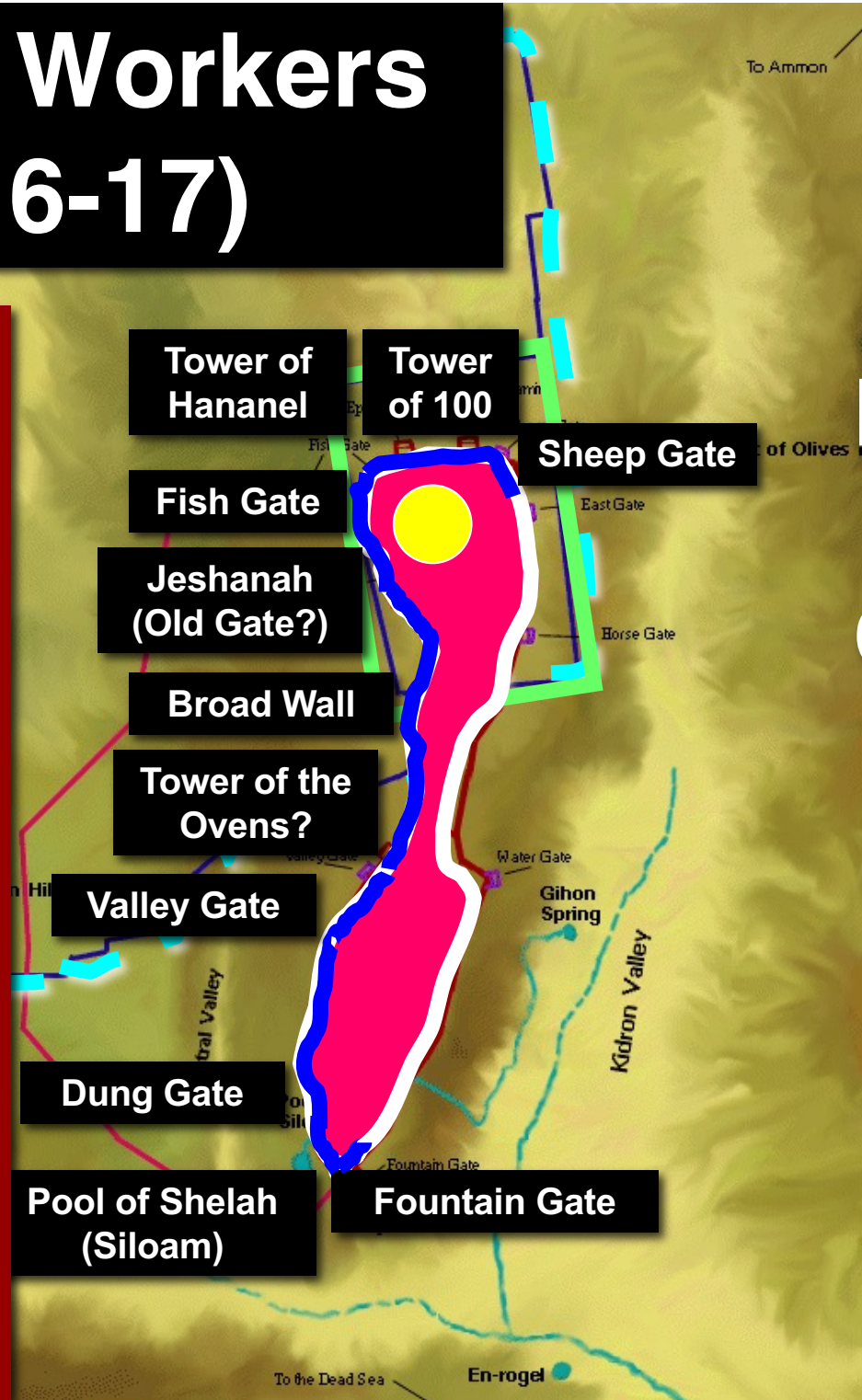


Mount
of
Olives

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:16-17)

304

¹⁶Next to him was Nehemiah son of Azbuk, the **leader** of half the district of Beth-zur. • He rebuilt the wall from a place across from the tombs of David's family as far as the water reservoir and the House of the Warriors. ¹⁷Next to him, repairs were made by a group of **Levites** working under the supervision of Rehum son of Bani. Then came Hashabiah, the **leader** of half the district of Keilah, who supervised the building of the wall on behalf of **his own district**.



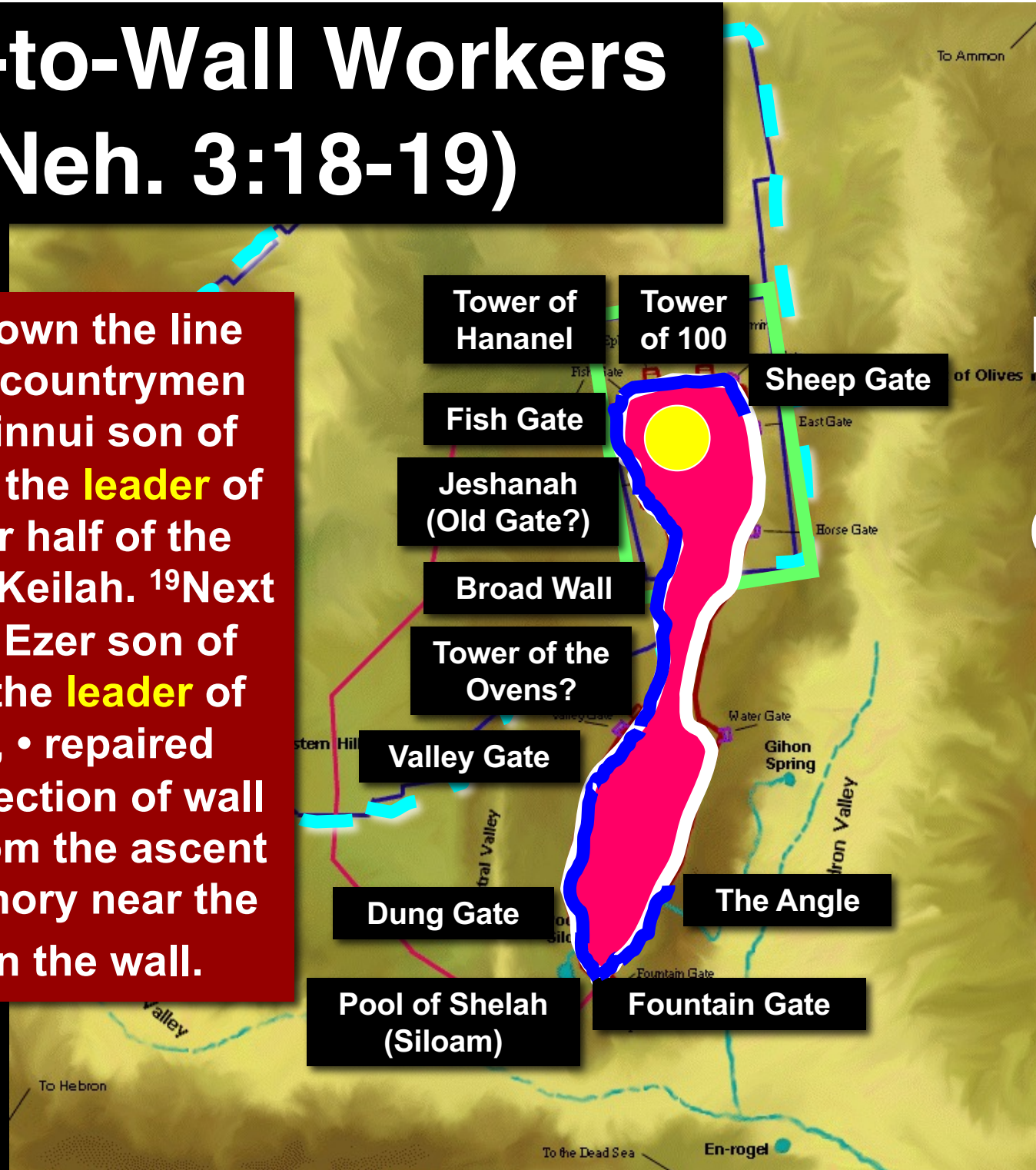
Mount
of
Olives

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:18-19)

304

¹⁸ Next down the line were his countrymen led by Binnui son of Henadad, the **leader** of the other half of the district of Keilah. ¹⁹Next to them, Ezer son of Jeshua, the **leader** of Mizpah, • repaired another section of wall across from the ascent to the armory near the angle in the wall.

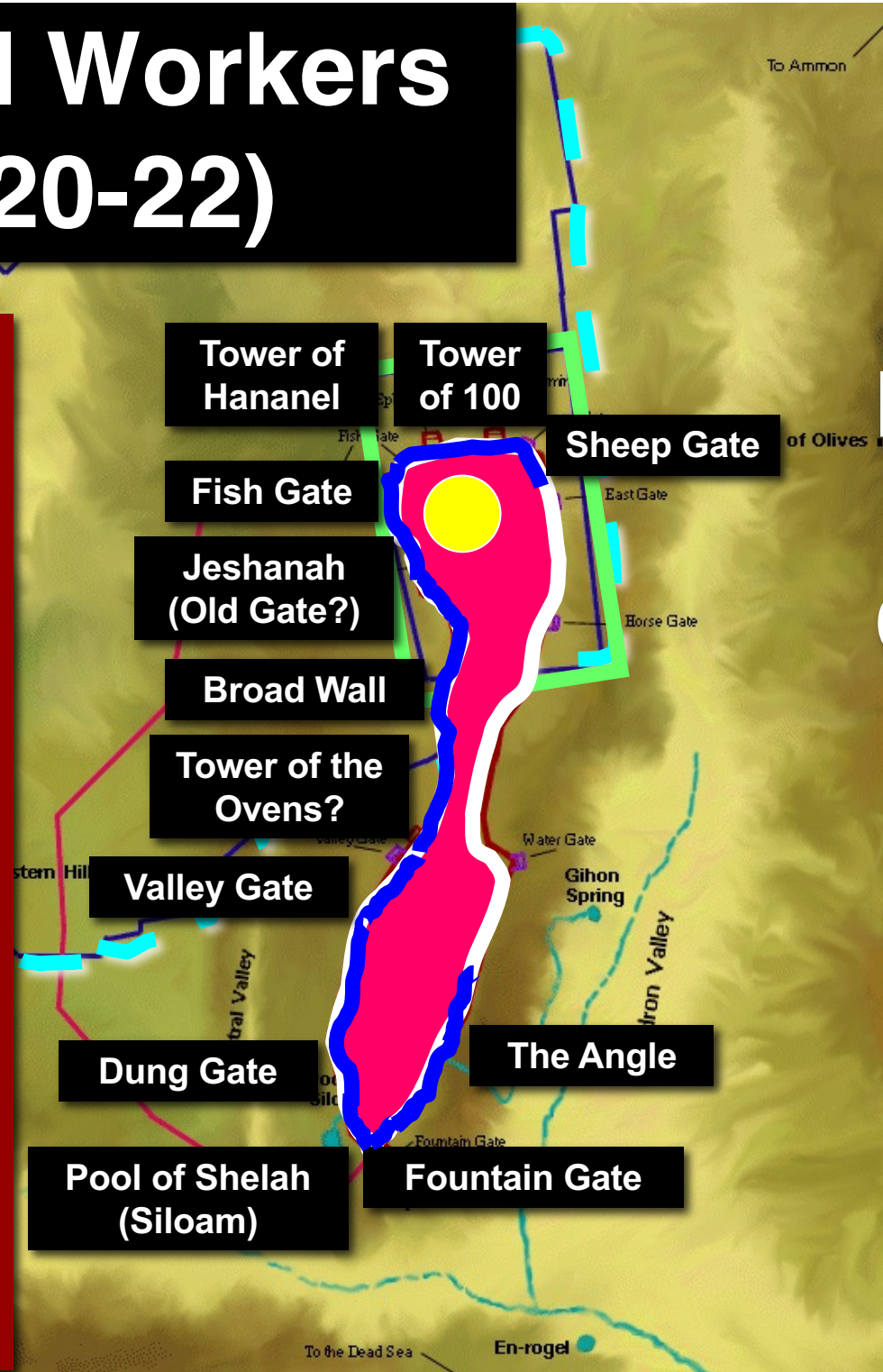
Mount
of
Olives



Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:20-22)

304

²⁰Next to him was Baruch son of Zabbai, who zealously repaired an additional section from • the angle to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz rebuilt another section of the wall extending from the door of Eliashib's house to the end of the house. ²²The next repairs were made by the **priests** from the surrounding region.



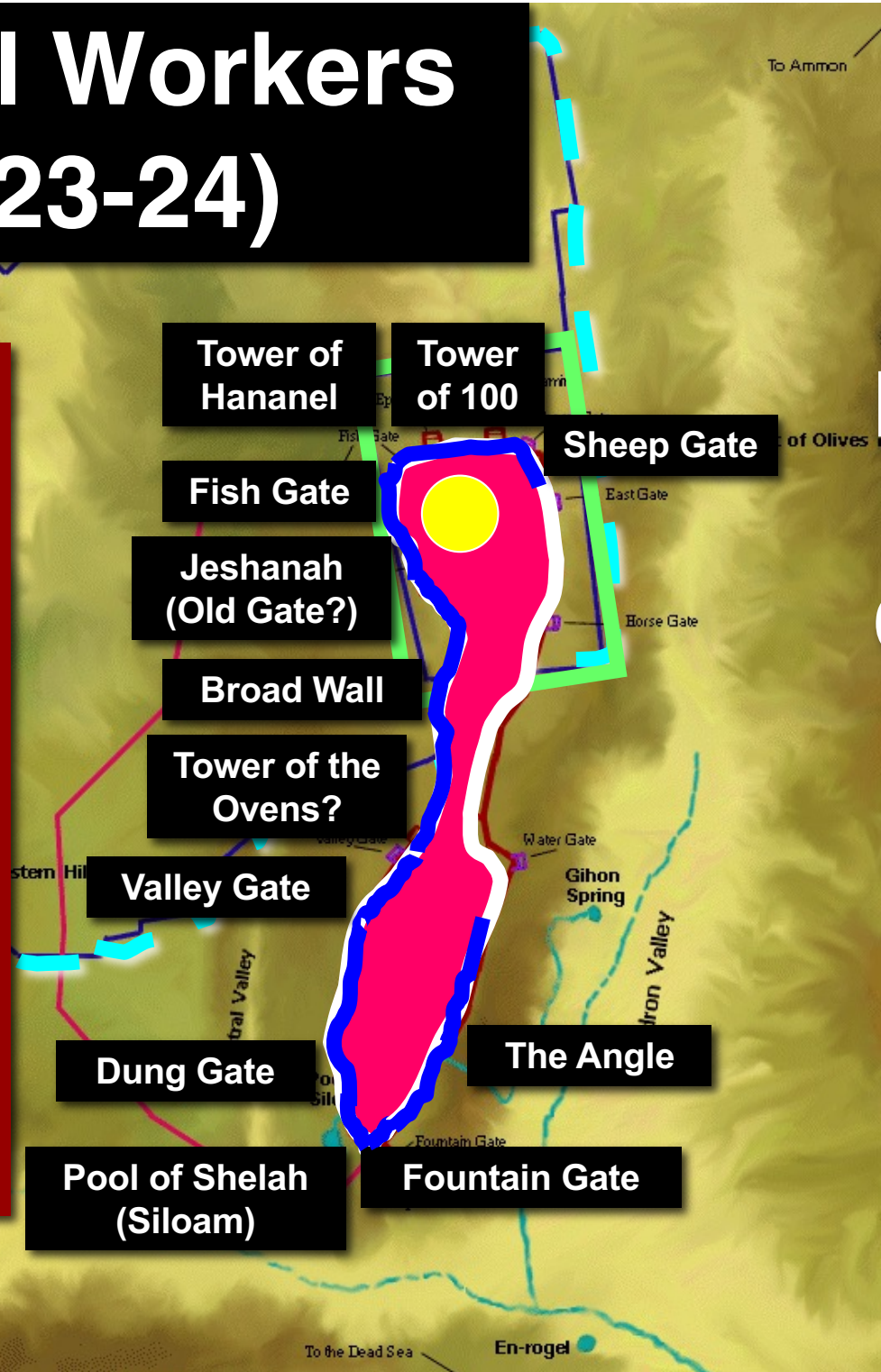
Mount
of
Olives

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:23-24)

304

²³After them, Benjamin and Hasshub repaired the section **across from their house**, and Azariah son of Maaseiah and grandson of Ananiah repaired the section **across from his house**.
²⁴Next was Binnui son of Henadad, who rebuilt another section of the wall from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner.

Mount
of
Olives



Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:25-26)

304

²⁵Palai son of Uzai carried on the work from a point opposite the angle and the tower that projects up from the king's upper house beside the court of the guard. Next to him were Pedaiah son of Parosh, ²⁶with the **Temple servants** living on the hill of Ophel, who repaired the wall as far as a point across from • the Water Gate to the east • and the projecting tower.



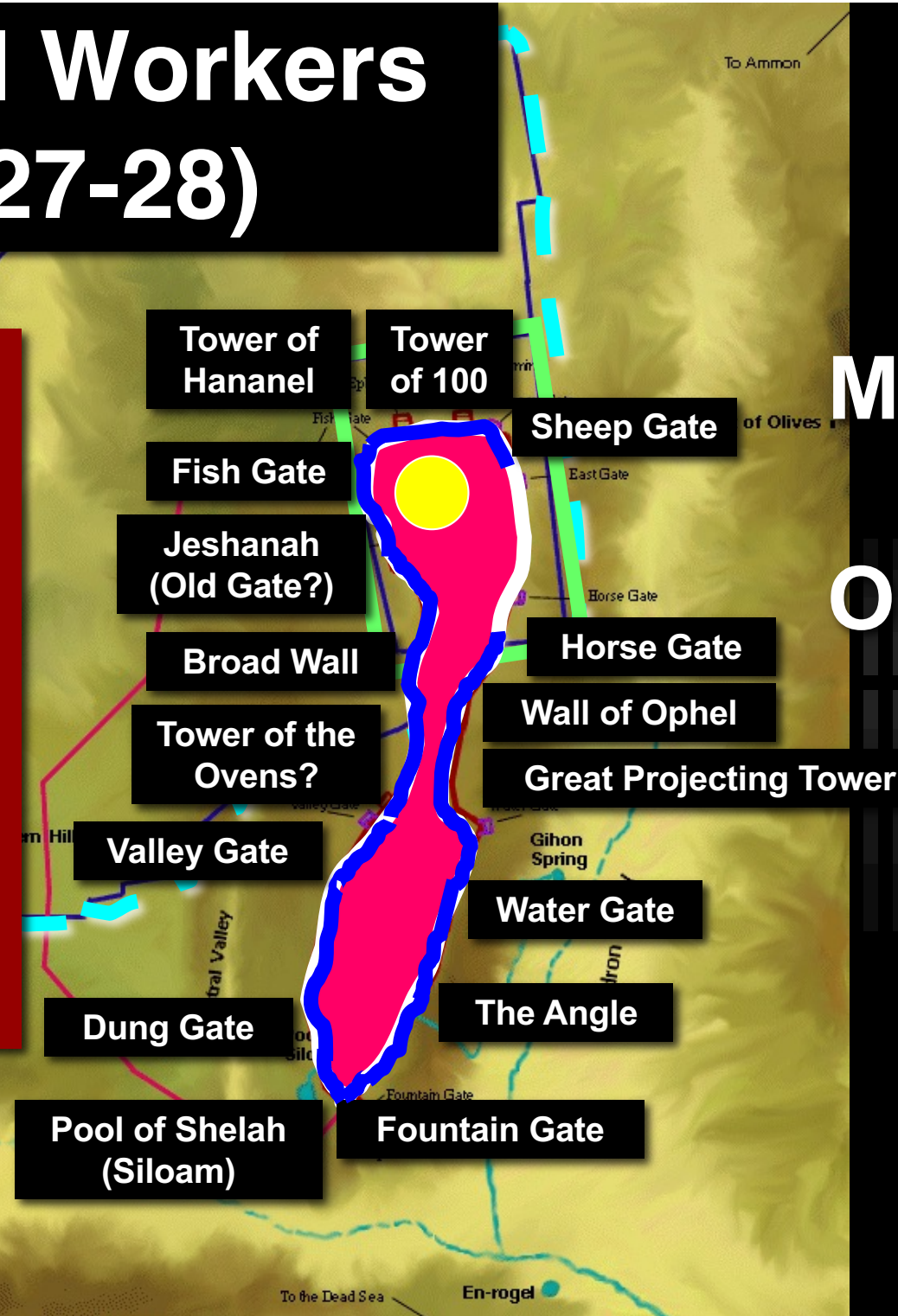
Mount
of
Olives

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:27-28)

304

Mount
of
Olives

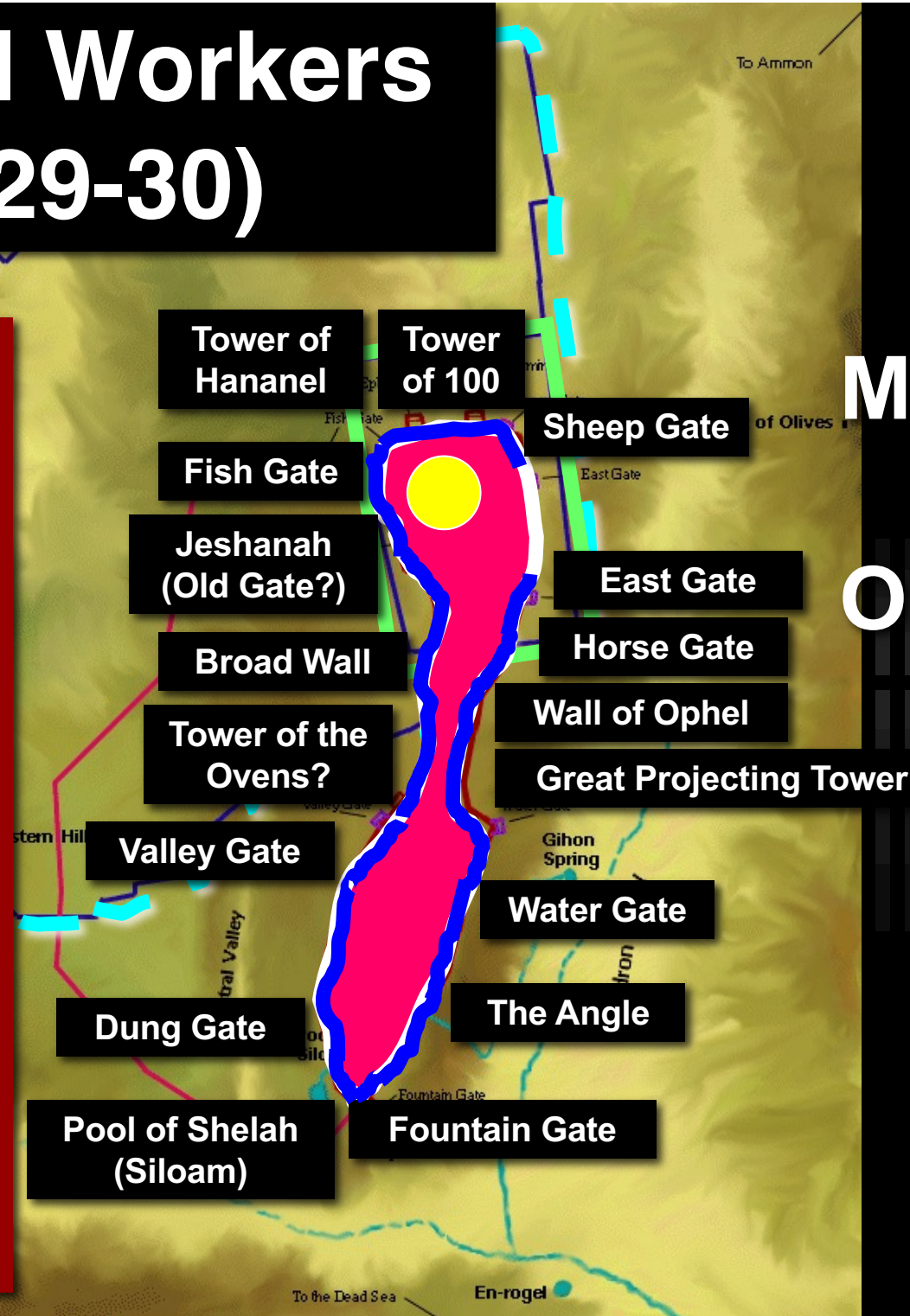
²⁷Then came the **people of Tekoa**, who repaired another section across from the great projecting tower • and over to the wall of Ophel. • ²⁸Above the Horse Gate, the **priests** repaired the wall. Each one repaired the section immediately **across from his own house**.



Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:29-30)

304

²⁹Next Zadok son of Immer also rebuilt the wall **across from his own house**, and beyond him was Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, • the gatekeeper of the East Gate. • ³⁰Next Hananiah son of Shelemiah and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section, while Meshullam son of Berekiah rebuilt the wall **across from where he lived**.



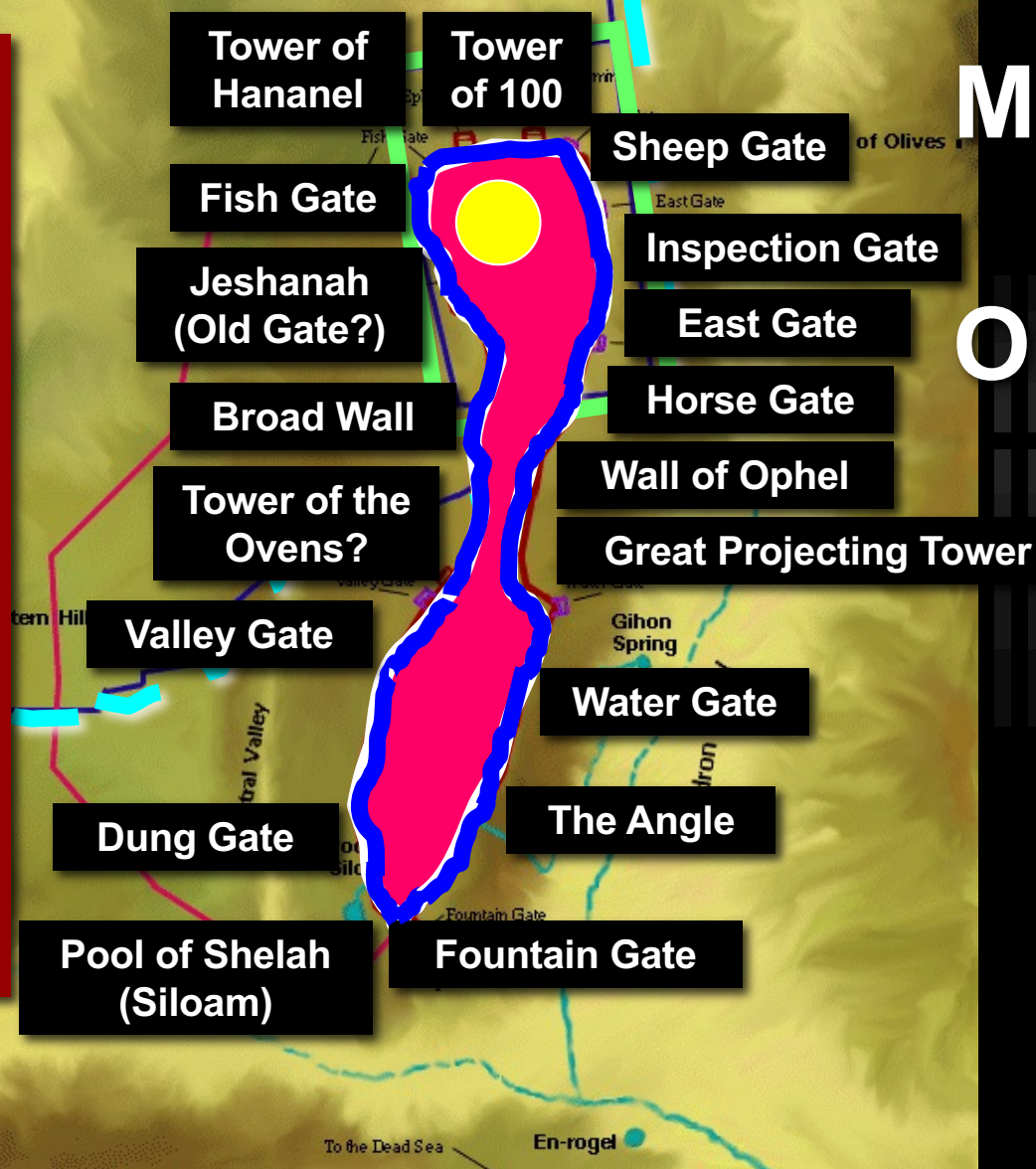
Mount
of
Olives

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:31-32)

304

³¹Malkijah, one of the **goldsmiths**, repaired the wall as far as the housing for the Temple servants and merchants, across from • the Inspection Gate. Then he continued as far as the upper room at the corner. ³²The other **goldsmiths** and **merchants** repaired the wall from that corner to • the Sheep Gate.

Mount
of
Olives



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



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

A. Nehemiah 3 makes sense...



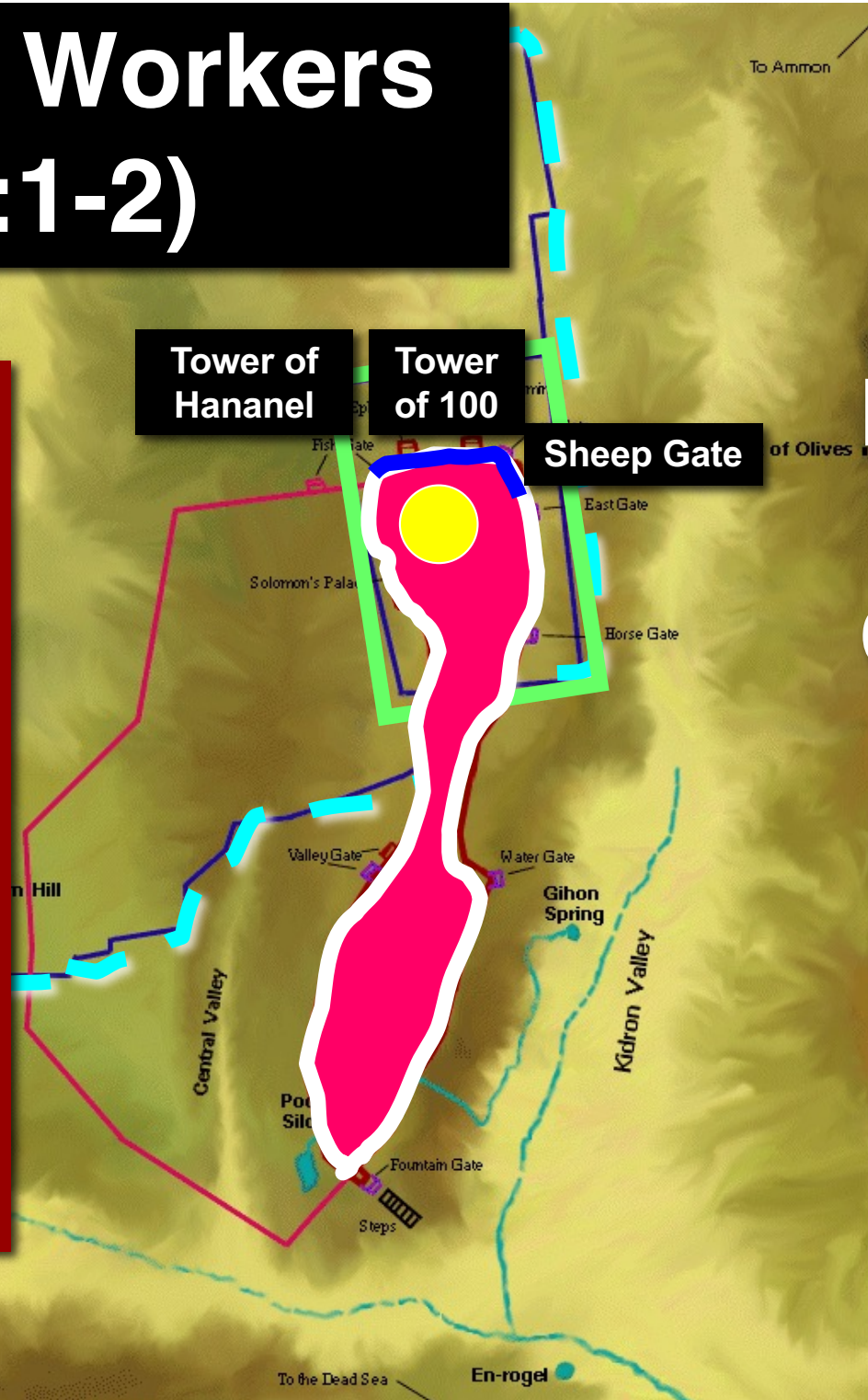
- **Geographic:** They worked at the right spots on the wall

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.

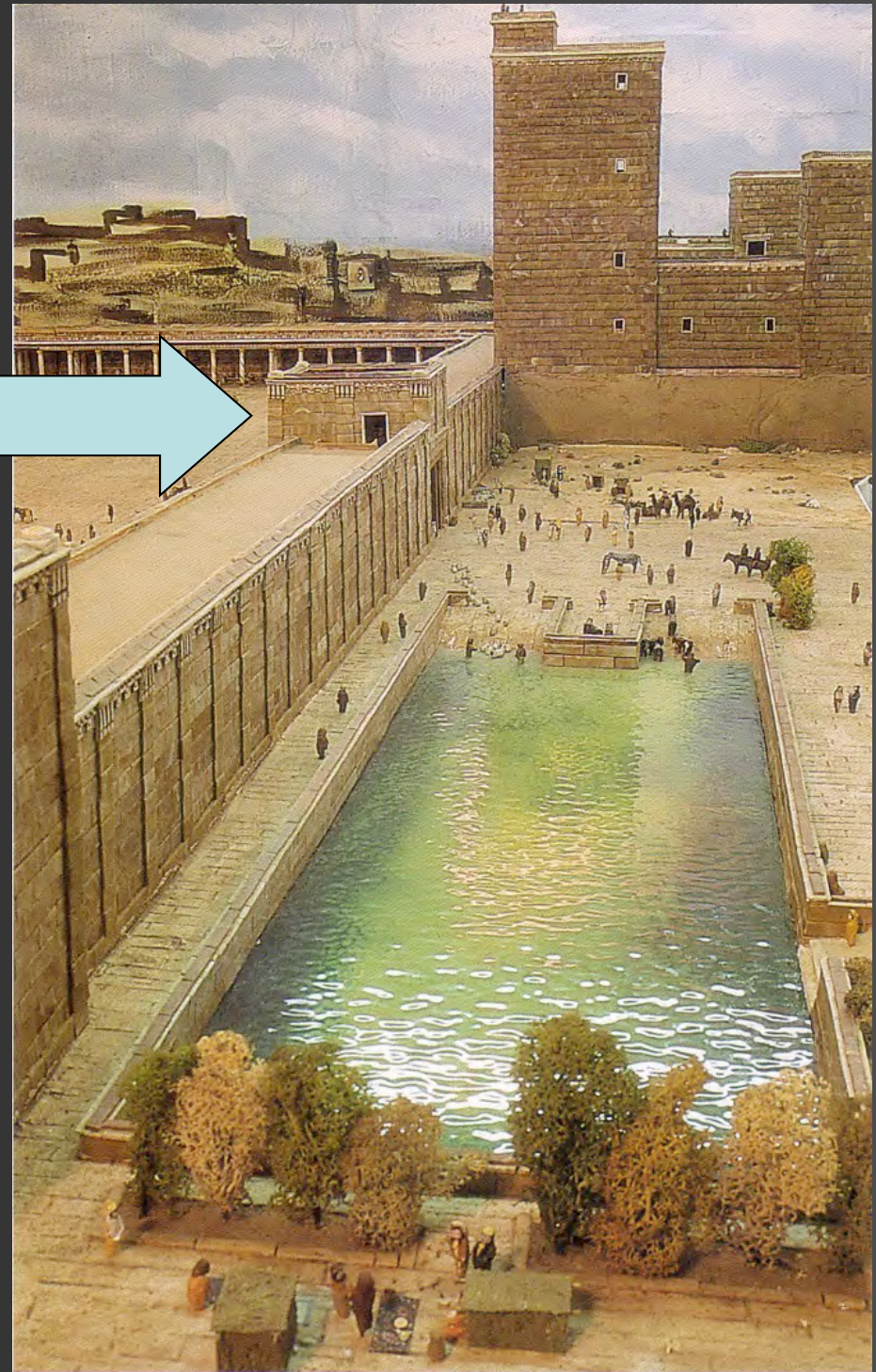
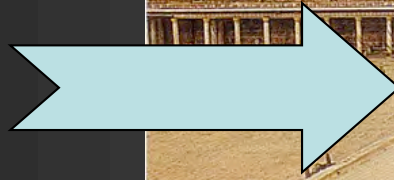


Mount
of
Olives

The Sheep Gate

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

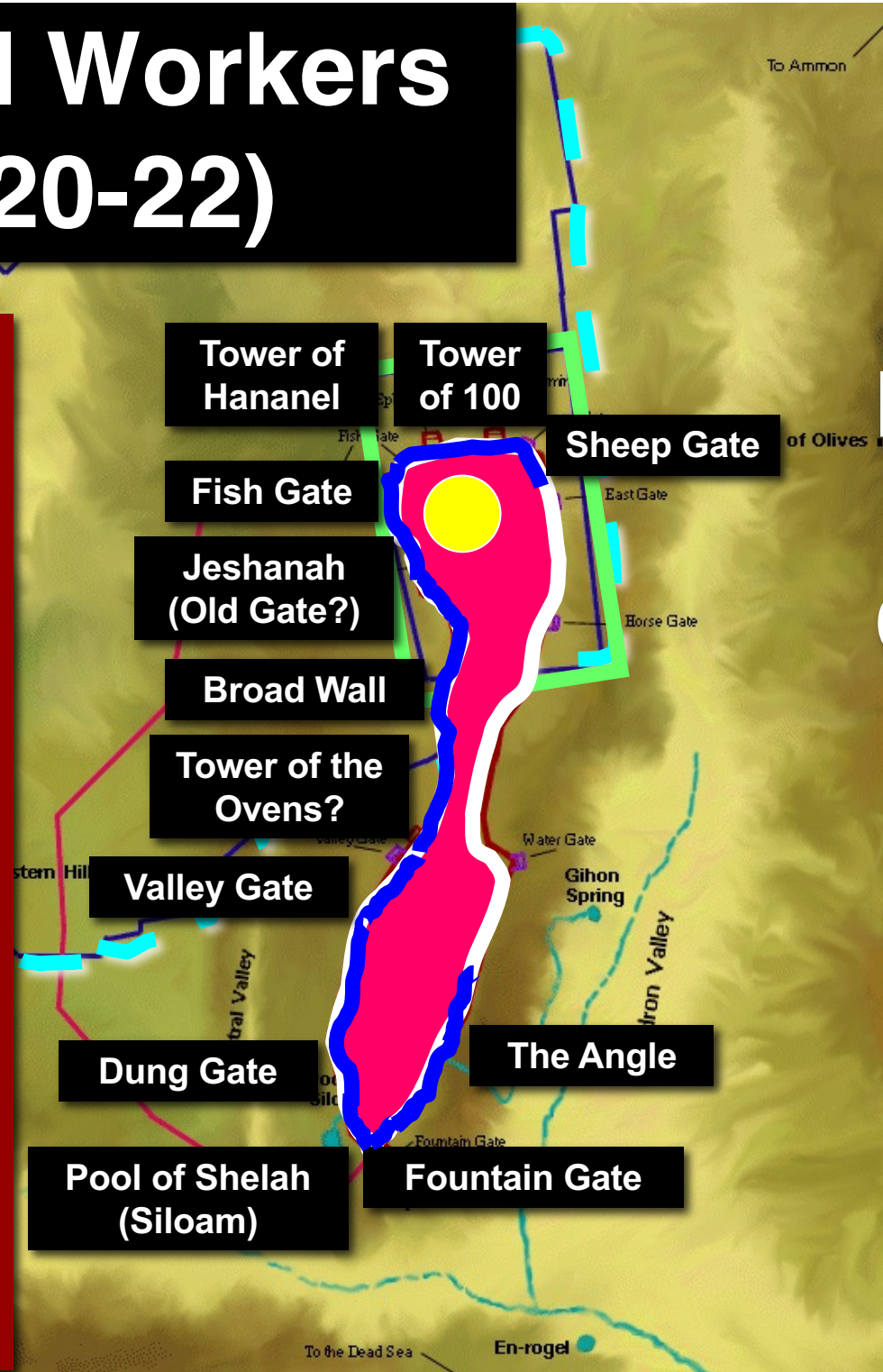
(looking west)



Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:20-22)

304

²⁰Next to him was Baruch son of Zabbai, who zealously repaired an additional section from the angle to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz rebuilt another section of the wall extending from the door of Eliashib's house to the end of the house. ²²The next repairs were made by the **priests** from the surrounding region.



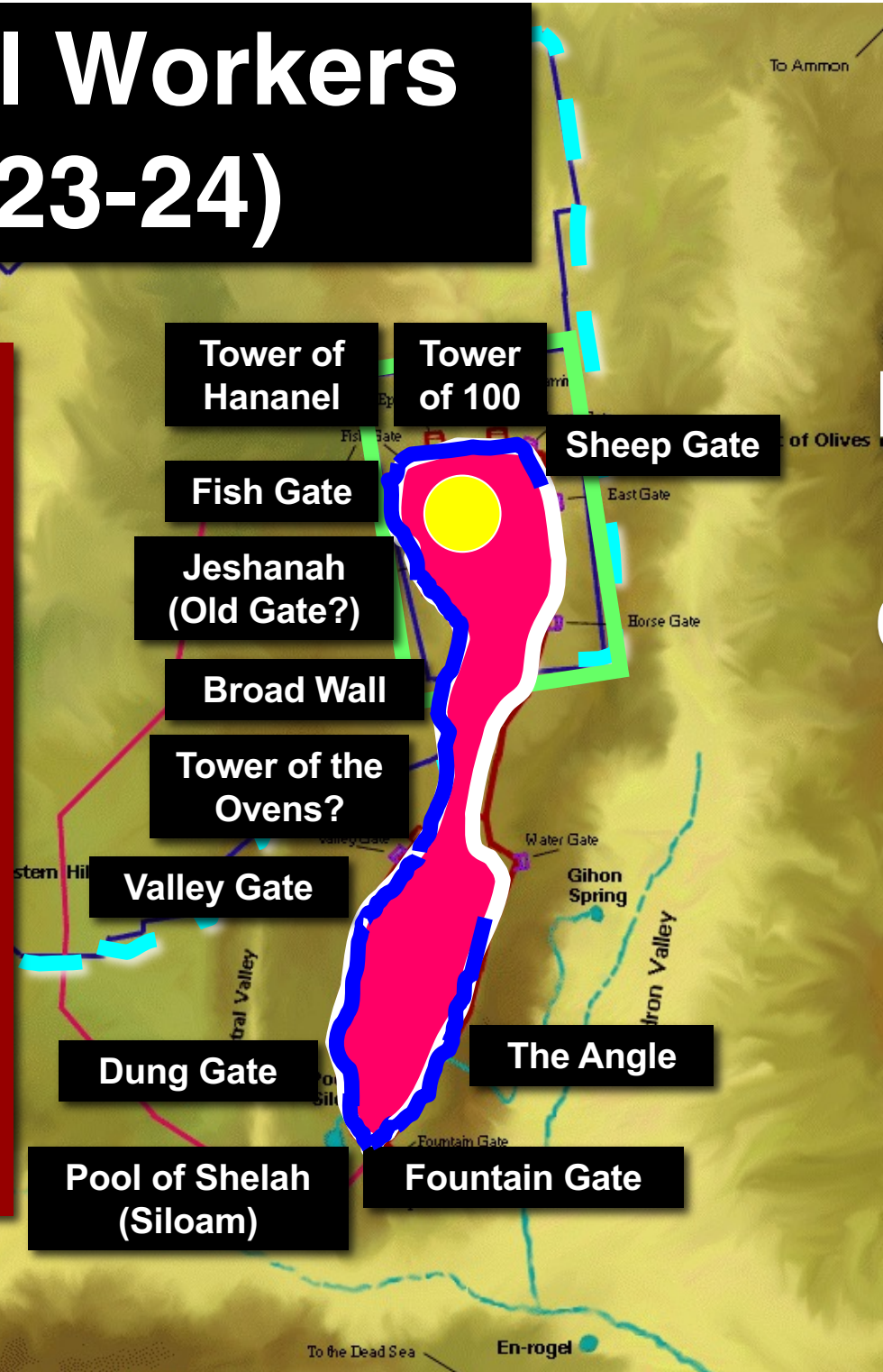
Mount
of
Olives

Wall-to-Wall Workers (Neh. 3:23-24)

304

²³After them, Benjamin and Hasshub repaired the section **across from their house**, and Azariah son of Maaseiah and grandson of Ananiah repaired the section **across from his house**.
²⁴Next was Binnui son of Henadad, who rebuilt another section of the wall from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner.

Mount
of
Olives



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.”**

I. 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**

Relational Despair



RELATIONSHIPS

Sure there are plenty of other fish in the sea. But you're not anywhere near the sea. You're in the desert. Alone.

I. 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**



TEAMWORK

A chain is as strong as its weakest link.

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

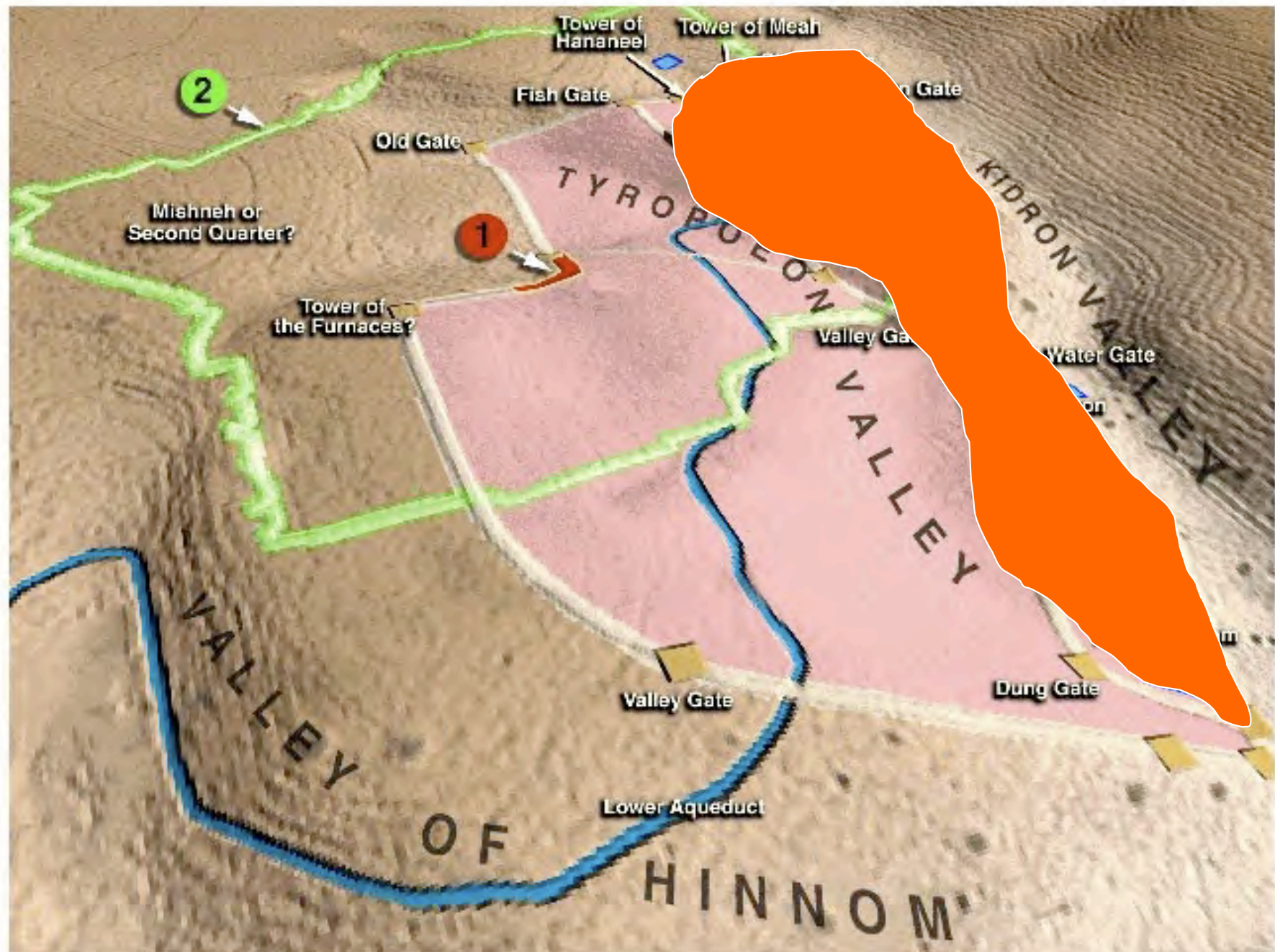
A. Nehemiah 3 makes sense...



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

The Walls of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's Day

Nehemiah 3





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

Crossroads International Church

Where We Are

—right in the heart of central Singapore

We meet Sundays at 4 PM at the Metropolitan YMCA, 60 Stevens Road—just 3 bus stops from Orchard Road.



Who We Are

—a grace-centered community

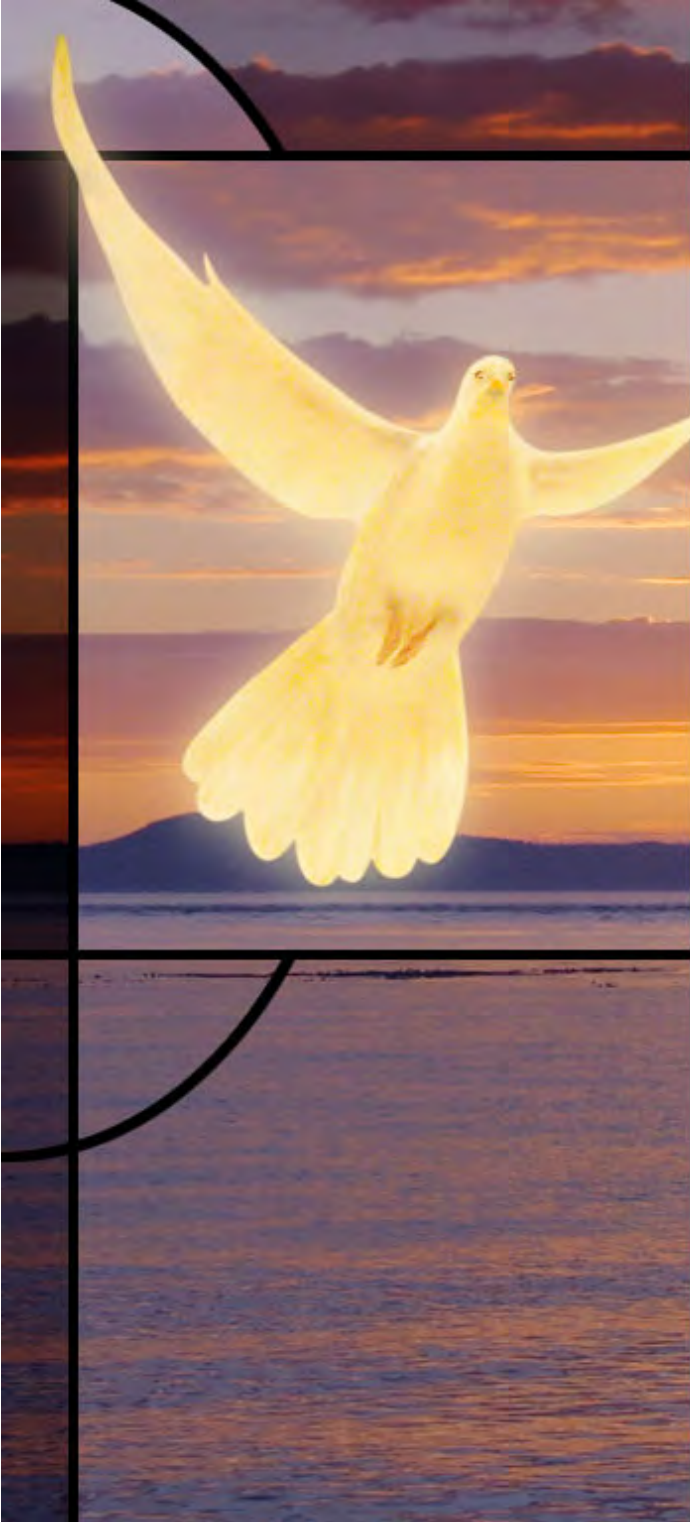
We were created to connect—with God and with each other. That's why God raised up Crossroads International Church, Singapore. See us also on [facebook](#).



Our Mission

The image is a composite graphic divided into four quadrants by a black grid. The top-left quadrant shows a white dove in flight, wings spread wide, against a sunset sky. The top-right quadrant shows a sunset over a body of water with a small boat on the horizon. The bottom-left quadrant shows a sunset over a body of water with a small boat on the horizon. The bottom-right quadrant contains the text 'The mission of Crossroads is to reach the nations by reaching internationals residing in Singapore' in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline.

**The mission of
Crossroads is to
reach the nations by
reaching
internationals residing
in Singapore**

A white dove is shown in flight, wings spread wide, against a background of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with orange and purple clouds, and the water reflects the colors of the sky. The dove is positioned on the left side of the image, flying towards the right.

Our Vision

The vision of Crossroads is to lead internationals into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ as disciples who can transform their unique spheres of influence (2 Tim. 2:2). In particular, Crossroads focuses primarily, but not exclusively, on reaching the English-speaking community.

Spiritual Gifts

You have at least one!





Get
words
from
God

Categories of Gifts (1 Peter 4:11)

Get
strength
from
God

Speaking

Teaching

Evangelism

Pastor-Teacher

Encouraging

Serving

Administering

Faith

Giving

Service

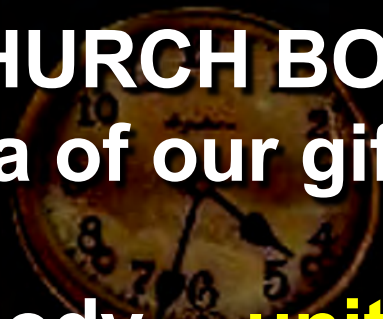
Mercy

Why Study & Know Our Gifts?

1) MINISTRY TO THE CHURCH BODY -

Ministering in the area of our gifts results in:

- a) edification of the body— **unity** and **interdependency** (1 Cor. 14:12)
- b) mobilizing the church for **mission** to a lost world.
- c) encouraging other believers to **discern** and **develop** their gifts.



Why Study & Know Our Gifts?

2) PERSONAL FULFILLMENT - Exercising our gifts results in:

- a) ministering in areas of **strength**, reducing frustration and wasted time.
- b) assisting us in establishing **priorities** for study, growth, and ministry (Eph. 4:13).
- c) a sense of **usefulness** and **belonging** in the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:14-17).

**Play your own
instrument**



Our Crossroads Wall in August 2013

MEN

- Leland

MISSIONS

- ?????

EVANGELISM

- Albina • Singpu • Désirée

PREACHING

- Rick
- Lewis

FINANCES

- Valentin
- Rick
- Athan

WOMEN

- Susan
- Désirée
- Linda Fones

YOUTH

- Athan
- Chanchan

KIDS

- Kim
- Chanchan

NURSERY

- ????

HOME GROUPS

- Singpu (HG) • Lewis (HG)

MUSIC

- David • Miriam • Shannah
- Susan • Athan • Tessa
- Jieun • Singpu • Gilbert
- Cynthia

WEBSITE & AV

- Andrew
- Drew

LOGISTICS

- Singpu • Athan
- David • Kim



Many Fear Evangelism!



"When I was a kid I would go up to someone's porch, ring the doorbell, and run like the dickens. I still do it, except now our church calls it 'outreach training.'"

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



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





MEETINGS

None of us is as dumb as all of us.

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



**B. God unites all types of people
as they serve Him today.**



A photograph of a person from behind, looking up at a glowing, angelic figure of Jesus with long hair and a beard, wearing a white robe, standing on a cloud. The person's arms are raised in prayer. The background is a bright, golden sky with clouds.

**He
qualifies
you!**

**God often calls us to do something for which
we do not feel qualified**

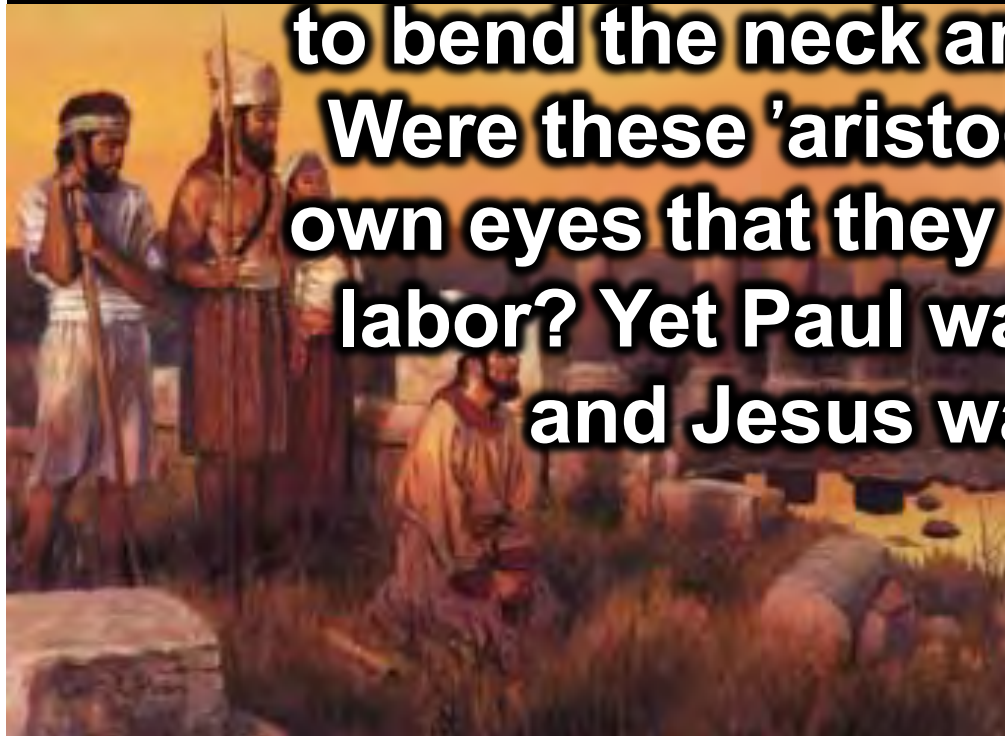
The Main Idea of Nehemiah 3



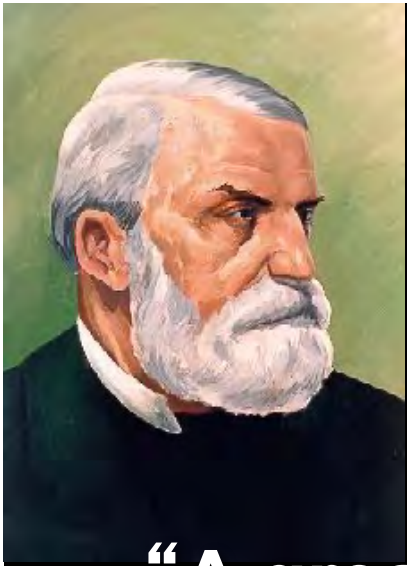
God fights **opposition** through a **sensible** plan that includes us all.

“Some people just will not work (Neh. 3:5).

Tekoa was a town about eleven miles from Jerusalem, and some of their people traveled to Jerusalem to assist in the work. What a contrast between these people and their nobles! The Tekoites built in *two* places on the wall (vv. 5 and 27), while their nobles refused to bend the neck and work in even *one* place. Were these ‘aristocrats’ so important in their own eyes that they could not perform manual labor? Yet Paul was a tentmaker (Acts 18:3), and Jesus was a carpenter (Mark 6:3).”



Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Determined* (Wheaton, IL: Victor, 1996), Neh 4:1.



D.L. Moody

(died 1899)

“A great many people have got a false idea about the church. They have got an idea that the church is a place to rest in... to get into a nicely cushioned pew, and contribute to the charities, listen to the minister, and do their share to keep the church out of bankruptcy, is all they want. The idea of work for them —actual work in the church— never enters their minds.”

Our Crossroads Wall in June 2009

MEN

• ?

MISSIONS

• ?

EVANGELISM

• Albina • Jasmine

PREACHING

~~• Rick~~ • ~~Brad~~
~~• Lewis~~ • ~~Tom~~
~~• Enrike~~ • ~~Joe~~

FINANCES

~~• Rick~~ • ~~Evan~~
~~• Lewis~~ • ~~Roy~~

WOMEN

~~• Susan~~
~~• Amy~~
~~• Marie~~

YOUTH

~~• Enrike~~
~~• Brad~~
~~• Jason~~

KIDS

• Grace
• Juliana
~~• Cat~~

LOGISTICS

~~• Wayne~~ ~~• Joe~~ • Evan
• David ~~• Becky~~ • Mitchie
~~• Rick~~ ~~• Susan~~ • Jasmine
• Betz

TEACHING ADULTS

~~• Rick (CSB)~~ • ~~Lewis (HG)~~

MUSIC

~~• Tom~~ • ~~Miriam~~ • ~~Susan~~
~~• Wayne~~ • ~~Jason~~ • ~~Enrike~~
• Lisa • Gilbert

WEBSITE & AV

~~• John~~ • ~~Diana~~
~~• Lee~~ • ~~Brad~~

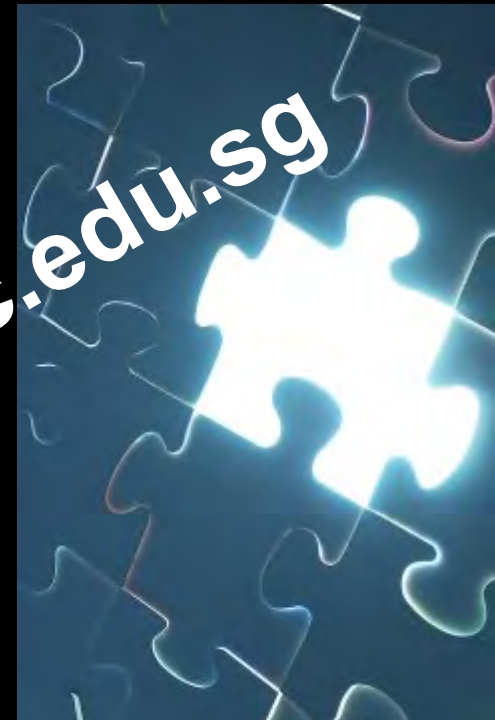




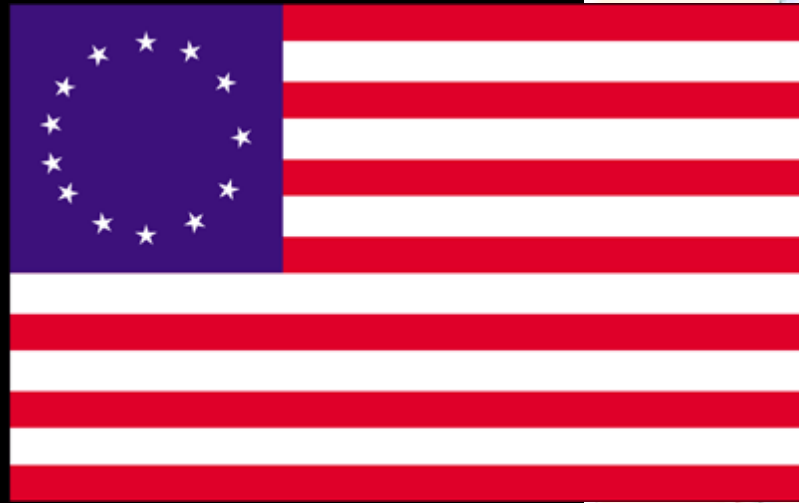
YOU are needed NOW!

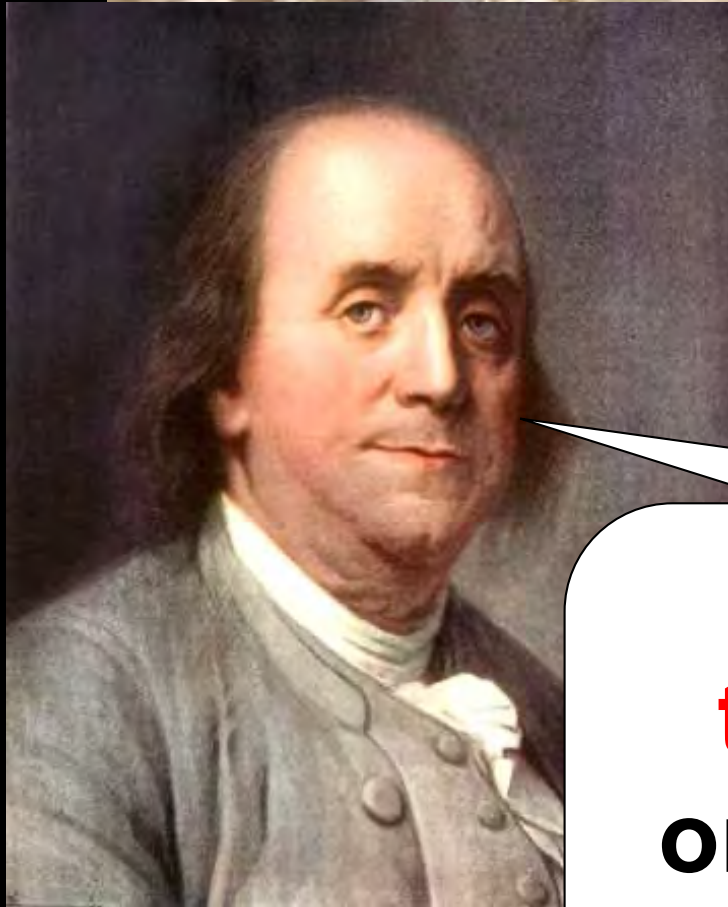
Evangelism
Missions Coordinator
Nursery Coordinator
Downstairs Greeter
Greeters
Ushers
Youth Sponsor
AV Assistant
Drummer
Set-up & Take Down

griffith@sbc.edu.sg



The 13



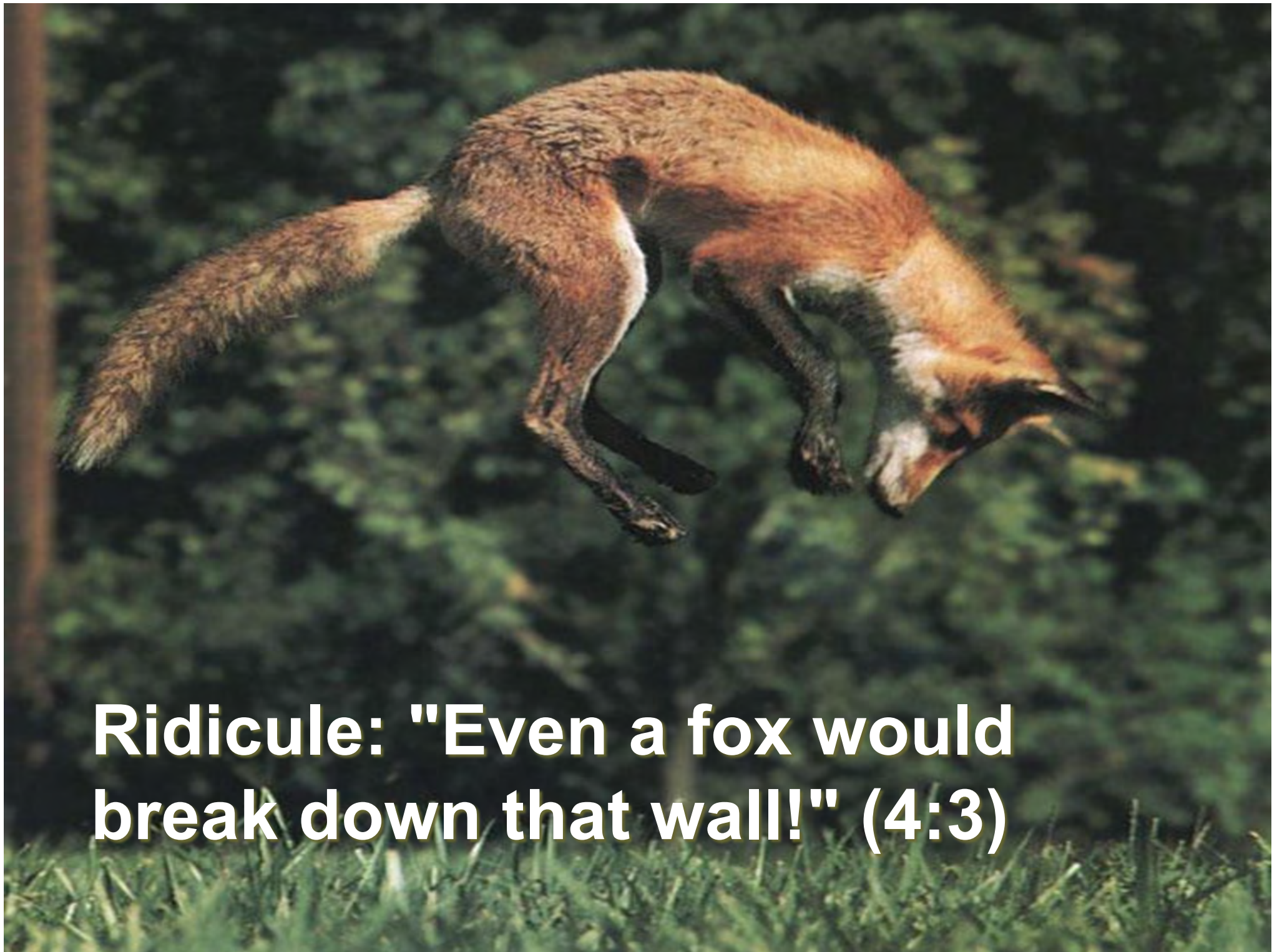


“We must all **hang together, gentlemen...
or assuredly we shall all
hang separately.”
—Benjamin Franklin**

Nehemiah 4



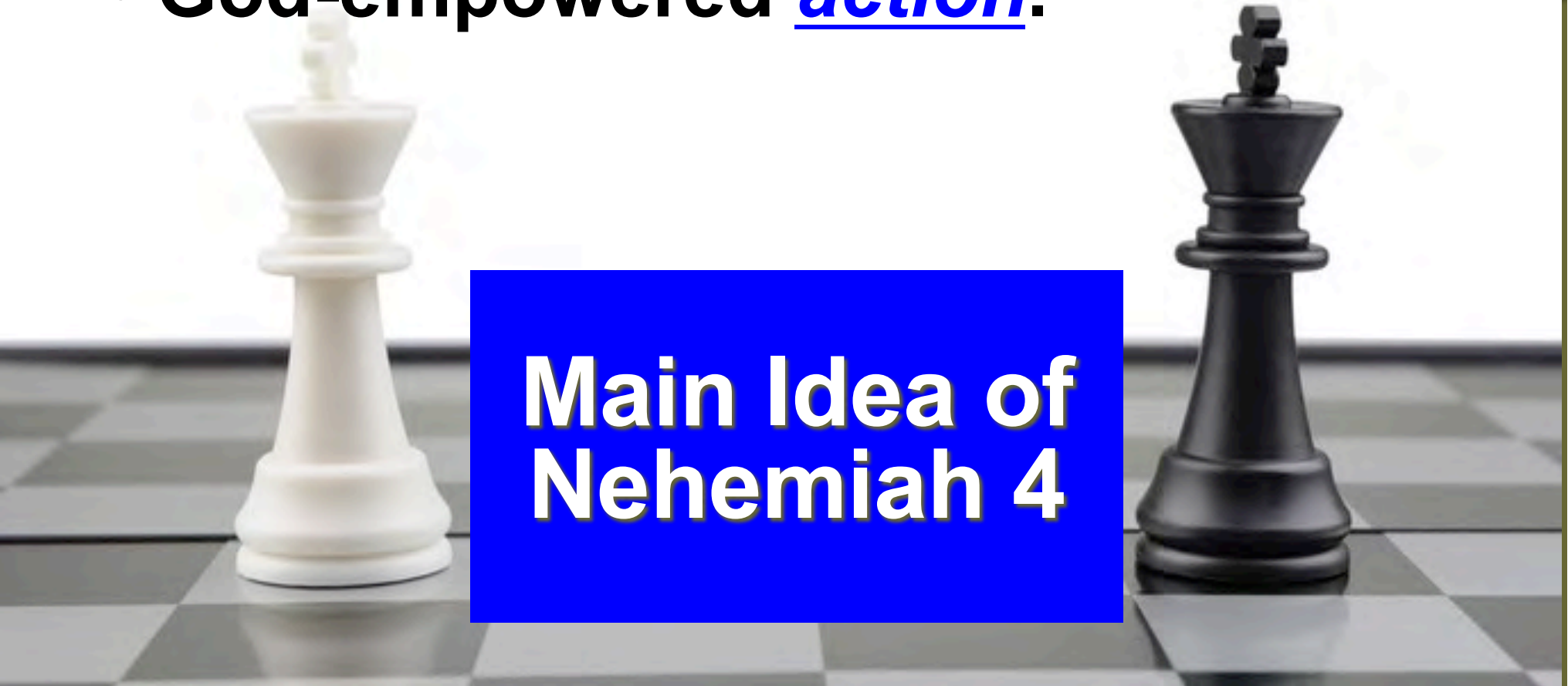
**Opposition to
Building the Wall**



**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

The Cry of the Poor

Nehemiah 5



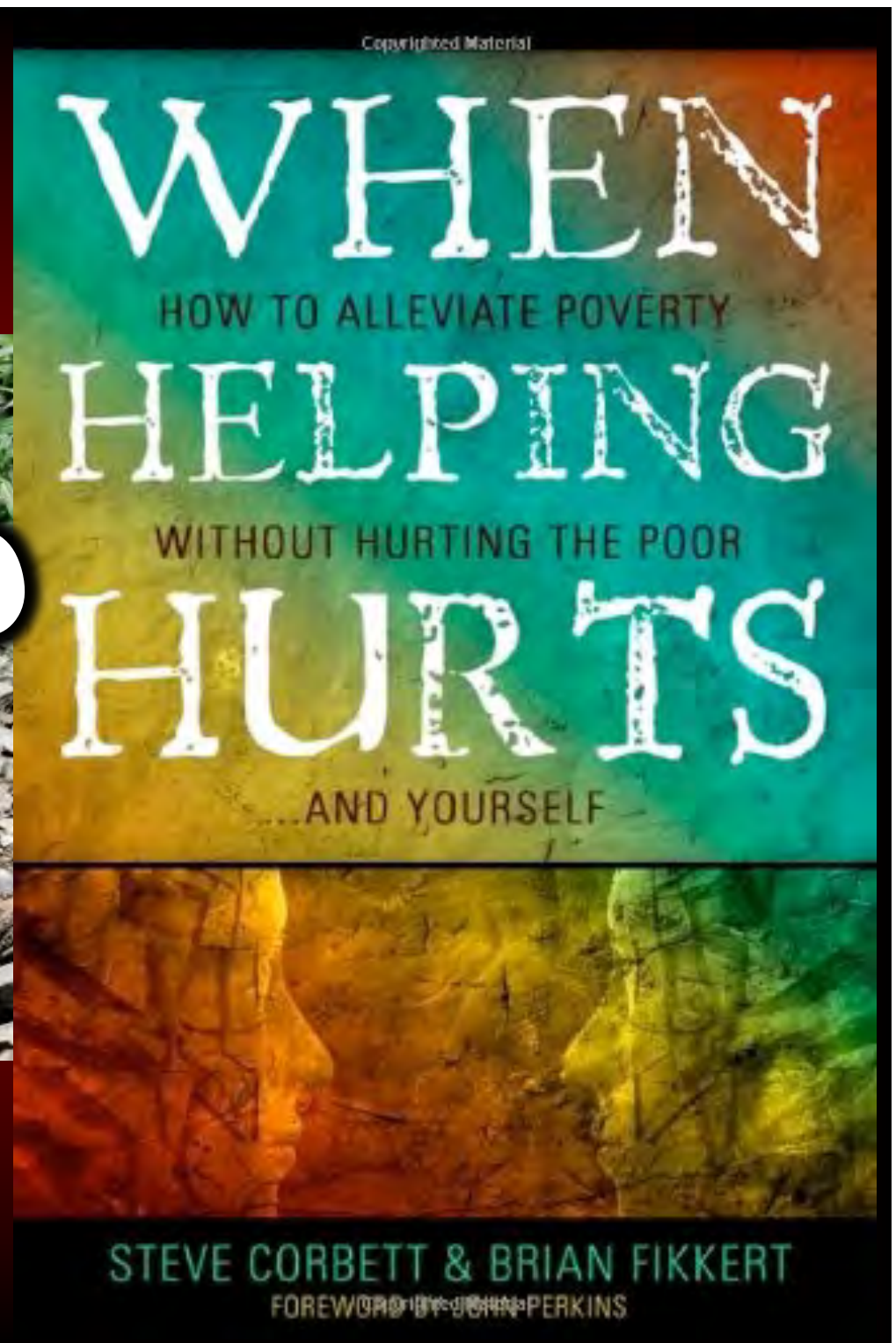
Rick Griffith, Crossroads International Church
BibleStudyDownloads.org

Do **YOU** help the poor?



How

**should
we help
the
poor?**



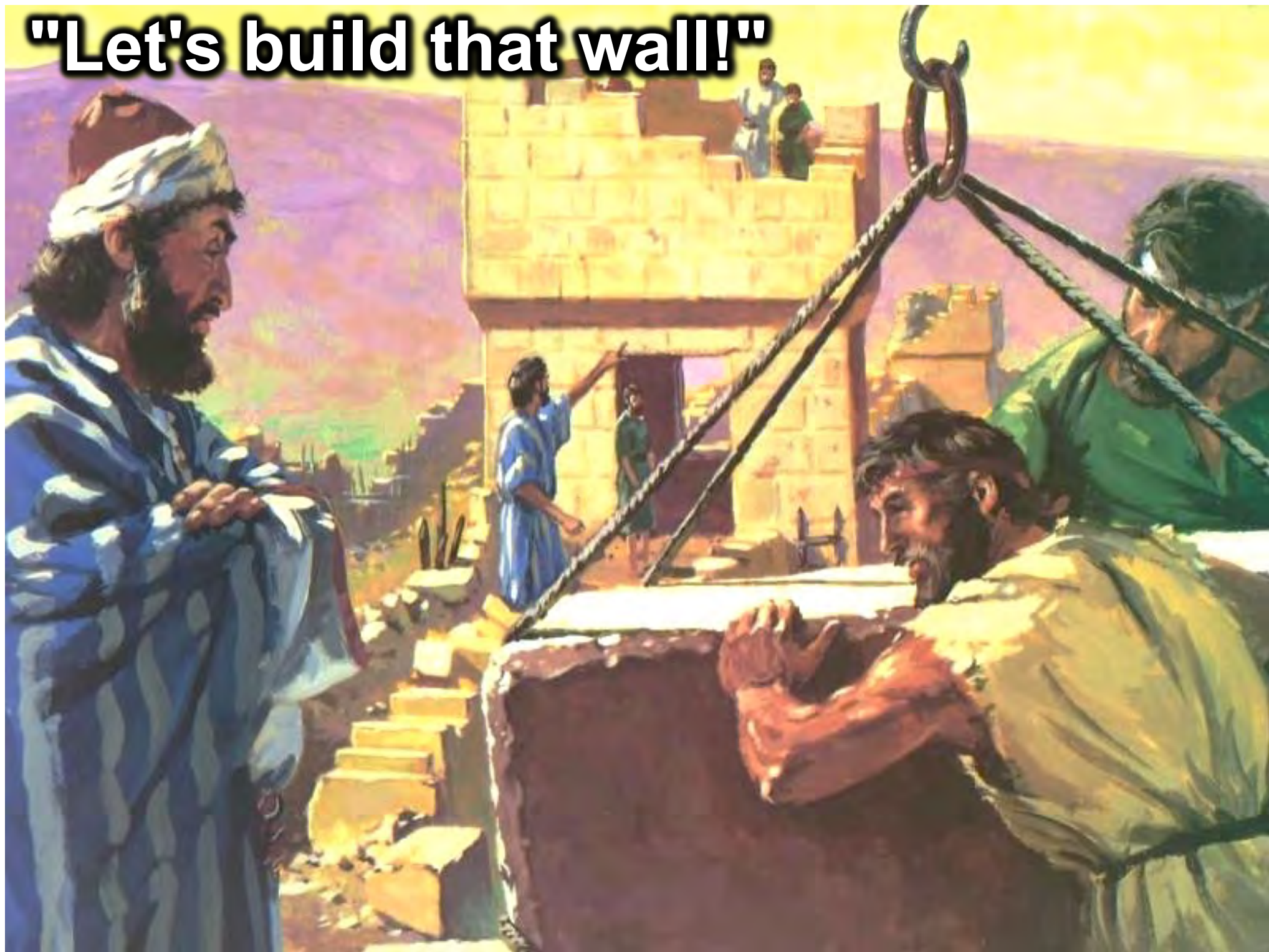
NEHEMIAH

Rebuilding Broken Dreams

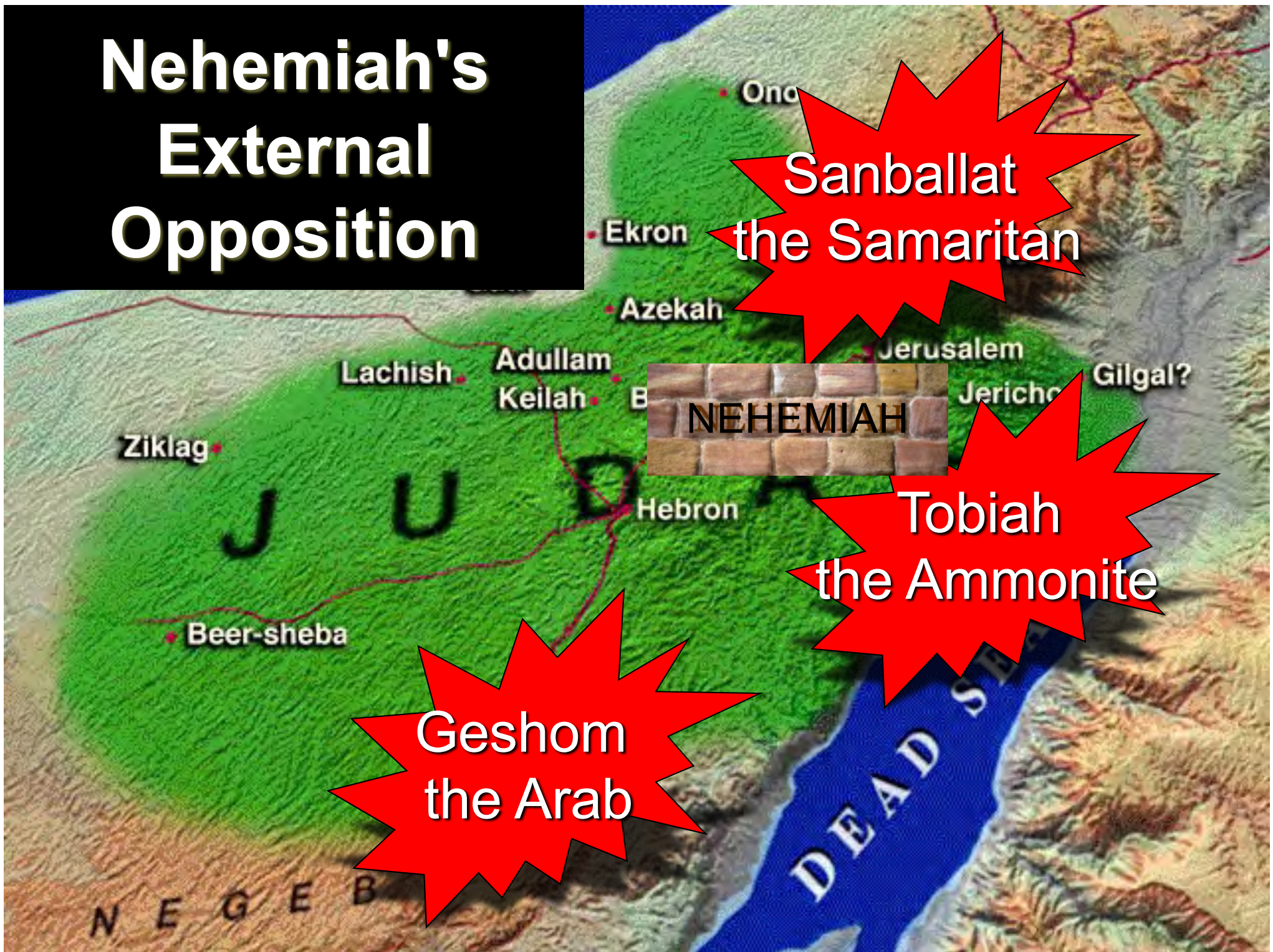
July-October 2013

Our Present Sermon Series

"Let's build that wall!"



Nehemiah's External Opposition



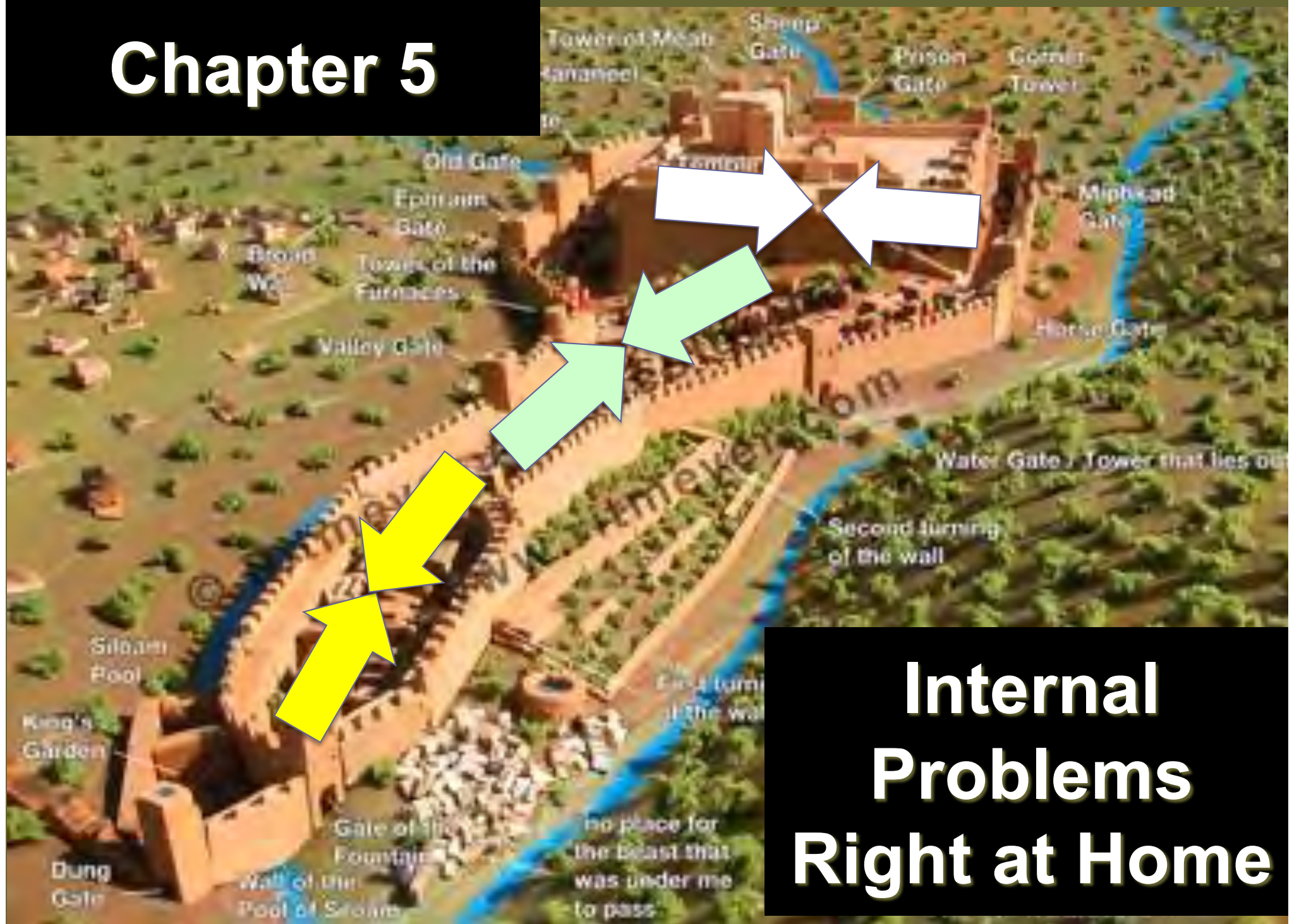
Sanballat
the Samaritan

NEHEMIAH

Tobiah
the Ammonite

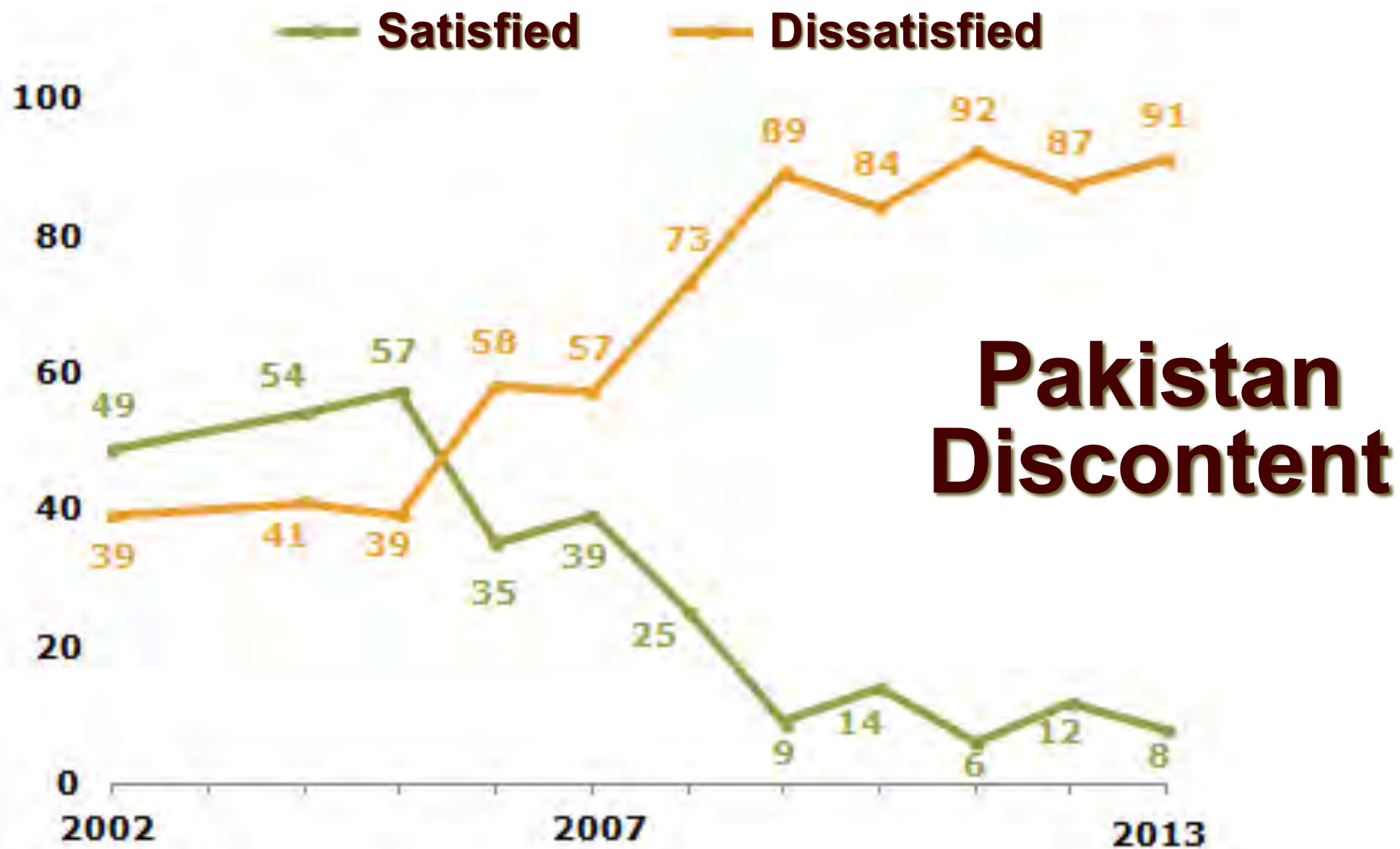
Geshom
the Arab

Chapter 5



**Internal
Problems
Right at Home**

Widespread Discontent with Country's Direction



Spring 2013 survey of Pakistan.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER.

- 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

Where we're going today...



His
Compassion



Our
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).



Nehemiah 5:1-6 (NLT)

About this time some of the men and their wives raised a cry of protest against their fellow Jews. ²They were saying, “We have such large families. **We need more food to survive.**”

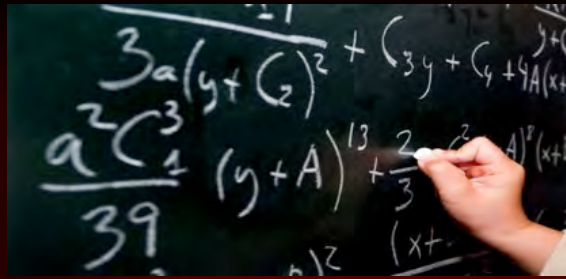
- ⦿ ³Others said, “We have **mortgaged our fields, vineyards, and homes** to get food during the famine.”

- ⦿ ⁴And others said, “We have had to **borrow money** on our fields and vineyards to pay our taxes.

- ⦿ ⁵We belong to the same family as those who are wealthy, and our children are just like theirs. Yet **must sell our children into slavery** just to have money to live. We have already sold our daughters, and we are helping others do the same for our fields and vineyards. ⁶When I heard their complaints, **I was very angry.**

Do **you** get angry?

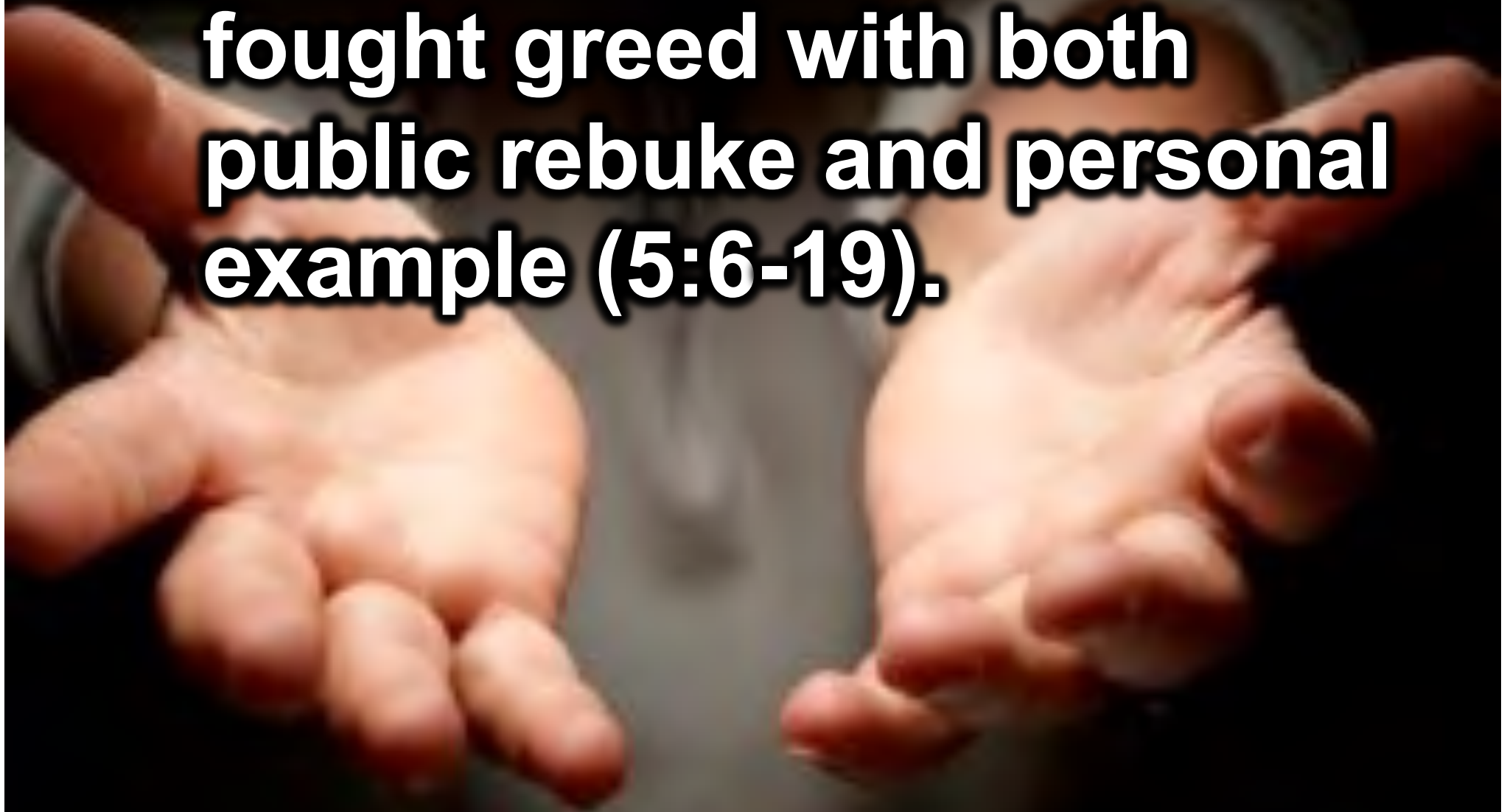




The Hard Numbers

- Nearly half of Asia's 1.27 billion children live in poverty — deprived of **food, safe drinking water, health or shelter**.
- While 600 million children under the age of 18 lack access to one of these basic human needs, more than 350 million are deprived of **two or more** of these needs.
- South Asia has the **highest rates of malnutrition** and the largest numbers of undernourished children in the world!

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



Nehemiah 5:6-8 (NLT SE)

⁶ When I heard their complaints, I was **very angry**.

⁷ After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles and officials. I told them, **“You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!”** Then I called a public meeting to deal with the problem.

⁸ At the meeting I said to them, “We are doing all we can to redeem our Jewish relatives who have had to sell themselves to pagan foreigners, but **you are selling them back into slavery again**. How often must we redeem them?” And they had nothing to say in their defense.



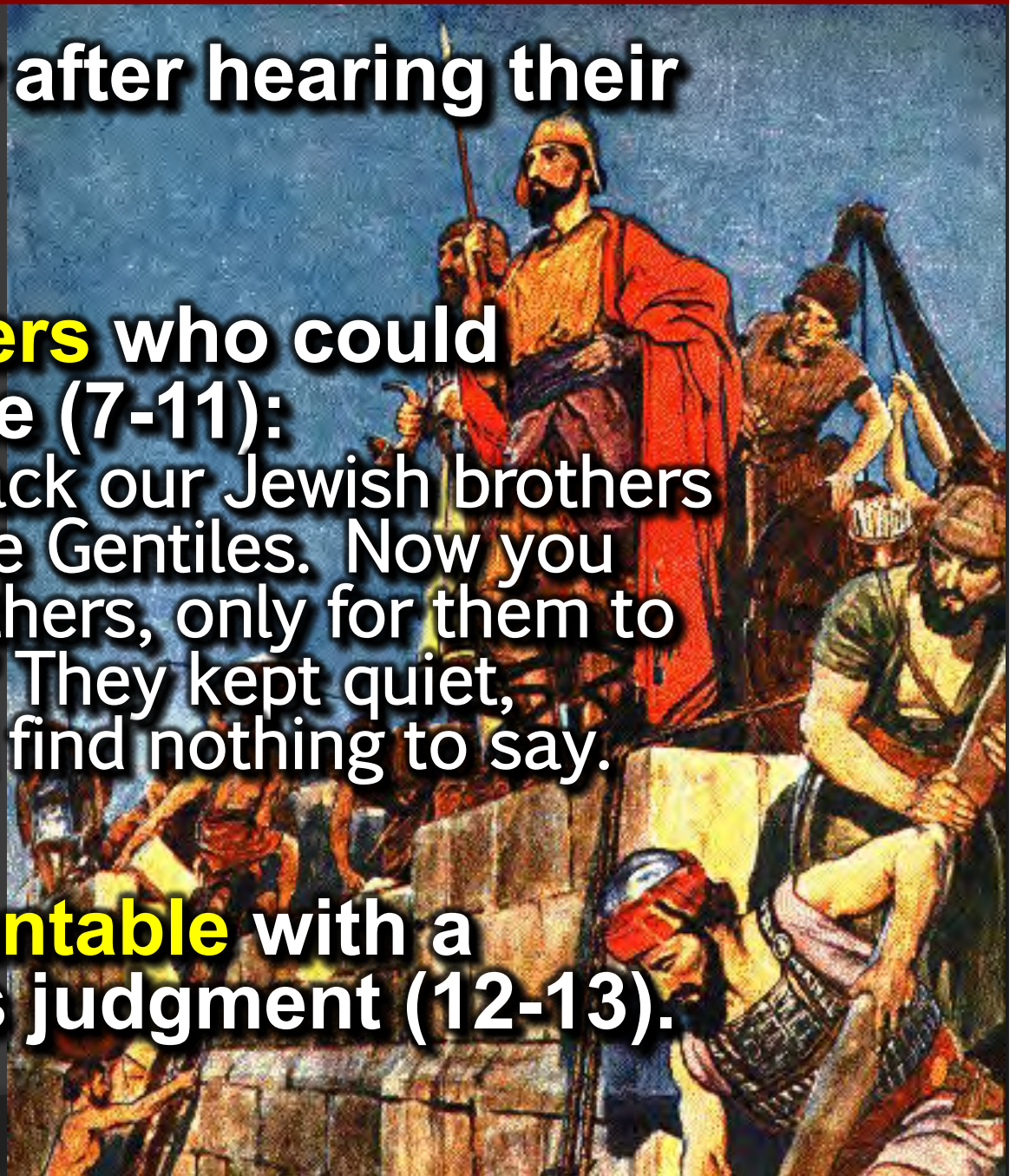
Nehemiah 5:9-11 (NLT)

⁹Then I pressed further, “What you are doing is not right! Should you not **walk in the fear of our God** in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations? ¹⁰I myself, as well as my brothers and my workers, have been lending the people money and grain, but now let us stop this business of charging interest.

¹¹You must **restore** their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And **repay** the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil.”

Nehemiah's Response (5:6-13)

- **Righteous anger** after hearing their cries (6)
- **Confronted leaders** who could make a difference (7-11):
⁸We have bought back our Jewish brothers who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your brothers, only for them to be sold back to us!" They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.
- **Held them accountable** with a warning of God's judgment (12-13).



Nehemiah 5:12-13 (NLT SE)

¹² "We will give it back," they said. "And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say." Then I summoned the priests and **made the nobles and officials take an oath** to do what they had promised.

¹³ I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, "In this way may God shake out of his house and possessions every man who does not keep this promise. So may such a man be shaken out and emptied!" At this the whole assembly said, "Amen," and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised.

IMPACT!

- Nehemiah's message strikes home.
 - They make an economic decision.
 - They make a religious decision.
-
- The Power of Promise
 - The Power of Praise



Nehemiah 5:14-15 (NLT SE)

¹⁴For the entire twelve years that I was governor of Judah—from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of the reign of King Artaxerxes **neither I nor my officials drew on our official food allowance.** ¹⁵The former governors, in contrast, had laid heavy burdens on the people, demanding a daily ration of food and wine, besides forty pieces of silver. Even their assistants took advantage of the people. But because I feared God, I did not act that way.

Nehemiah 5:16 (NLT SE)

¹⁶I also devoted myself to working on the wall and refused to acquire any land. And I required all my servants to spend time working on the wall.



Nehemiah 5:17-18 (NLT SE)

¹⁷I asked for nothing, even though I regularly fed 150 Jewish officials at my table, besides all the visitors from other lands! ¹⁸The provisions I paid for each day included one ox, six choice sheep or goats, and a large number of poultry. And every ten days we needed a large supply of all kinds of wine. **Yet I refused to claim the governor's food allowance because the people already carried a heavy burden.**

Nehemiah 5:19 (NLT SE)

¹⁹Remember me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people.



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

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





**All in favor
of greed?**

**Help
others be
generous.**

AYE!!!

**Be
generous
yourself.**

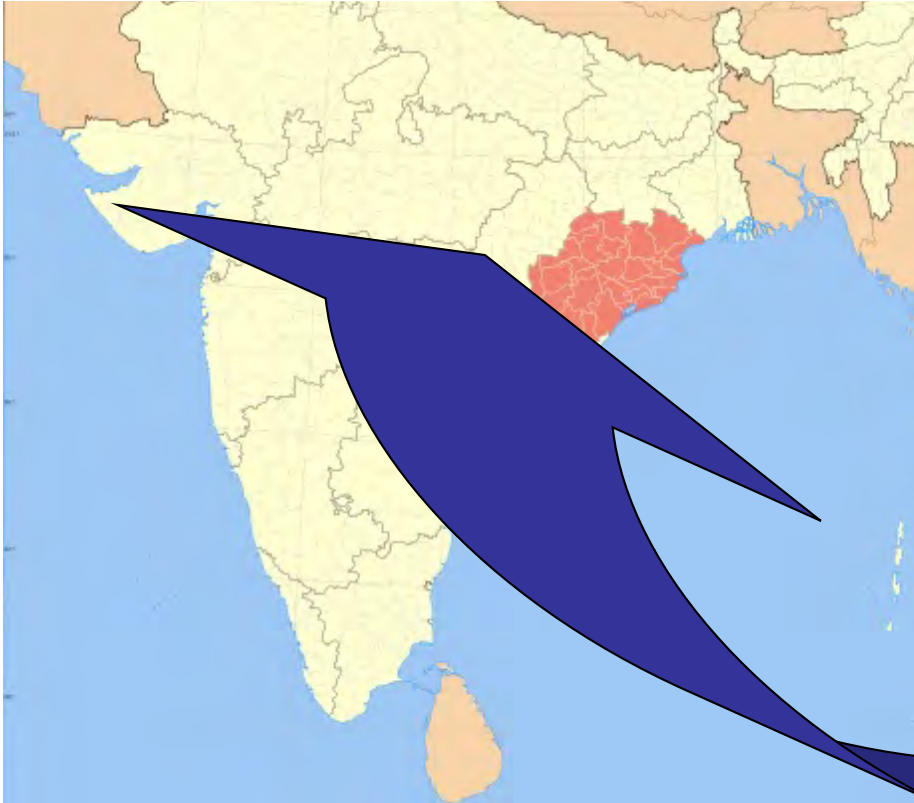


Nehemiah's Example

- **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.**

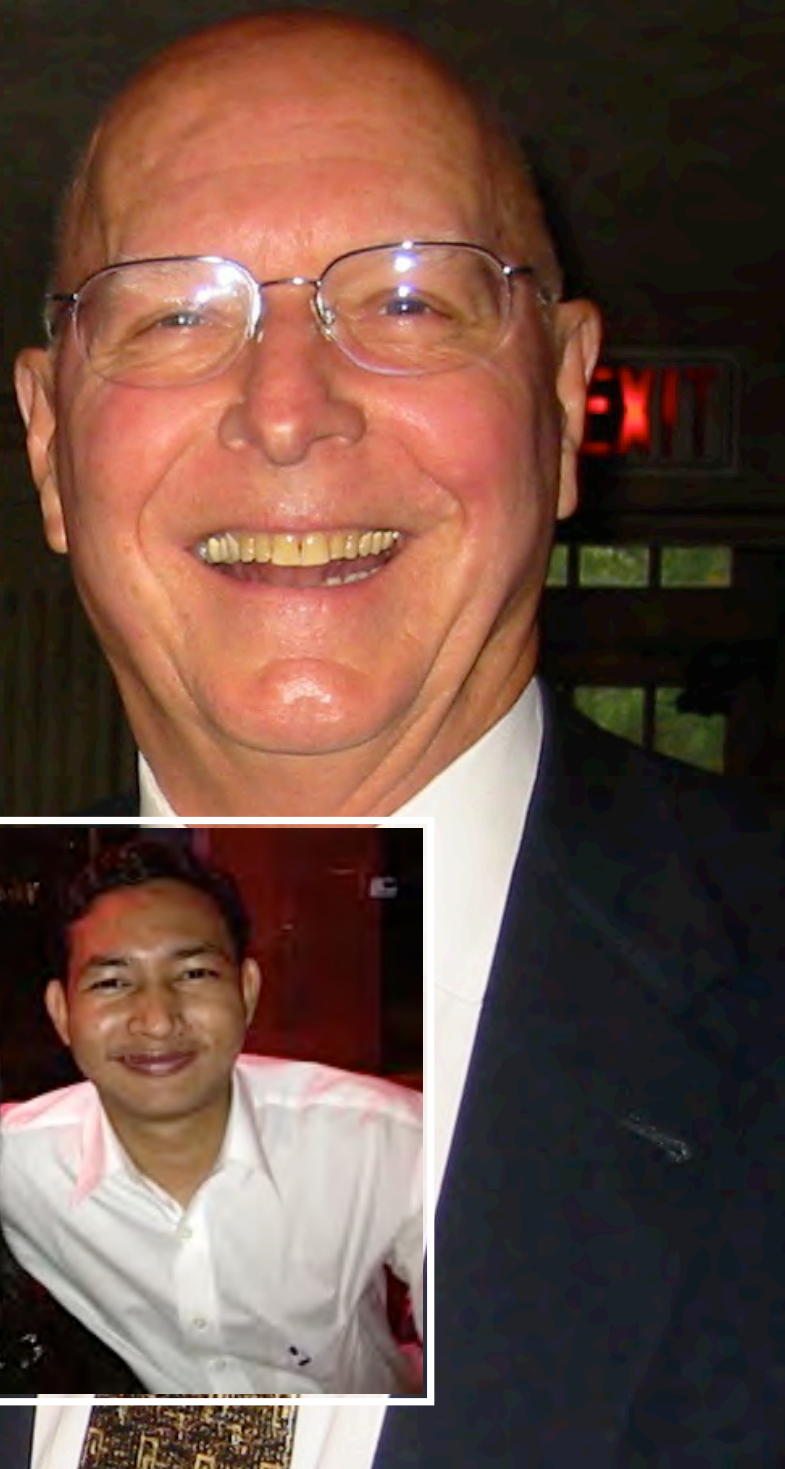


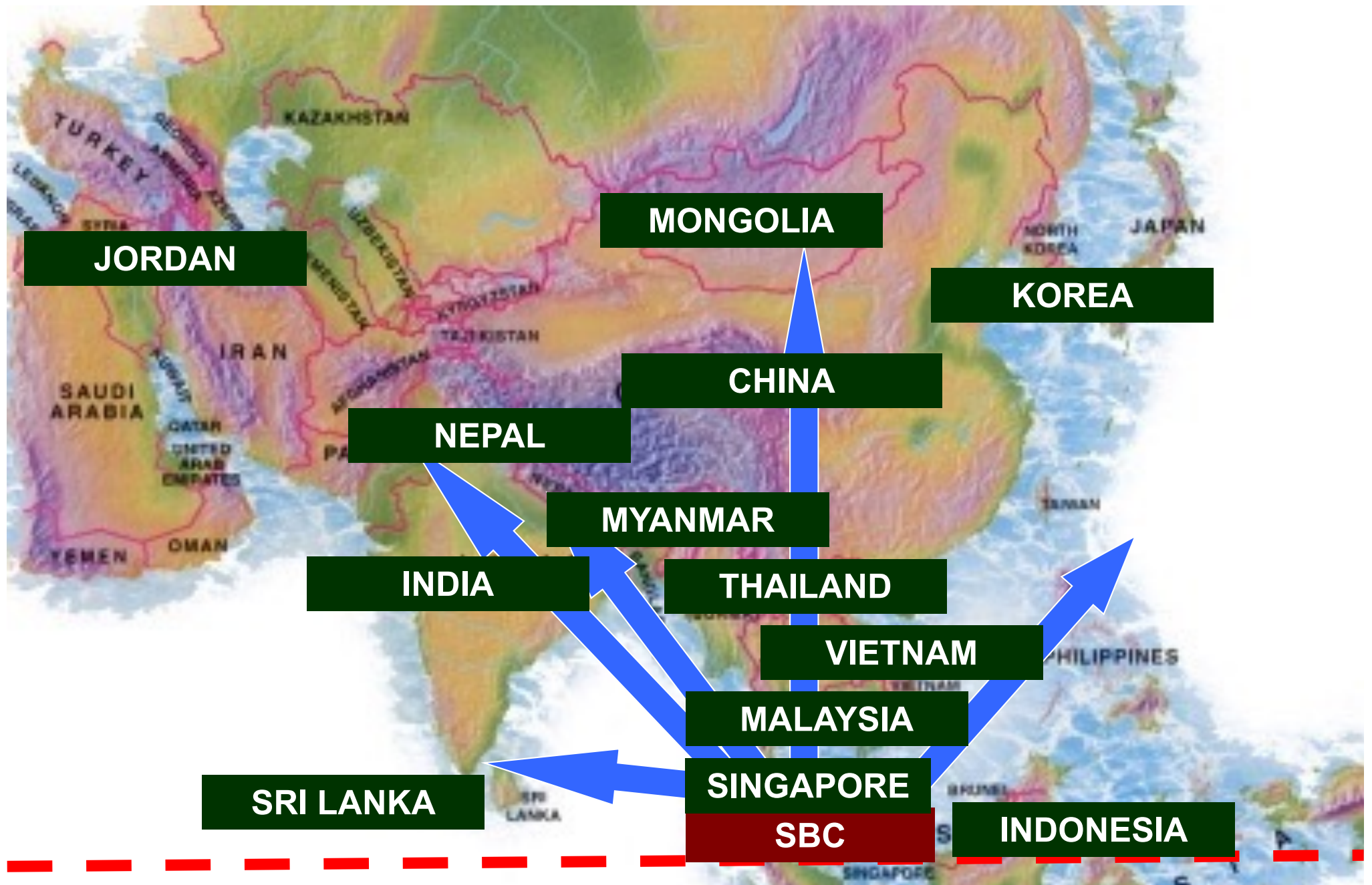
India



Singapore

Mr. & Mrs. Miles





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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 is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

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Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download [here](#).

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Chiru (Chiru) (1)

Chin Tedim (1)

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Bahasa Indonesia
(Indonesian) (6)

Ao Naga (Ao Naga) (1)

(Arabic) (1) العربية

Questions?

Do you have
questions about

New Testament Preaching in English

New Testament Preaching | English

New Testament Survey in English

New Testament Survey | English

Old Testament Backgrounds in English

Old Testament Backgrounds | English

Old Testament Preaching in English

Old Testament Preaching | English

Old Testament Survey in English

Old Testament Survey | English

Gen. 1:1



in the beginning

An
Introduction to
Genesis

Gen. 1:1

pada mulanya

Pengenalan
kitab Kejadian

Gen. 1:1

起初

创世记导论



Singapore Bible College Wives



Internet Biblical Seminary

Discipleship Training to Reach the World for Christ

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Course Demo

Technical Requirements

Getting Started

Login

User Name:

rickgriffith

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.....

[Submit Login](#)

There are currently over five million pastors in the 10/40 window alone who have no access to any biblical training. I believe God has given the Internet Biblical Seminary a credible and achievable plan which will play a unique role in meeting this critical need. I am particularly impressed with the inter-mission cooperative nature of this initiative.

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

Learn about the potential for worldwide impact by using IBS courses, as revealed through these testimonials.

"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



Taking an IBS Class



Dozens of Free Courses in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, etc.

How
should
we help
the
poor?



MAIN IDEA



Replace **greed**



with **generosity**

How can
you
help
the poor?



Making It Personal



- Admit past patterns of abuse
- Choose to change
- Use your position for positive impact

"But the earlier governors—those preceding me placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that."

- Have a marketplace ministry

¹⁶ Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall.



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

or ignore their need.

Missions

21%



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



Chanchan & Athan



Manipur, North-East India



Professional Training Institute

– Bridging the gap

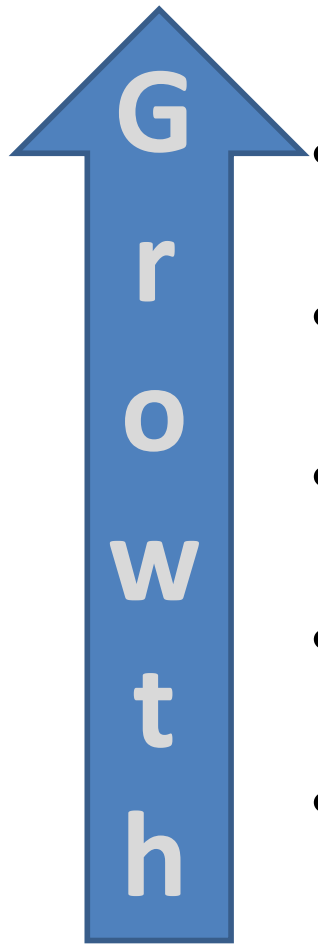


**A Holistic
Ministry**

Church

**Workplaces
Vocations
Studies
People's lives
Spiritual needs**

Progress so far . . .



- **3,800+ benefitted from the training center**
- **104 evangelistic camps/programs**
- **27 people received technical/further studies**
- **Helped establish business units**
- **Provided employment to 17 people**
- **Procured land**



Electricity: 1 hour/day

+ \$3000 CIC solar panels

Electricity: 24 hrs./day

**PTI
Building**



Albina Chan

Lakeside 20th Anniversary Dinner

Fri 30 Aug 7-10 PM



Journey of Hope

ANNIVERSARY GALA

To celebrate 20 years of Lakeside Family Centre, we are organising a gala fundraiser in support of our beneficiaries on their Journey of Hope.

GUEST-OF-HONOUR

**Deputy Prime Minister
& Minister of Finance
Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam**

VENUE

**The Fullerton Hotel
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For charitable gifts and sponsorships, please contact Ms Grace Tan at 6265 6522 or email grace-tan@lakeside.org.sg

RSVP by 31 July 2013

Lakeside Family Centre is celebrating our 20th Anniversary this year, and to commemorate 20 years of our service to the community, we are organising a 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner – *A Journey of Hope*.



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

Nehemiah 6

Nehemiah 6:15–7:3

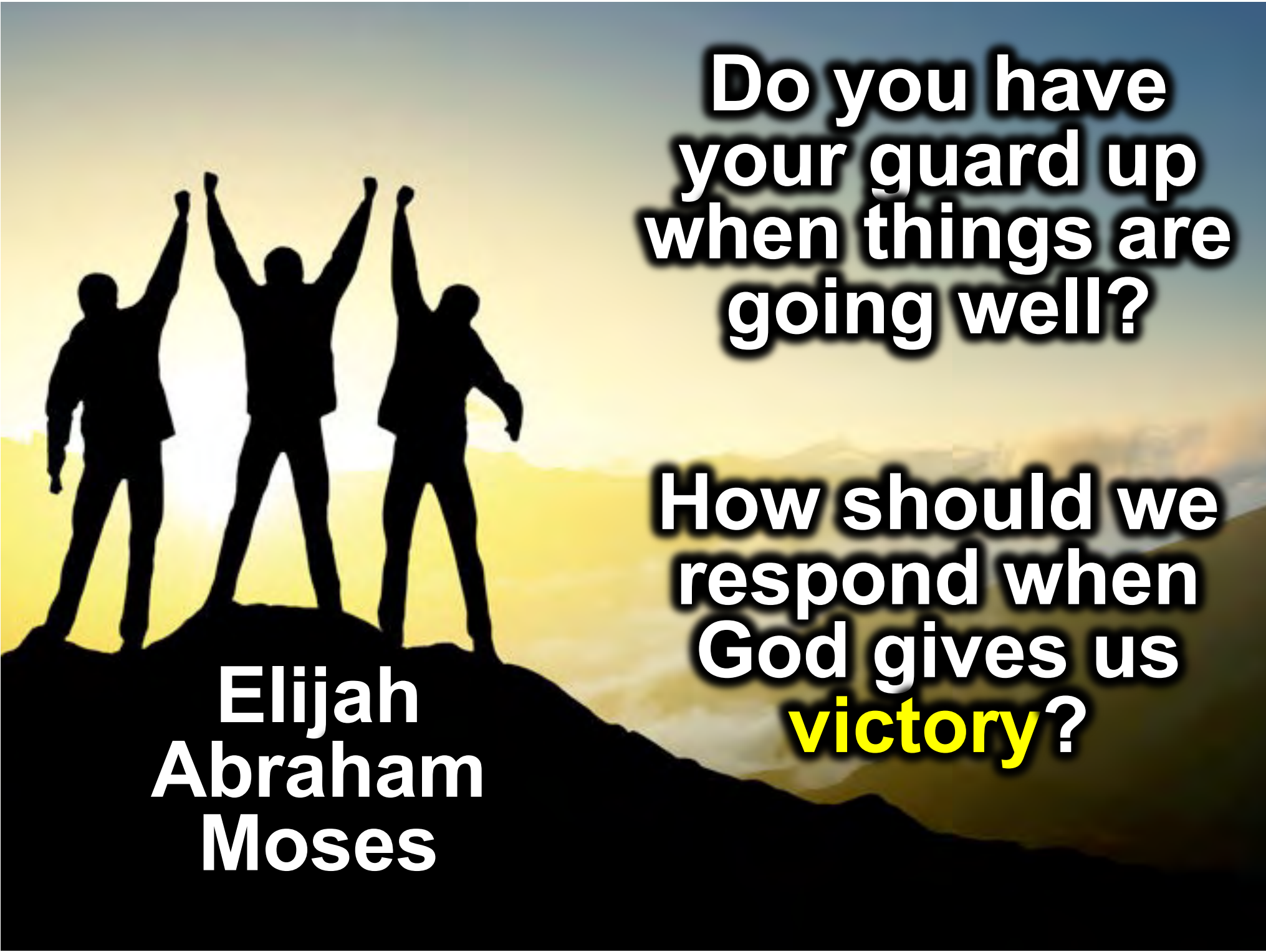


NEHEMIAH

Guarding the Work of God's Hand

A Recent Email...

Rick, you mentioned last lesson on Elijah that after a spiritual triumph, there is usually a testing period. For example, Elijah went into depression. Why is this so? Is there a spiritual purpose?



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

How should we
respond when
God gives us
victory?

Elijah
Abraham
Moses

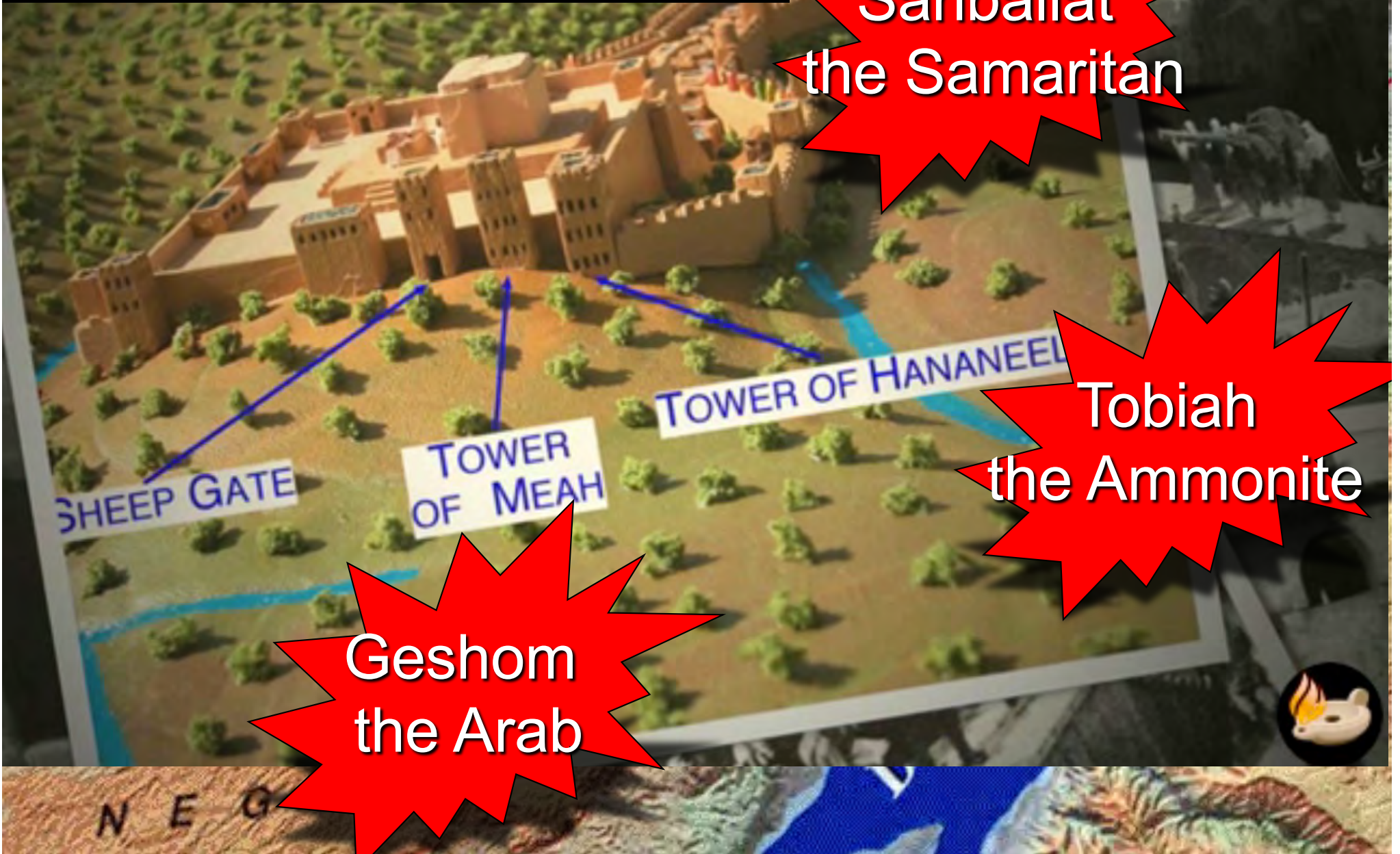


Nehemiah's External Opposition

Sanballat
the Samaritan

Tobiah
the Ammonite

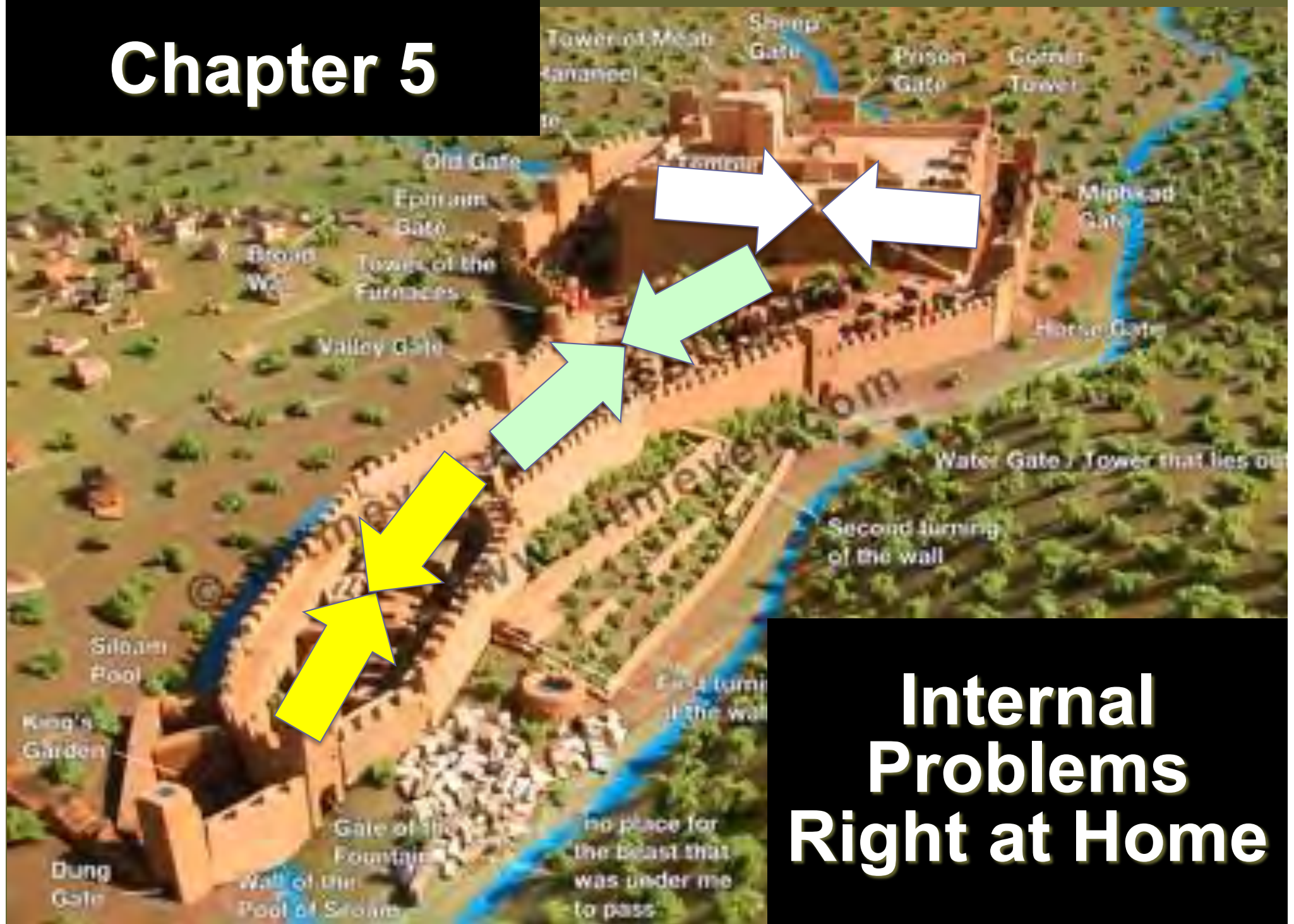
Geshom
the Arab



Nehemiah's Messages (6:3)



Chapter 5



**Internal
Problems
Right at Home**

● In Nehemiah
5 we saw
Nehemiah
respond to
the cry of the
poor.

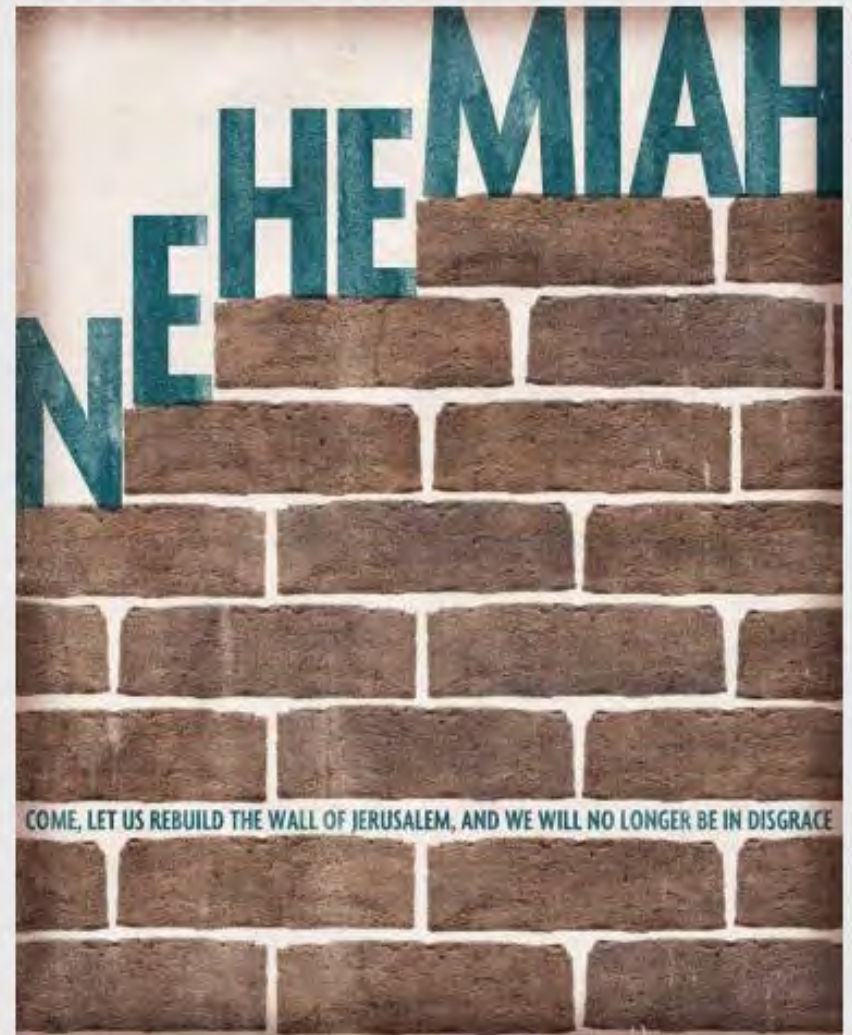
Prayer



Compassion

"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***

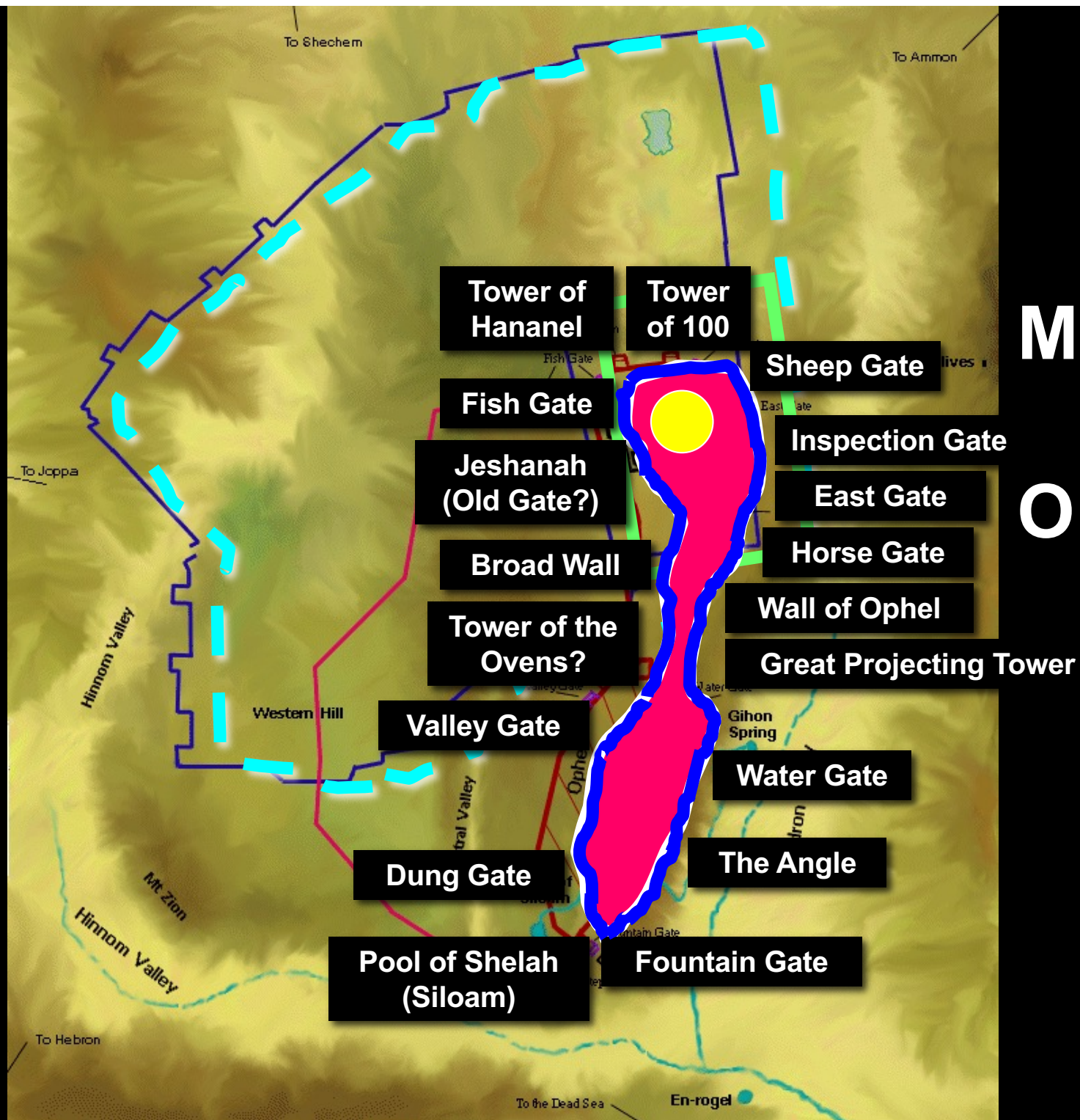
—Isaac Newton

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)



Nehemiah 6:17-19

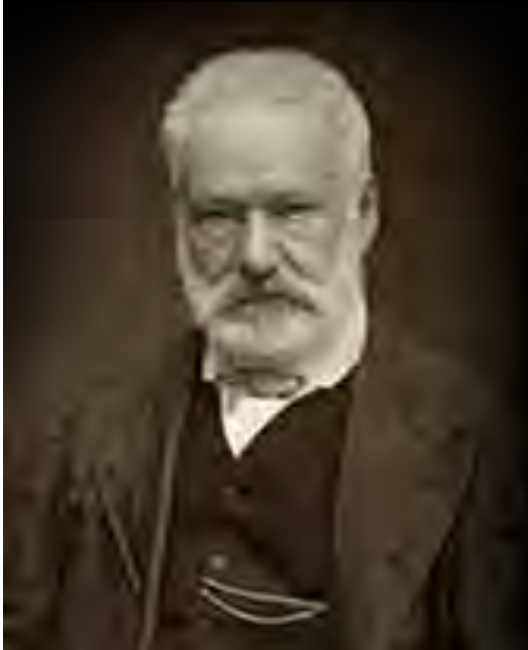
■ The work of God is **opposed**—again!

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

Are you opposed?



**I'M RELIGIOUSLY
OPPOSED TO RELIGION.**



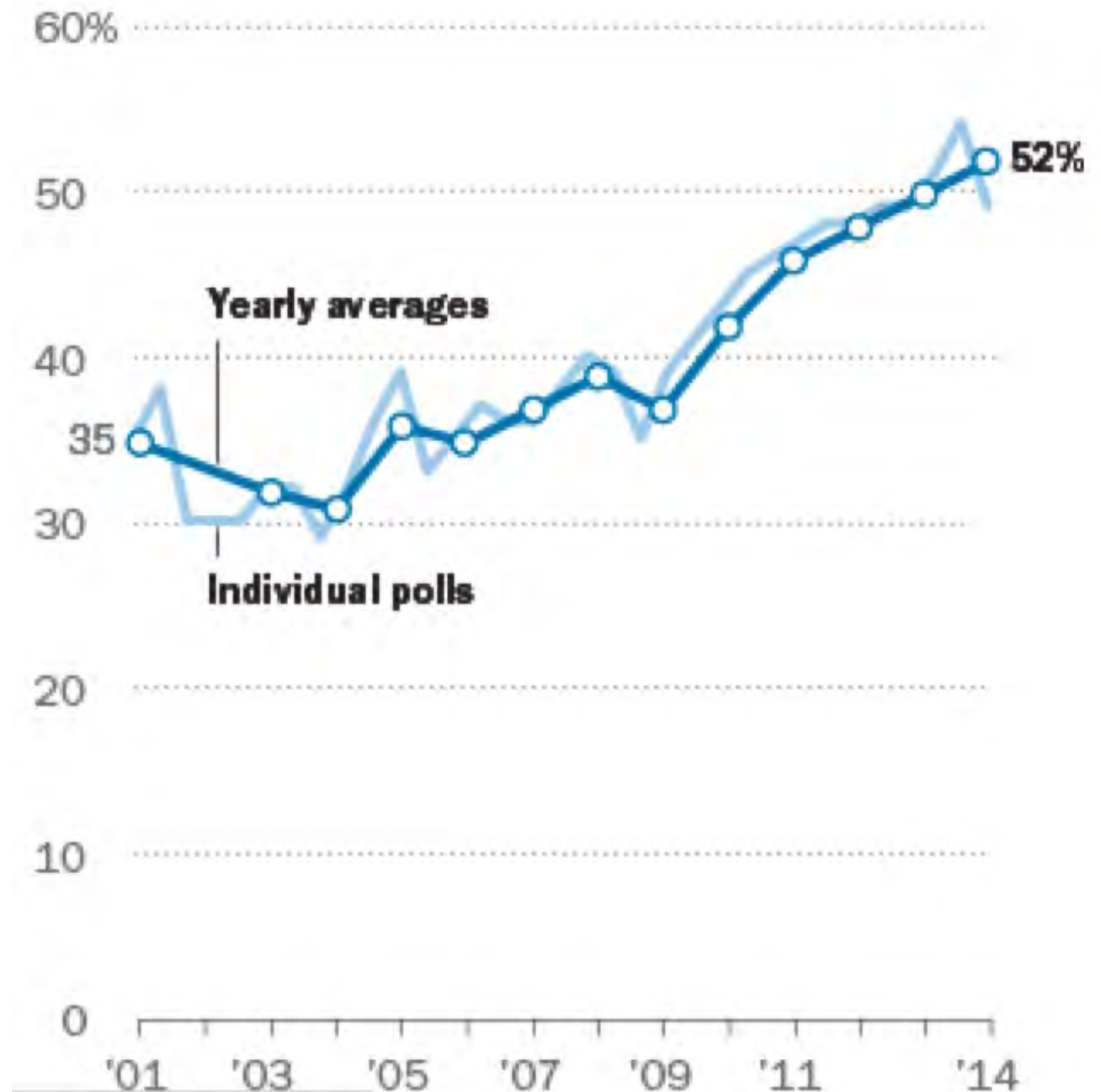
Victor Hugo

French Poet

QuoteHD.com

(1802-1885)

Increasing Support of Gay "Marriage"





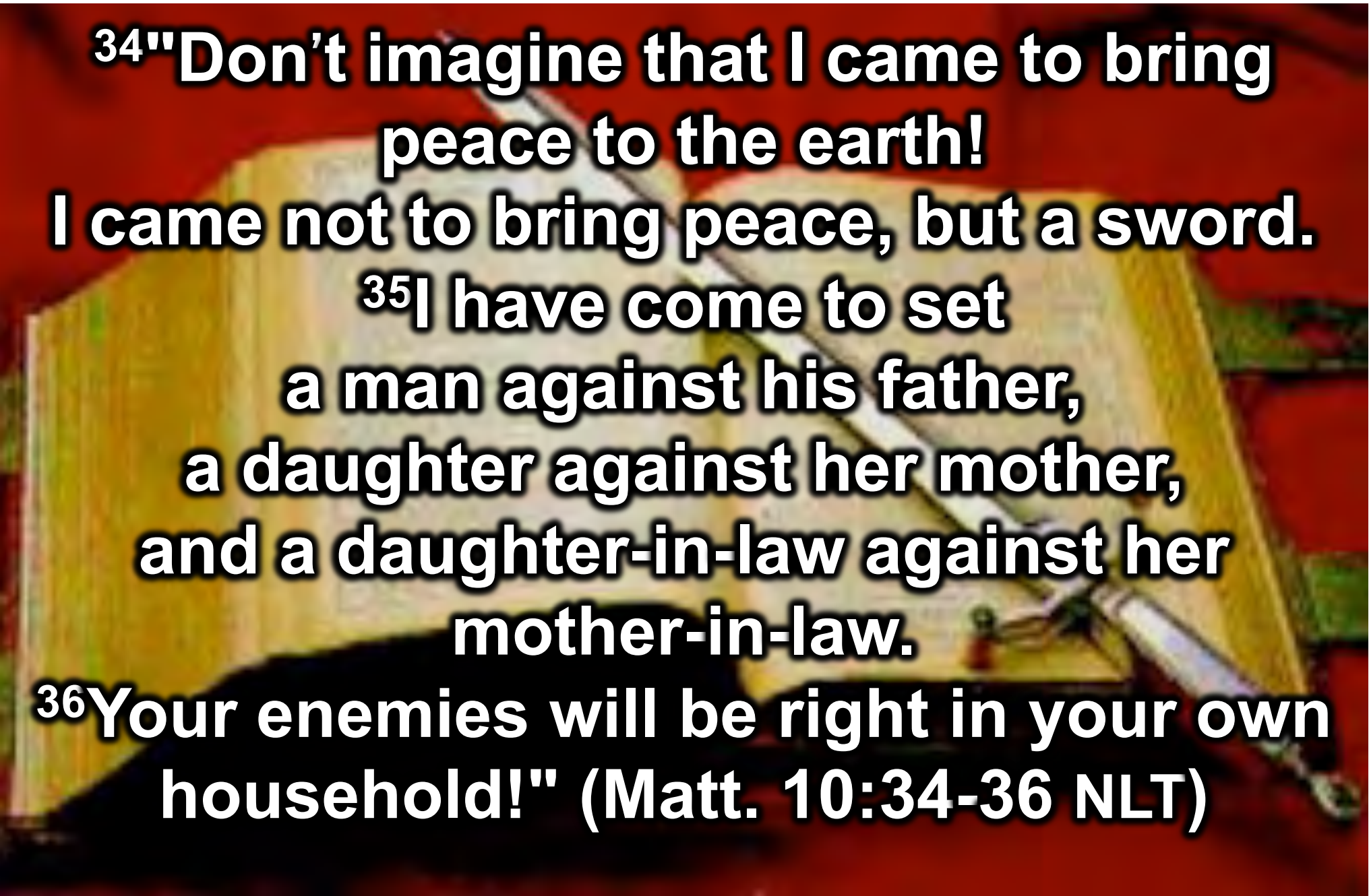
**CHURCH TAX EXEMPTION
COSTS THE USA EVERY YEAR**

\$71,000,000,000

END THE FREE RIDE

Antitheists

University of Tampa professor
Ryan T. Grogan along with
students Stephanie Yeager
and Desmond Vega.



**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

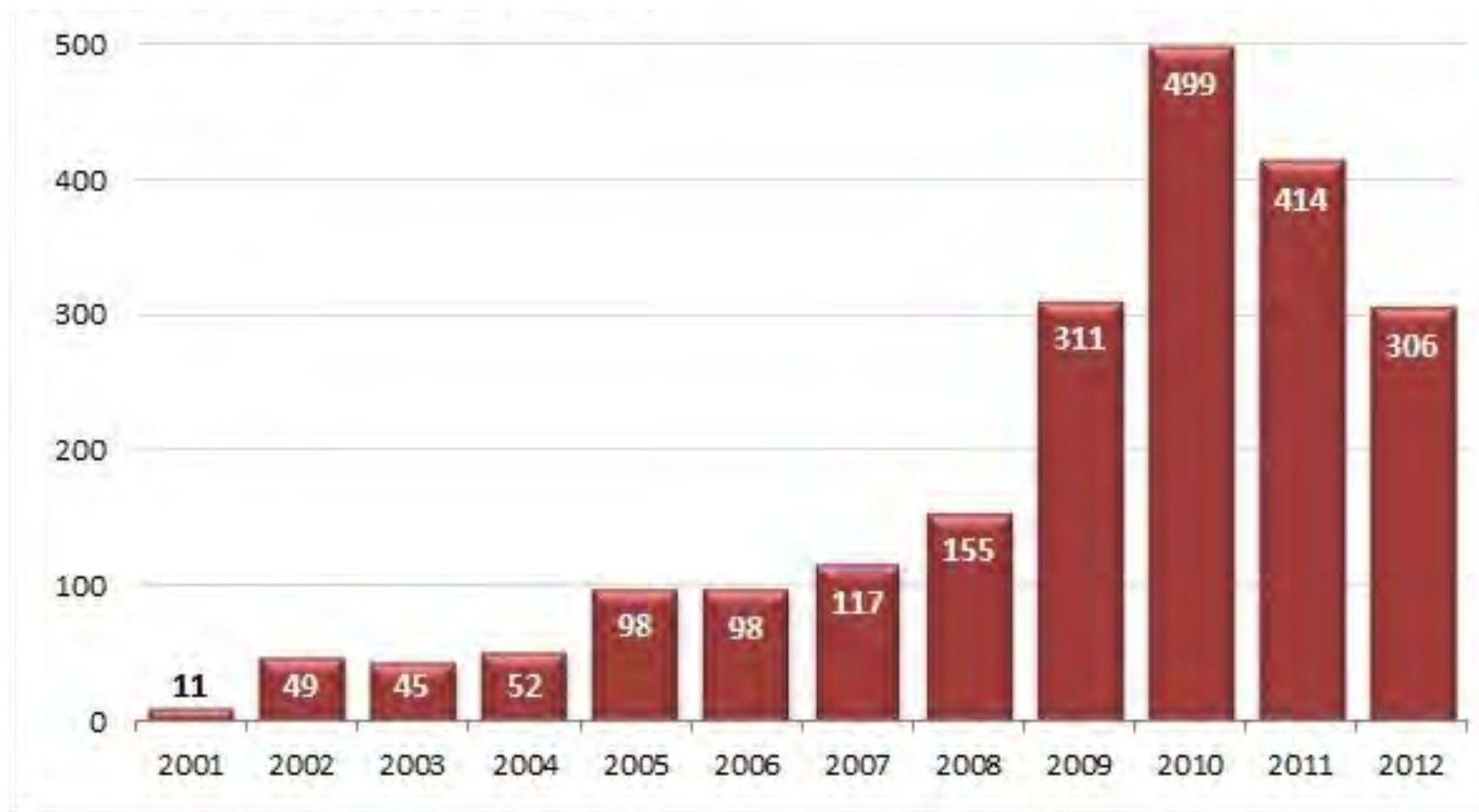
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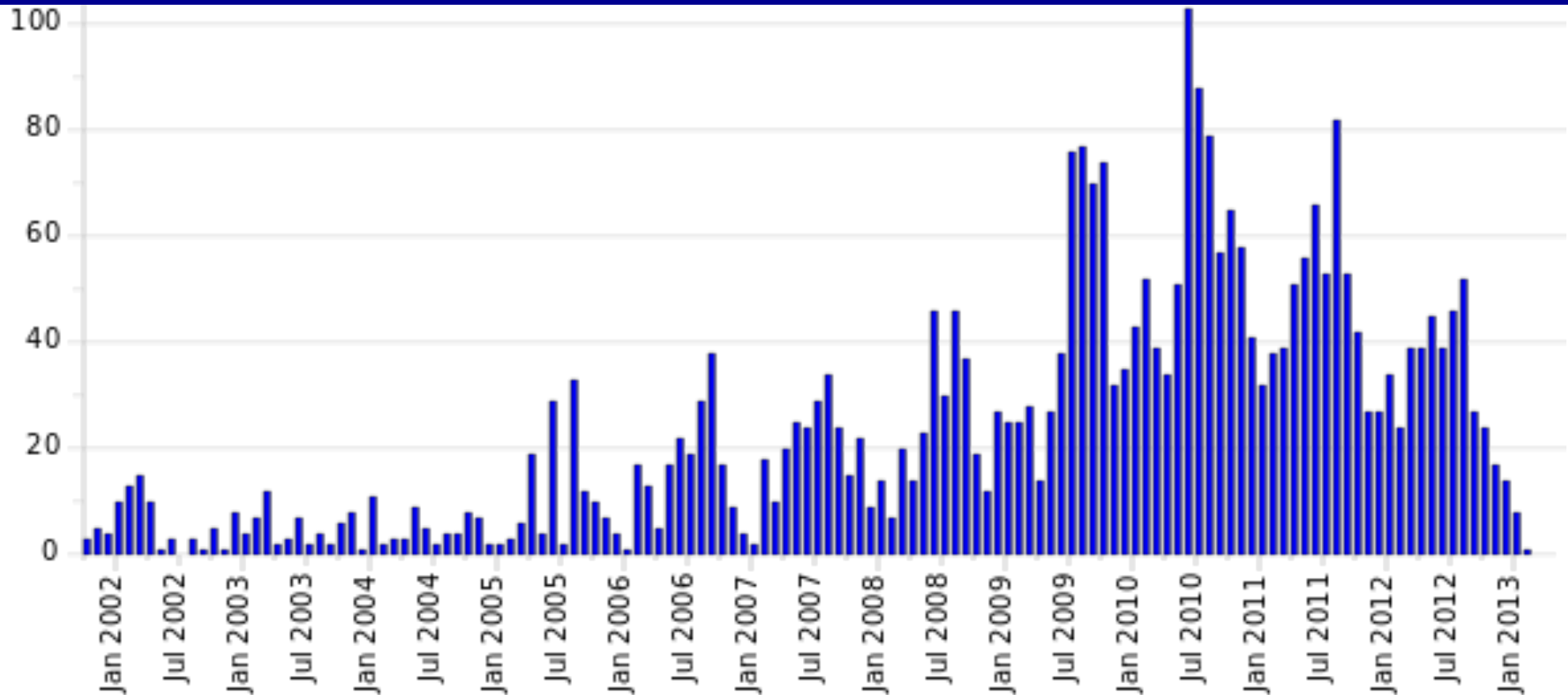
"Me? Be a Christian at work?"

Americans Killed in Afghanistan



Source: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R41084.pdf> (2012 figures through 12/6/12)

Coalition Military Casualties in Afghanistan by Month





**Is it OK for an Air Force officer
to have a Bible on his desk?**



**Opposing
Our
Church**



CROSSROADS
international church

Shrek the Sheep Sheared



Shrek the Sheep Before Shearing





**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).**



Nehemiah 7:1-3

- The work of God is guarded—again!
- Guards at the gates (1)

Jerusalem's Valley Gate



Nehemiah 7:1-3

- The work of God is guarded—again!
 - **Guards** at the gates (1)
 - **Godly men** to govern (2)

Leaders Put in Place by Nehemiah

- Gatekeepers
- Singers and Levites
- Hanani
- Hananiah



Nehemiah 7:2b

- Hananiah was chosen for leadership because “he was a man of integrity and feared God more than most men do.”
- What about you? Would have been chosen on the basis of these criteria?

Nehemiah 7:1-3

-
- The work of God is guarded—again!
 - **Guards** at the gates (1)
 - **Godly men** to govern (2)
 - **Residents** to keep the gates closed (3)



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

Guard your thoughts



Sobering Stats

- **42% of university graduates never read a book after graduation**
- **80% of American families did not buy or read a book in 2003**
- **57% of new books purchased in the US are not read to completion**
- **Most readers do not get past page 18 in a book they have purchased**



**Lausanne Forum for
World Evangelisation
at Pattaya, Thailand,
2004**

The background of the slide is a world map rendered in a fiery, orange and yellow color scheme. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with the Americas on the left and Europe and Africa on the right. A dark red horizontal band runs across the middle of the map, serving as a backdrop for the title text.

Guarding God's Work at Crossroads

**We seek to serve
"two deep."**

**“Never Start a Ministry
Without a Minister”**

by Rick Warren

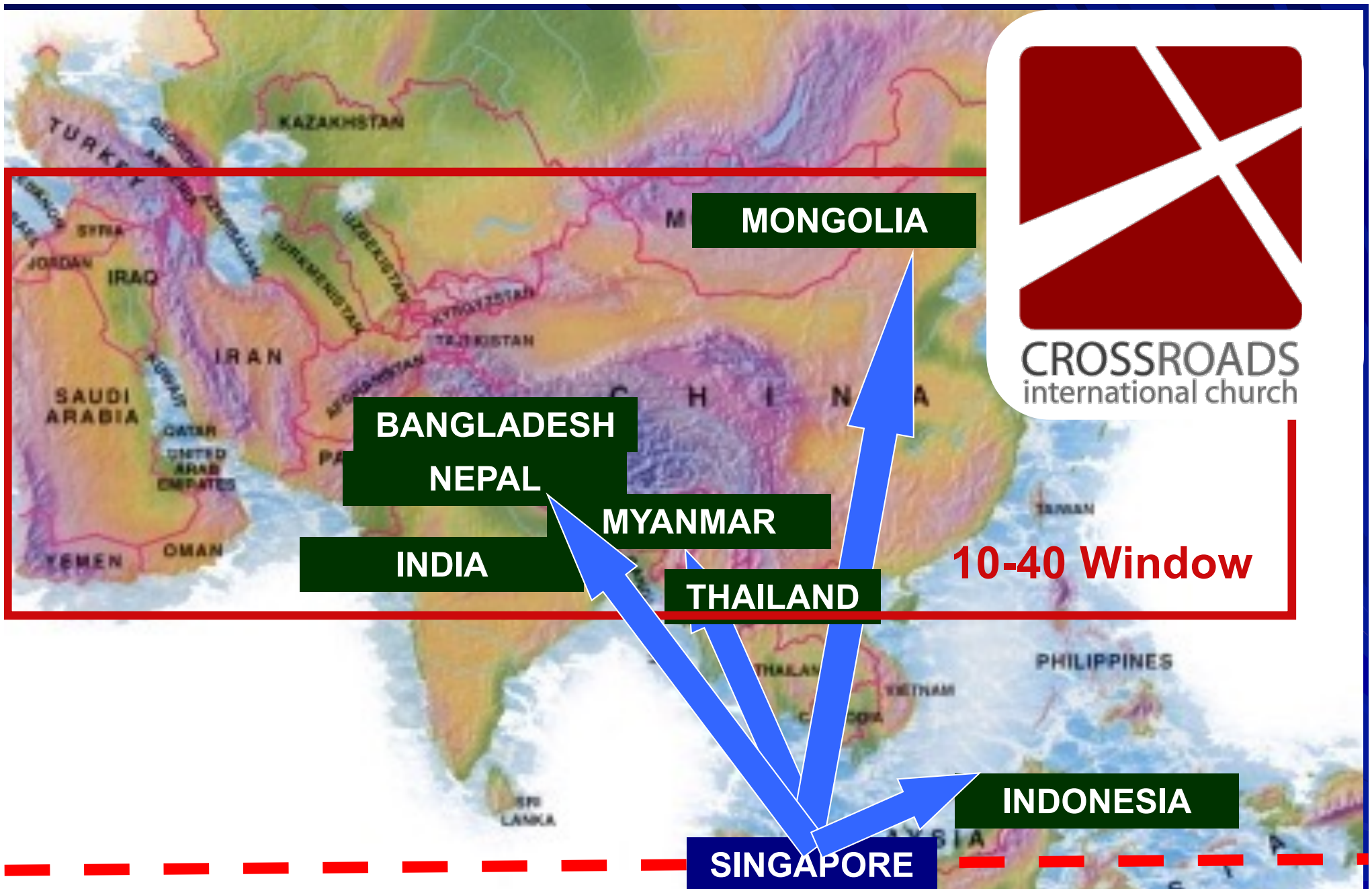




Our Mission Involvement

- **Thailand**
- **Vietnam**
- **India**
- **Mongolia**
- **Philippines** (training for
- **Myanmar** **Indonesia)**
- **Bangladesh**
- **Afghanistan**
- **Nepal**
- **Canada**





Crossroads Missions Funds 2012



The Coreas in Bangkok, Thailand since July 2008

The start of a new international church...



Our Partnership with CIC

- **You were involved in preparing and sending us out.**
- **We are still members!**
- **We would like to plant international churches like CIC.**
- **We covet your prayers and support!**



2010 MISSION TRIP



Where? MONGOLIA



When? September 4-12, 2010

What? Teaching

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

2012 MYANMAR MISSION

Who? Lewis & Barbara Winkler

Where? YANGON

When? 30 Nov-3 Dec

What? Officiating & Teaching



Lakeside 20th Anniversary Dinner

Fri 30 Aug 7-10 PM

LAKESIDE
FAMILY
CENTRE

*Journey
of Hope*

ANNIVERSARY GALA

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A man with short dark hair and a mustache, wearing a grey suit, white shirt, and red tie, stands at a wooden podium. He has his eyes closed and his arms outstretched in a gesture of prayer or emphasis. A microphone is positioned in front of him. The background consists of a wall made of large, irregular stone blocks. A speech bubble is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

**Lord, give
me a word
from You,
any word—
and fast!!!**



The Preaching Calendar

***Planning for Our
Future***

A Detailed Calendar



Edition 62-SM (7 Feb 13)

AR = Adrielle Randles

BW = Barbara Winkler

CP = Cynthia Peter

CW = Christine Winkler

DL = Deborah Lee

EL = Emma Lieuman

GL = Gilbert Lewis

JS = Jieun Sénéchal

CIC Service Plan for 2013

KM = Kim Mang

LW = Lewis Winkler

MB = Miriam Burnett

x = Present

- = Absent

RG = Rick Griffith

SG = Susan Griffith

SM = Singpu Mang

SB = Sean Bagary

SD = Shannah den Engelsen

TD = Tessa den Engelsen

Date	Sermon Text	God's Attribute	Topic	Sermon Title	Main Idea	Speaker	Rick Present?	PowerPoint Design	Worship Leader	Planner	Guitarist	Bassist	Drummer	Christine Singing	Cynthia Singing	Deborah Singing	Miriam Singing	Jieun Singing	Kim Singing	Singpu Singing	Shannah Singing	Tessa Singing	Comments
Jan 6	1 Cor. 7:1-24	Joy	Contentment	Straight Talk About Contentment	Be content with your marital, physical, and socio-economic state because each situation has its advantages	RG	x	RG	LW	SG	TD	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	Lord's Supper
Jan 13	1 Cor 7:25-40	Joy	Contentment	Why Stay Single?	Singleness has its advantages (especially during difficult times) but marriage isn't prohibited	RG	x	MB	SM	SG	TD	-	SB	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	x	Closing duet by Singpu & Kim
Jan 20	1 Cor 8	Meek	Conscience	Using Your Gray Matter on Gray Matters	Avoid amoral issues of conscience if they offend others	RG	x	MB	SM	SG		-	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	x	x	x	
Jan 27	1 Cor 9	Meek	Right	When a Right is a Wrong	Give up your rights to help others mature in Christ.	RG	x	MB	SM	SG		-	SB	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Feb 3	1 Cor 10:1-11:1	Jealous	Idolatry	When You're Idle About Idols	Avoid pagan celebrations or God may discipline you for this involvement with demons	RG	x	MB	SM	SG		-	SB	-	-	-	x	-	x	x	x	x	Lord's Supper
Feb 10	1 Cor 11:2-16	Leadership	Women	Veils, Tales & Females	Husbands should lead their wives because this honors authorities, it follows God's creation order, and prevents society from thinking we're immoral or idolaters	RG	x	MB	SM	SG		-	SB	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Feb 17	1 Cor 11:17-34	Redemption	Communion	No Ordinary Supper	How can you participate in the Lord's Supper correctly? Look outward, look back, look forward, and look inward.	RG	x	MB	SM	SG		-	SB	-	-	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	Lord's Supper
Feb 24	1 Cor 12:1-6	Triune	Gifts	Unwrapping Your Gifts	Gifts praise the triune God—not us!	RG	x	MB	SM	SG		-	SB	-	-	x	x		x	x	x		
Mar 3	1 Cor 12:7-11a	Speaks	Gifts	The Speaking Gifts	If you have a speaking gift, then talk as God's voice	RG	x	MB	SM	SG		-	SB		-	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	Lord's Supper
Mar 10	Romans 1:1-17	Almighty God	Gospel	The Power of the Gospel	Be Passionate to share the Gospel with others for it is the power of God unto salvation	SM	NEP	MB	SM			-	SB		-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rick & Susan in Nepal Mar 9-23
Mar 17	Eccl. 12:1-8; 13-14	Righteousness	Judgment	Live for What Matters	Live for God's glory since He will judge you for how you live it.	LW	NEP	MB	SM			-	SB		-	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	Rick & Susan in Nepal Mar 9-23
Mar 24	1 Cor 12:7-11b	Serves	Gifts	The Serving Gifts	If you have a serving gift, then serve others in God's strength	RG	x	MB	SM			-	SB		-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Mar 31	1 Cor 15	Resurrecting	Resurrection	His Body, Our Bodies	Since Christ arose, we will too! So live like it!	RG	x	MB	SM			-	SB		-	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	1 Cor series out of order for Easter
Apr 7	1 Cor 12:12-31	Diversity	Gifts	Whom Do You Need?	Why do you need everyone in this church? You are only one part of the body!	RG	x	MB	SM			-	SB						x	x			Lord's Supper
Apr 14	1 Cor 13	Love	Gifts	Why Love?	Why must we use our gifts with love? Because love is superior to gifts, love benefits others, and love outlasts gifts	RG	x	MB	SM			-	SB						x	x			
Apr 21	1 Cor 14:1-25	Speaks	Worship	Words from the Lord	God's Word must have the highest priority in public worship because it encourages more people than experiences do	RG	x	MB	SM			-	SB						x	x			

How should we respond
when God gives us **victory**?





The Main Idea of Nehemiah 6:15–7:3

**Guard
God's
work!**

Summing Up...

- **Nehemiah saw God use him to achieve the (humanly) impossible.**
- **Even so, the opposition of the enemy still did not cease.**
- **Thus, Nehemiah wisely delegated work to godly leaders and took precautions to guard the work of God's hands**

Questions to Consider:

- What has God entrusted you in your life, either lately or sometime in the past which warrant guarding and taking great care of?
- How can you faithfully guard these as a precious stewardship from Him?



Concerning Crossroads

- **What place of ministry has God entrusted you here at Crossroads?**
- **What are you trusting Him to do now and in the future through this ministry?**
- **What challenges are you facing?**
- **What steps can you take and who can you trust and recruit to come alongside to help guard and grow the stewardship God has given you?**

2 Timothy 1:12, 14

“I am not ashamed [to suffer for the gospel], because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.”

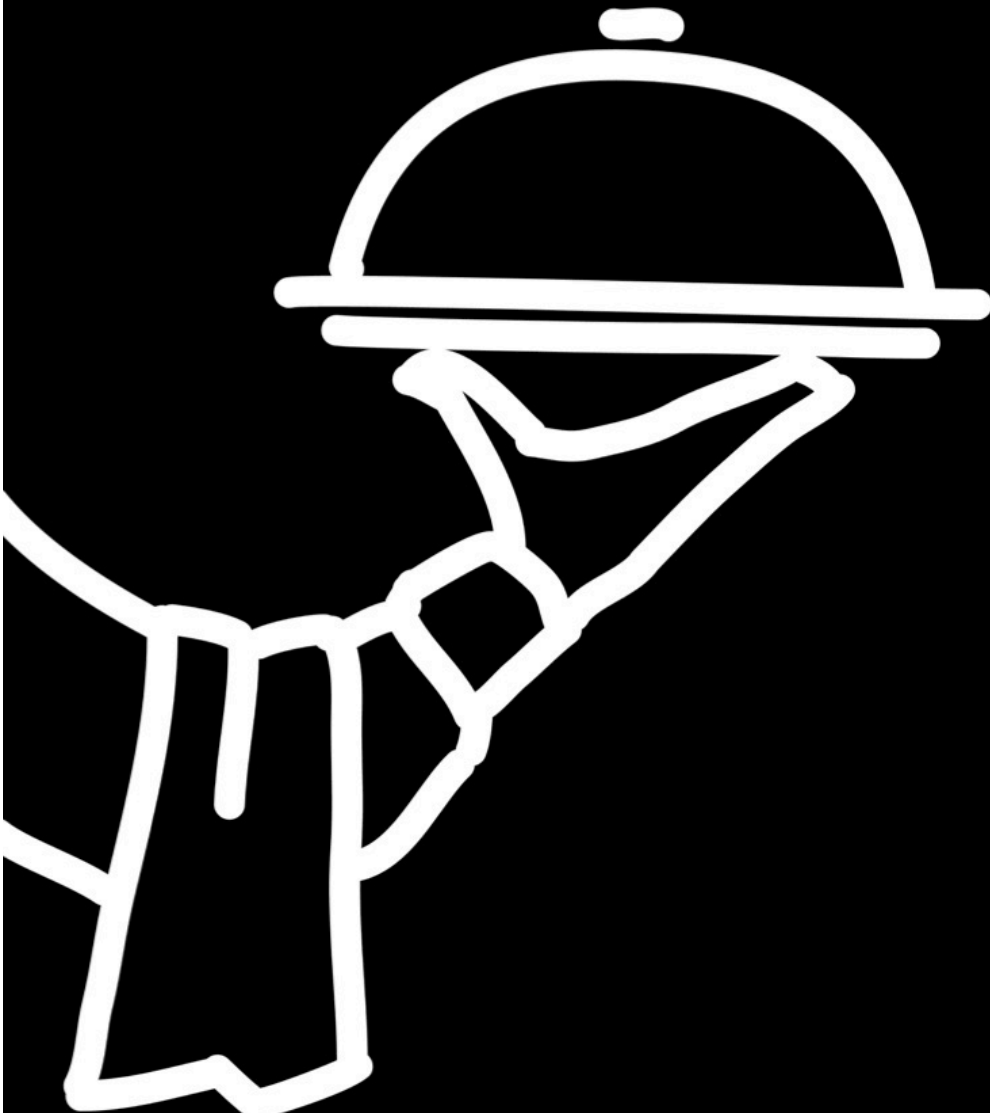
**We also should complete
God's restoring our lives by
serving him.**



**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



**The remnant responded
to God's faithful
restoration of the
people under Nehemiah
diligent worship
(Neh 8–13).**



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



How should our church renew our
commitment to God?



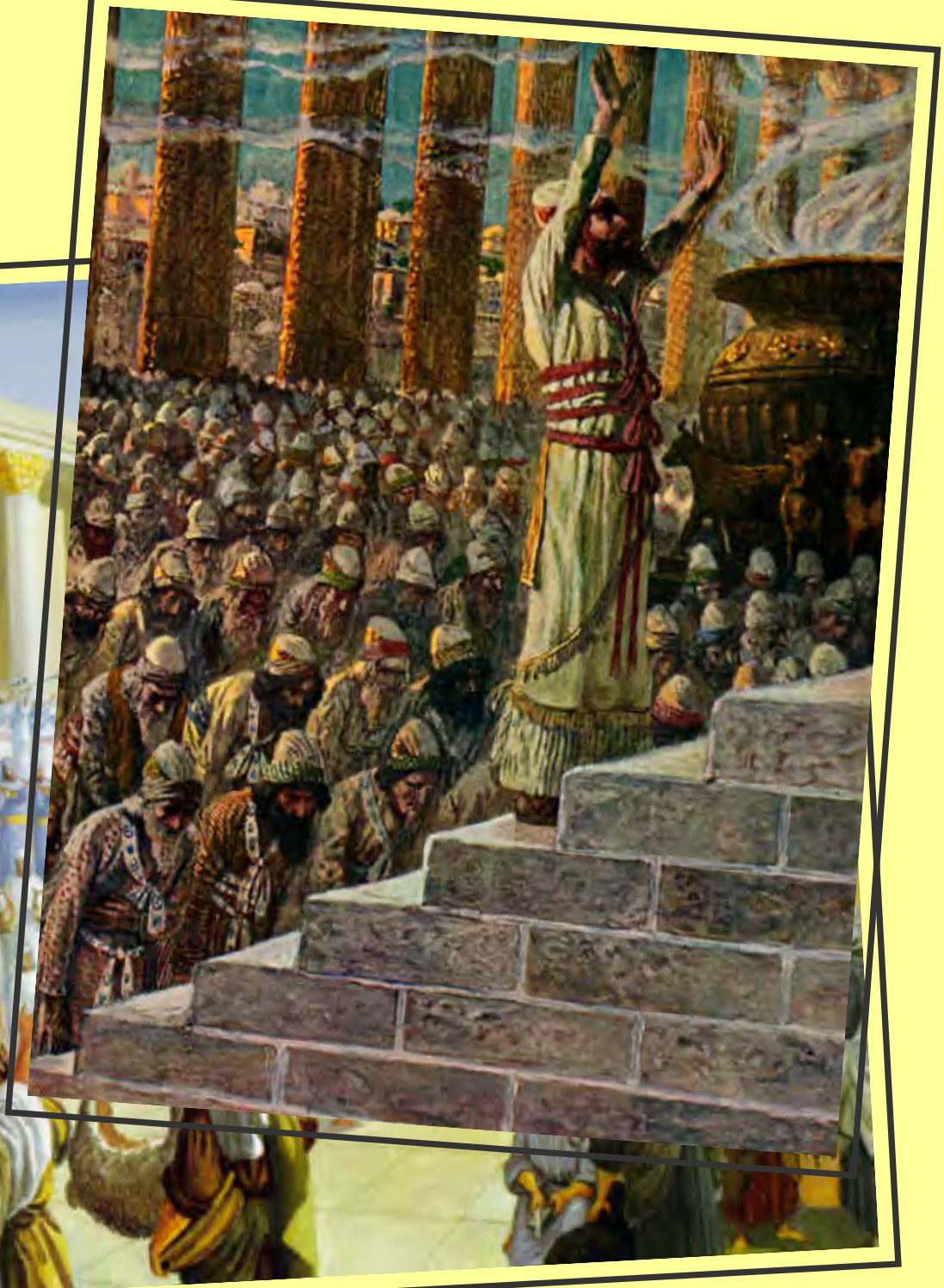
Commitment



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



Signers of the Covenant

- Civil: Nehemiah & Zedekiah (1b)
 - Religious: Priests (2-8)
 - Religious: Levites (9-13)
- Civil: Other leaders of the tribes (14-27)

**Leaders
must lead...**



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

**...and followers must
follow**

Nehemiah 11

Nehemiah 11:1–12:26 Names...

From the tribe of Judah: Athaiiah son of Uzzi-
Shephatiah, son of Mahalalel, of the family of Perez.⁵ Also Maaseiah son of Baruch, son of
Col-hozeh, son of Hazaiah, son of Joarib, son of Zechariah, of the family of
Shelah.⁶ There were 468 descendants of Perez who lived in Jerusalem—all outstanding
men.⁷ From the tribe of Benjamin: Meshullam, son of Joed,
of Kolaiah, son of Mefaisai, son of Meshelemiah, son of Gaddai.
Gabbai and Sallai were also prominent men; they
were assisted by Judah's priests: Jedaiah,



ways that we can



of Kolaiah, son of Akkai.
Gabbai and Sallai.
was assisted by Judah,
priests: Jedai.

Three ways that we can make our commitment to God practical ...

of his
From
son of Hashabiah, son of Bunni.
in charge of the work outside the Temple of God.
son of Zabdi, a descendant of Asaph, who led in thanksgiving.

God practical ...

“The Holy City”



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a small, white rectangular piece of paper. The paper has the text "That wasn't chicken" printed on it in a black, sans-serif font. The hands are positioned over a dark red surface, possibly a tablecloth. In the background, there is a plate with some food, including what looks like a piece of bread or a small pizza, and some chopsticks. The lighting is warm and somewhat dim, creating a focused atmosphere on the paper being held.

**Discipleship
often includes
doing things
we don't like to
do.**

“Some of the people of **Benjamin** lived at Geba, Micmash...”
(11:31 NLT).



“As for the surrounding villages with their open fields, some of the people of **Judah** lived in Kiriath-arba...” (11:25 NLT).



II. Most of us make our commitment practical by doing the **normal (11:25-36).**



**III. All of us make our
commitment
practical by
following God's
leaders (12:1-26).**

Key Idea of Nehemiah 11

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



Nehemiah 12

Overview

299

Building the Walls – Building the 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									13:6a	425 BC? 420 BC? 13:6b

Nehemiah 12:27-47

~~The Sound of Music~~—
The Sound of Rejoicing

Nehemiah 12:27-47

1. The Great Procession

2. The Great Offering

Nehemiah 12:31 NIV

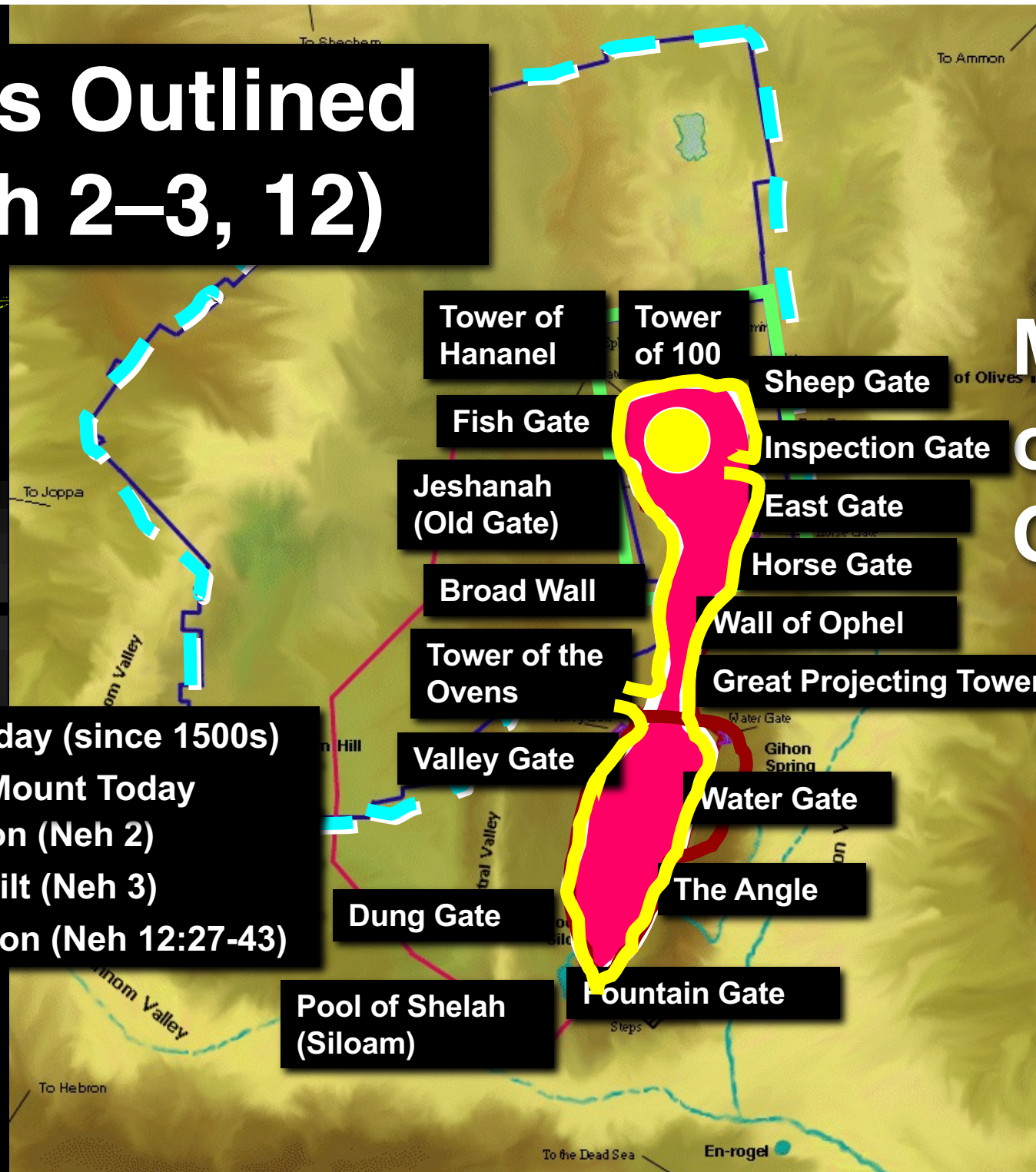
I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks.

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?**

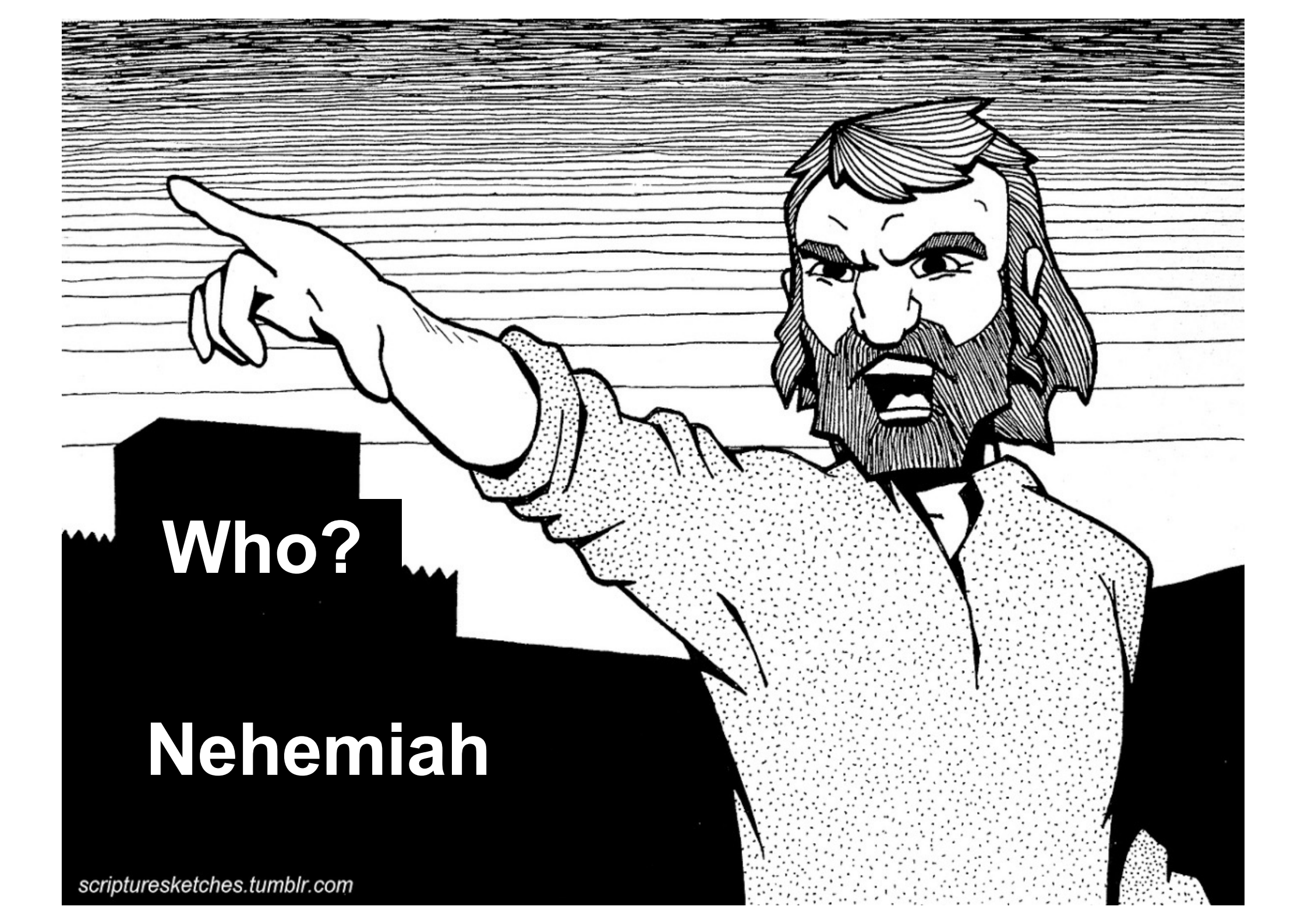
- ➔ **Intermarriage led Ezra to pull out his own hair (Ezra 9:13)**
- ➔ **Intermarriage led Nehemiah to pull out others' hair (Neh. 13:25)!**

Leadership?

An illustration depicting a scene of physical confrontation or restraint. A man with a beard and long hair, wearing a blue robe, is being pulled back by a large, muscular arm from the right. He has a pained or shouting expression. In the background, a group of men with beards and headbands, wearing yellow and red robes, are watching the scene. The style is reminiscent of a comic book or pulp magazine illustration.

Who?

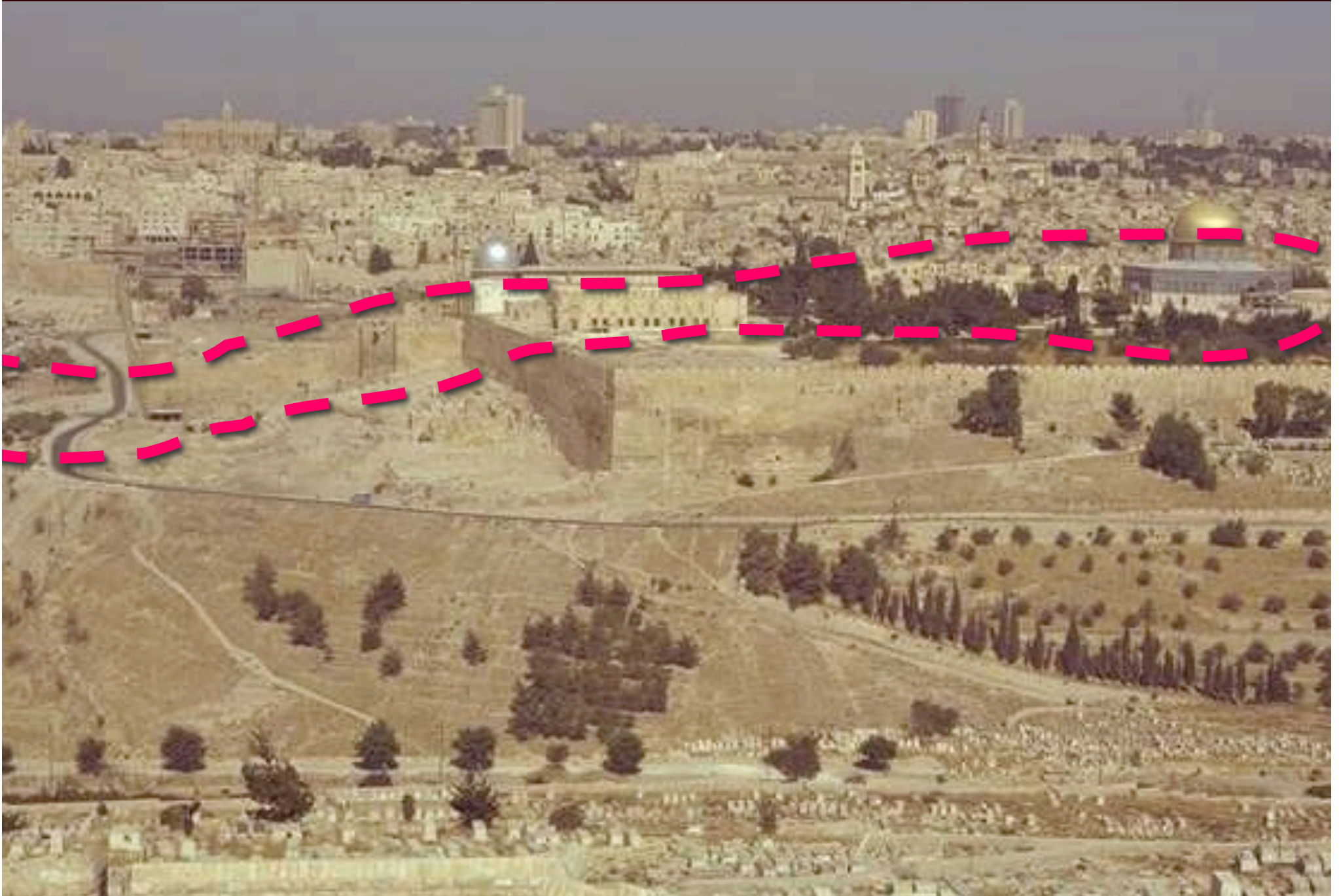
Ezra



Who?

Nehemiah

The walls today don't stretch as far south



Redirecting
(Neh. 8–13)

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Returning 1–2

Restoring 3–6

Returning 7–8

Restoring 9–10

Planning 1–2

Progress 3–7

Revival 8–12

Reforms 13

Rebuilding
1-6

Redirecting
7–10

Rebuilding
1–7

Redirecting
8–13

Zerubbabel

Ezra

Nehemiah

Ezra

Neh.

537

457

444

430

**We also should complete God's
restoring our lives by
worshipping him.**



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

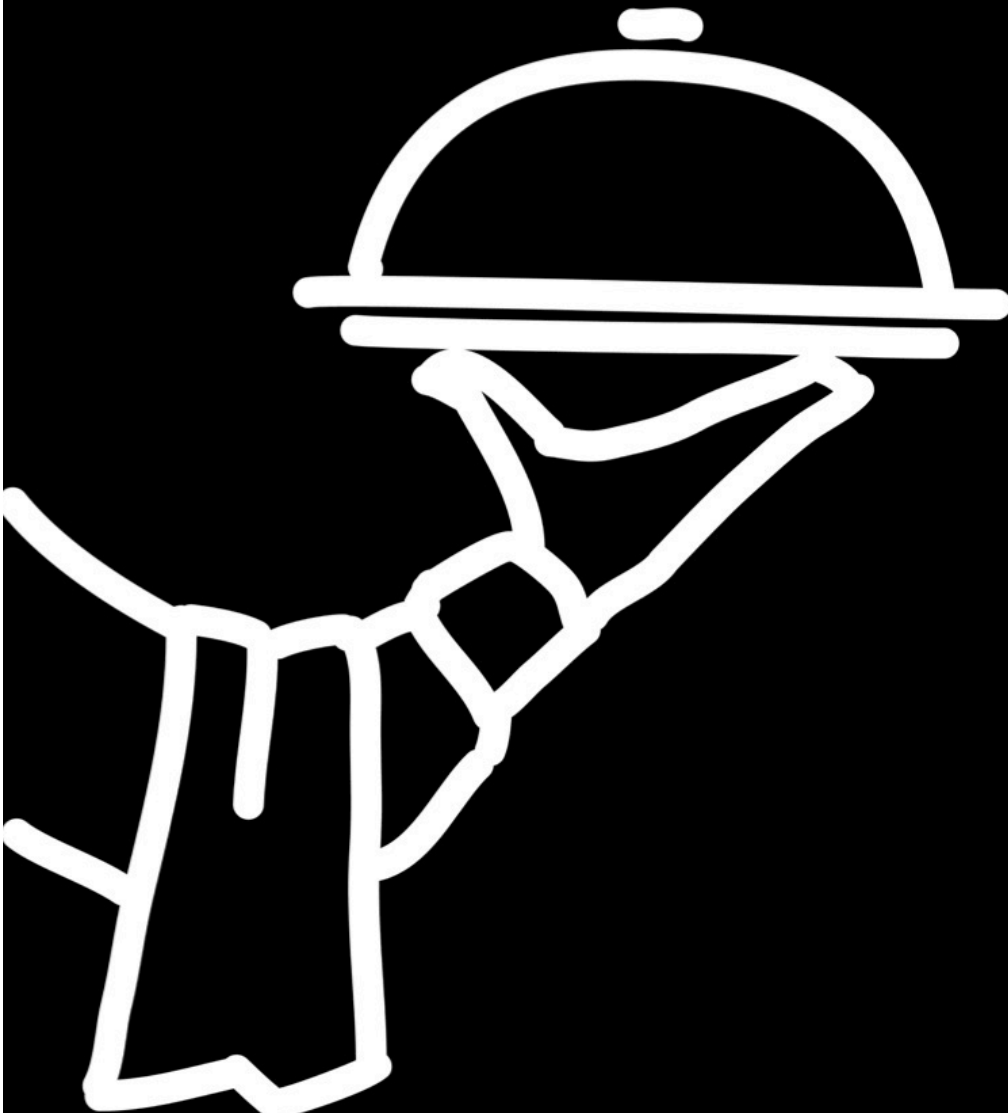




Main Idea

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

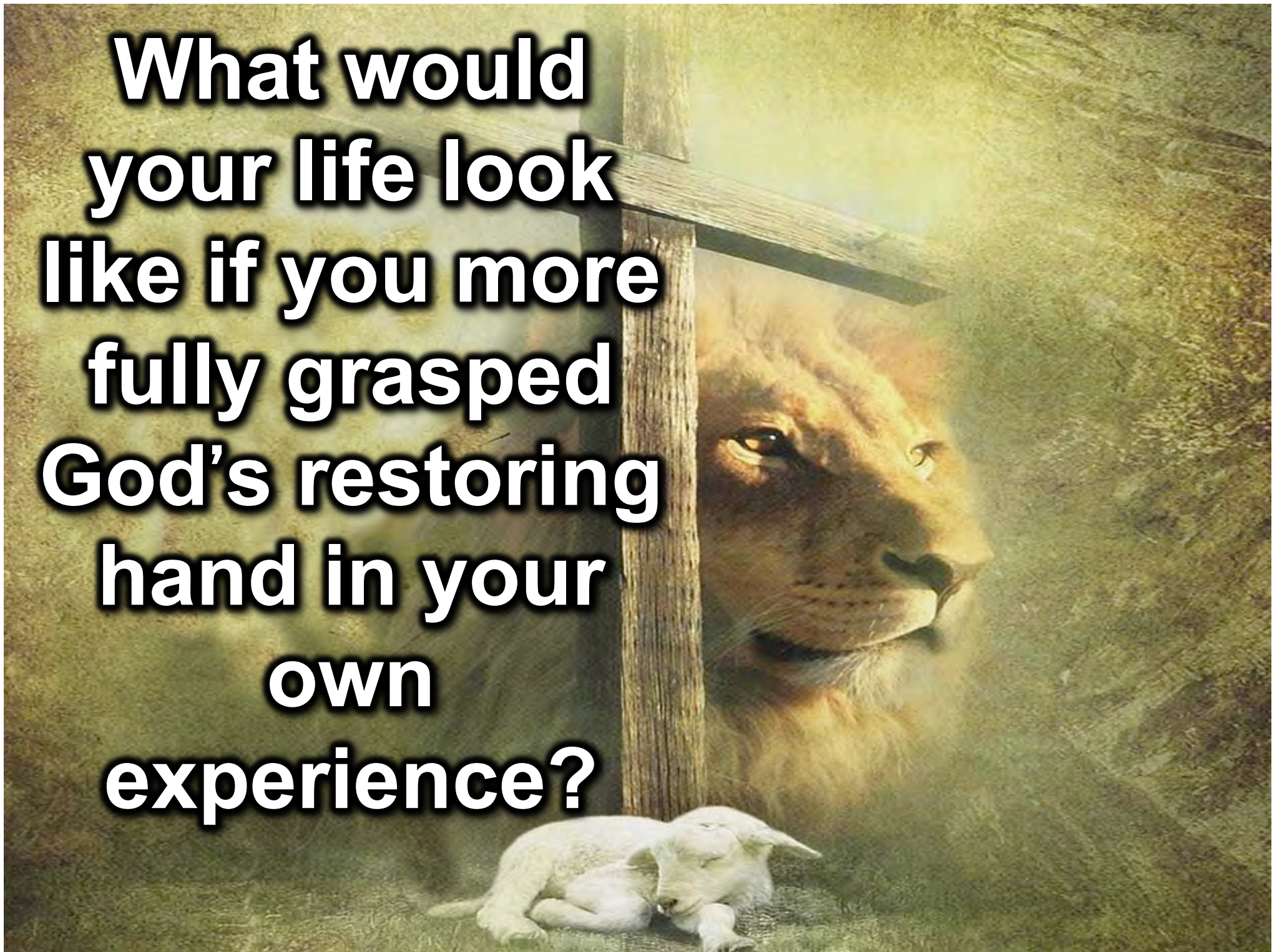
I. **Serve** God diligently (Neh 1–7).



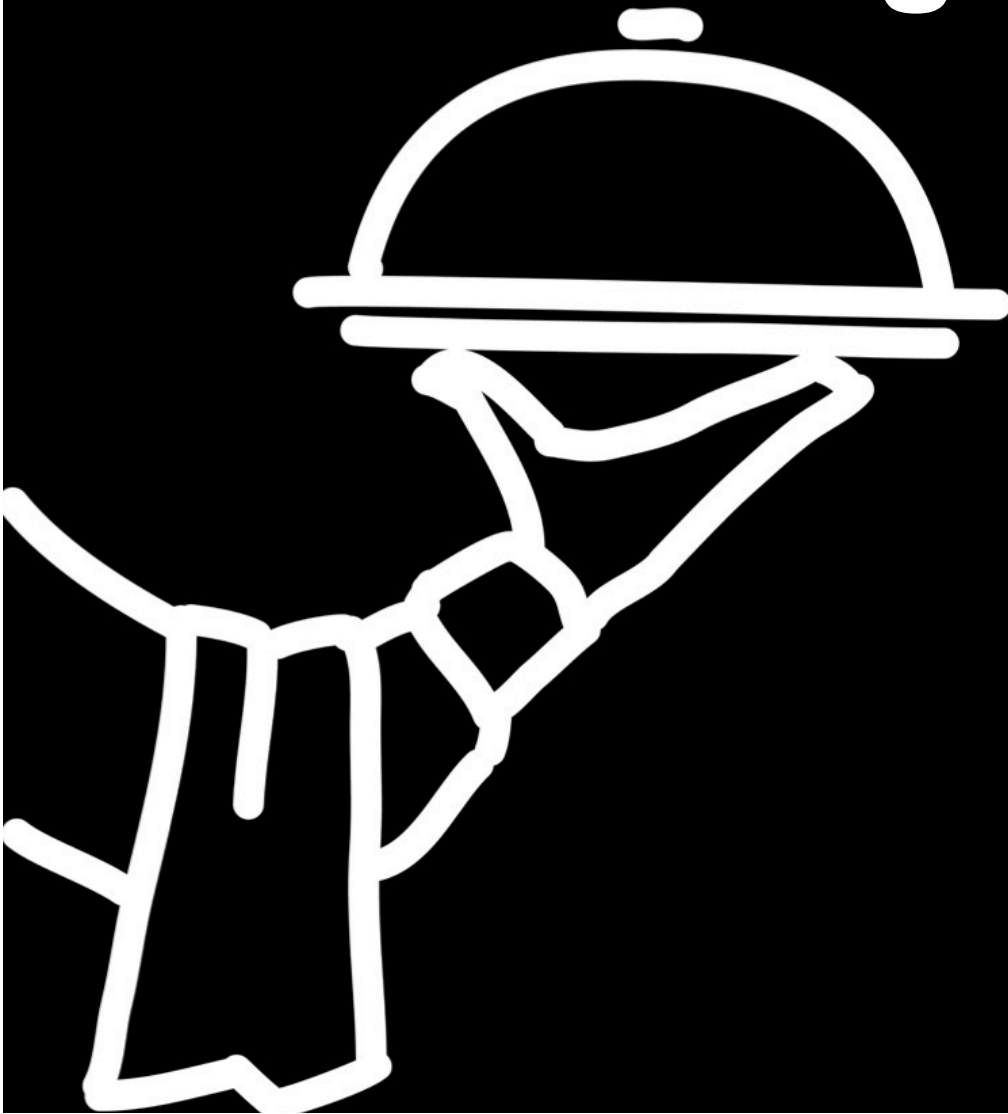
II. **Worship** God diligently (Neh 8–13).



**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?

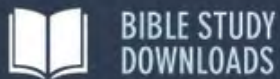


How can I **worship** God
diligently?





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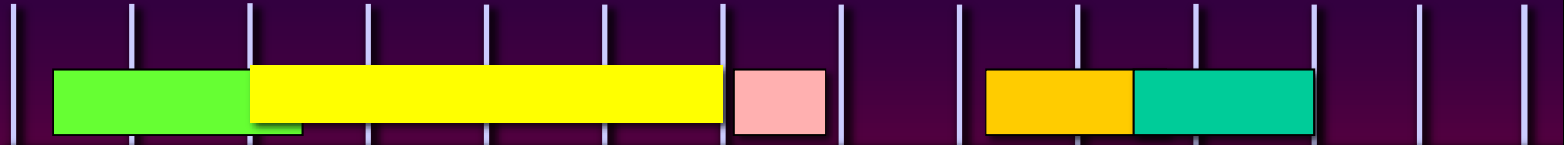
516-537

480-520

473-479

444-457

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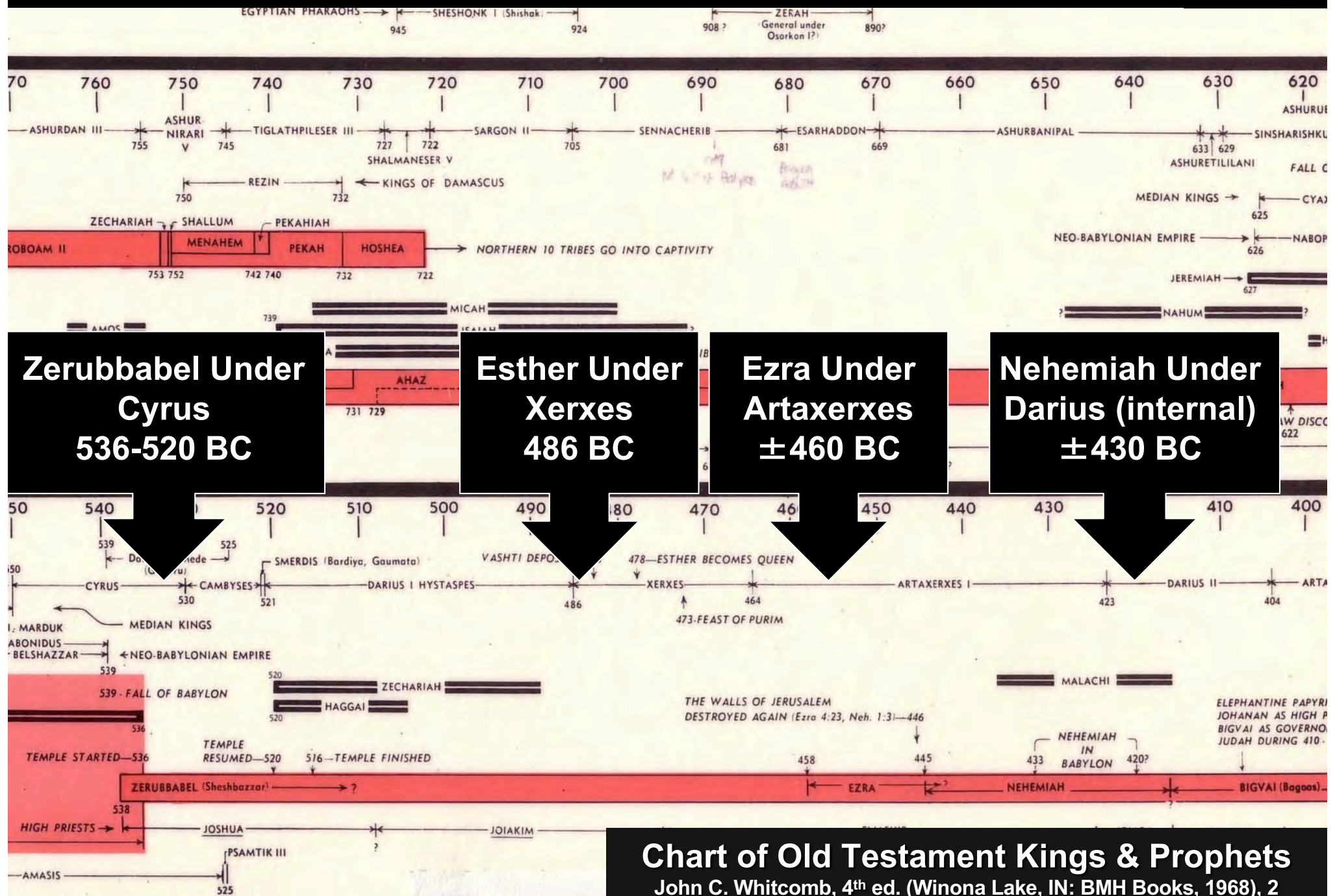
232 & 342



John C. Whitcomb, 4th ed. (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1968), 2

Opposition Timeline (Ezra 4; Esther 1; Neh 13)

232
342



Later Postexilic Era (Ezra 7–10; Neh 1–13)

232
342

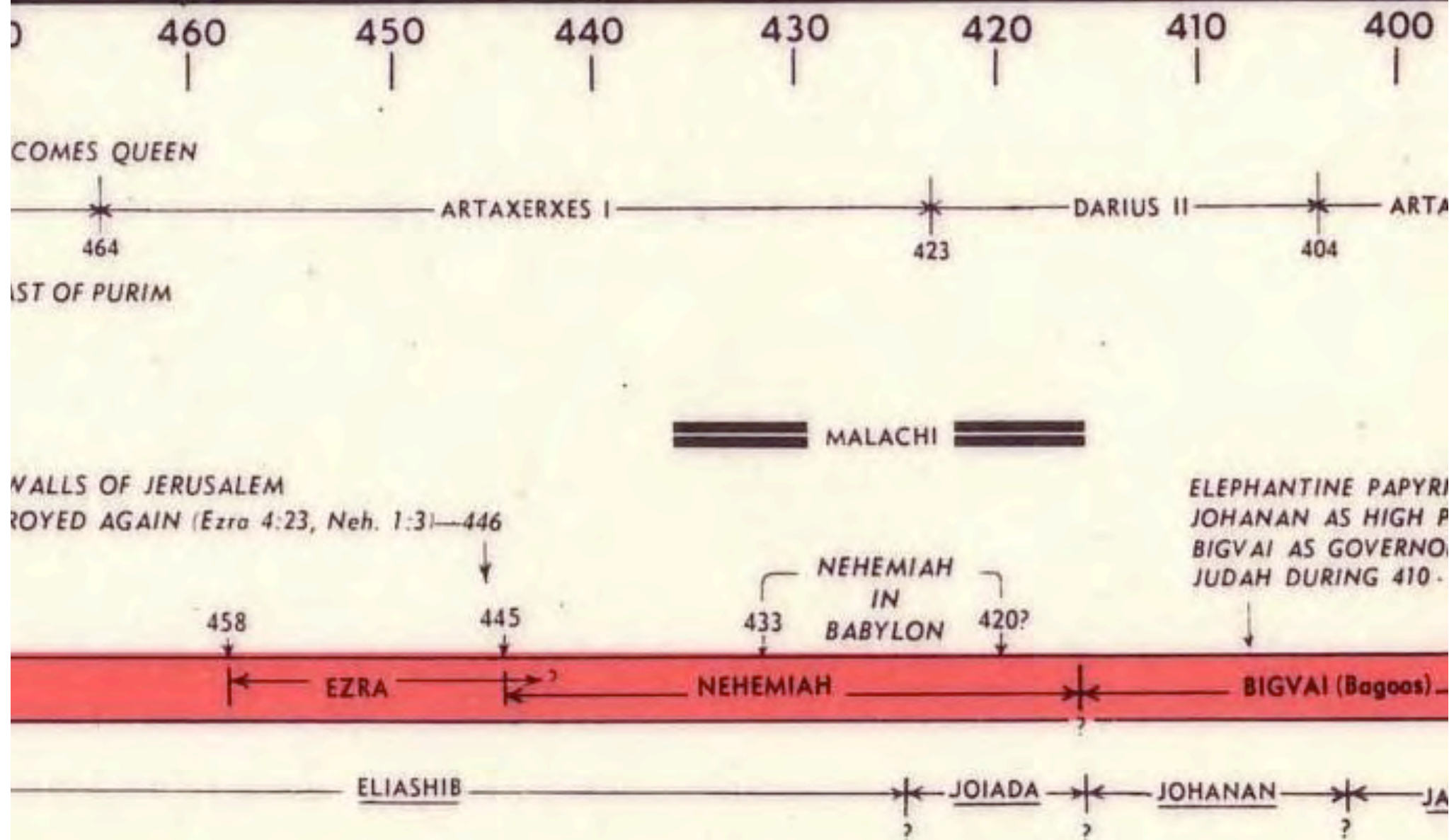


Chart of Old Testament Kings & Prophets

John C. Whitcomb, 4th ed. (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1968), 2

Ezra-Nehemiah

. . . from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:15 (NIV)

Ezra-Nehemiah

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4 (NIV)

Ezra-Nehemiah

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

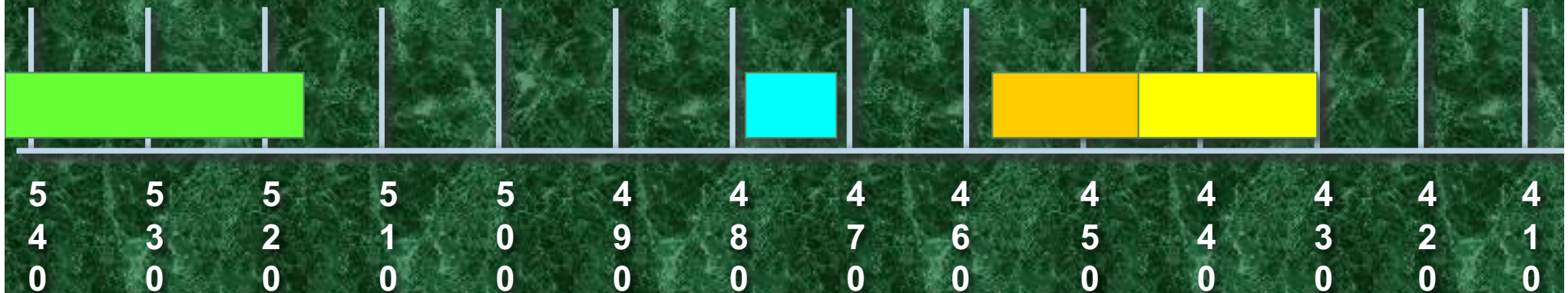
1 Corinthians 10:11 (NIV)

Chronology of Ezra-Nehemiah

Nehemiah (444-430)

Zerubbabel (537-516)

Ezra (457-444)



Socrates 470-399

Buddha 560-477

Confucius 551-479

Esther 479-473

Plato 427-347

THE POSTEXILIC PERIOD

THE EXILIC PERIOD

THE INTER-TESTAMENTAL PERIOD

Temple Destroyed
(586)

Temple
Rebuilt (515)

City Walls
Rebuilt (444)

*BABYLONIAN
EMPIRE*

PERSIAN EMPIRE

Nebuchadnezzar
605-562

Cyrus

Darius I

Xerxes I
(Ahasuerus)

Artaxerxes I

539

530

522

486

465

424

Jeremiah
Daniel
Ezekiel

1+2 Chronicles

Haggai
Zechariah

Esther

Malachi

1st Return

Zerubbabel
538

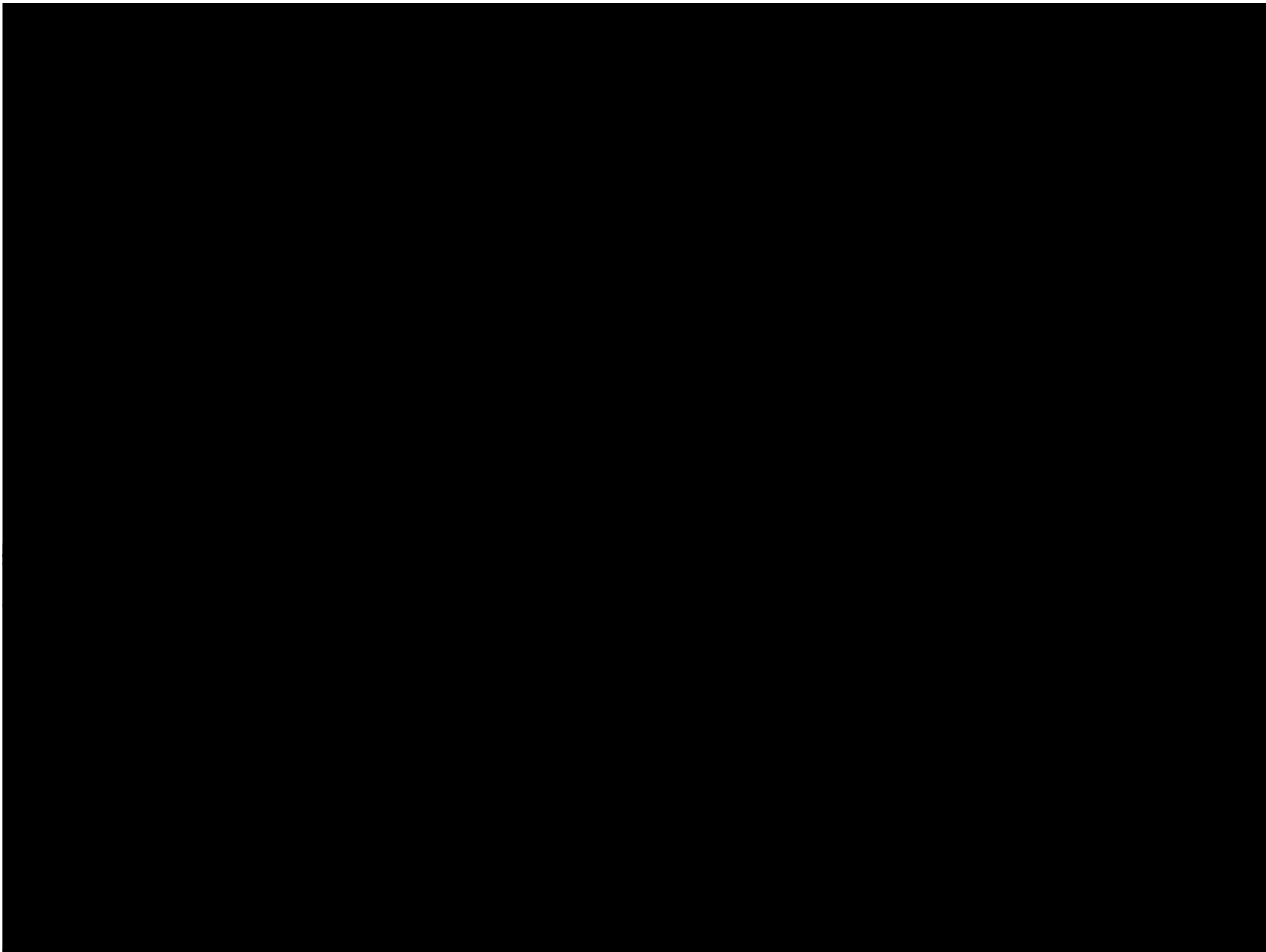
2nd Return

Ezra
458/57

3rd Return

Nehemiah
444

Designed by
Dr. J. Paul Tanner



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