

Central Theme in 2014: Building Up Walls & Restoring Gates by a Life of Practical Humility

Sam McVay, Jr.
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Nehemiah 1:1-4

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." ⁴ As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 2:11-13

So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. ¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. ¹³ I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.

Nehemiah 2:17

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision."

The Wall of Jerusalem, with its Gates, was to provide protection from enemies.

The Temple was restored but it was not protected and secured for victory.

This Wall stands clearly for two things in the life of Israel in Nehemiah's time: Prayer & Purity

A life of prayer and purity can be summed up in with one word: Humility.

I believe the Lord is calling us in 2014 to fully embrace a life of humility that is characterized by the activities of prayer and purity which will establish and secure walls of victory against the enemy.

Scriptural examples of Humility being manifest through Prayer and Purity:

1) 2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2) 2 Chronicles 33:10-16

The Lord spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention. ¹¹ Therefore the Lord brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains of bronze and brought him to Babylon. ¹² And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord his God and humbled

himself greatly before the God of his fathers. ¹³ He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God. ¹⁴ Afterward he built an outer wall for the city of David west of Gihon, in the valley, and for the entrance into the Fish Gate, and carried it around Ophel, and raised it to a very great height. He also put commanders of the army in all the fortified cities in Judah. ¹⁵ And he took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built on the mountain of the house of the Lord and in Jerusalem, and he threw them outside of the city. ¹⁶ He also restored the altar of the Lord and offered on it sacrifices of peace offerings and of thanksgiving, and he commanded Judah to serve the Lord, the God of Israel.

3) 1 Kings 21:25-29

(There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited. ²⁶ He acted very abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the Lord cast out before the people of Israel.) ²⁷ And when Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his flesh and fasted and lay in sackcloth and went about dejectedly. ²⁸ And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ²⁹ "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the disaster upon his house."

4) Two Primary Humility verses in the New Testament

a) James 4:6-10 – Purity

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

b) 1 Peter 5:6-7 – Prayer

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

We must resist and reject two prideful delusions in our hearts and minds:

1) Sin will not kill us –

James 1:15

Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

2) Prayer is just an option in the Christian life –

Luke 18:1

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

Mark 14:38

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Will you commit yourself at the end of this year to reject pride, which leads to God's rejection, by embracing humility in the form of a life of prayer and purity which receives His overcoming grace?

Epilogue: A call for Watchman

Isaiah 62:1-7

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. ⁶ On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.

There are currently thousands of day and night prayer ministries in the earth today.

This has happened in just the last 20 years.

There is a radical convergence of the mission movement and prayer movement going on in the nations.

The result being a rapid acceleration of the Great Commission.

It is now estimated that we could literally see all 12,000 people groups and languages receive the word of God and the gospel by 2020.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

I feel called to call a handful of watchman to pray the King's commissioned prayer literally "day and night" for the release of greater kingdom manifestation in our geographic area and in our assigned areas in the nations.

I am asking you all to pray and to ask the Lord if He would have you join a partnered team that would make an extravagant effort in prayer in order to see an extravagant move of God in our day.