

NEHEMIAH : PRAYER BEFORE ACTION

There have been many prophets in the past that have heard God's word, and spread it to the world. But some people have proven their riotousness time and time again just by praying and being complete submission to God's will. One of the most just servants of God was Nehemiah who was born and raised in Jerusalem, but received a position in the palace as the kings cup bearer. This was an important and high position because it was his responsibility to taste and approve of any food or drink for King Artaxerxes.



Nehemiah worked under the king for years and always prayed to his Lord for thanks and repentances. Everything was fine until one of his former companions from Jerusalem came and informed him that many people had raided his town and broken apart the outer wall. This wall was very important because it was the only protection a town, otherwise it would be susceptible to raid and burglary. Nehemiah was greatly distressed by this news and he prayed to all night to God for help and for him to let his intentions prevail. The very next morning as he was handing the king his goblet of wine, the king noticed the sorrow on Nehemiah's face and asked him if anything was bothering him. Nehemiah was extremely nervous because telling a king personal problems could result in death, so he made a quick prayer in his mind. Emboldened with God's protection Nehemiah requested the king to release him to go to Jerusalem to help rebuilt his cities wall. The king not only allowed him to go, but gave him his personal letters appointing him as governor over that area. Three days later Nehemiah reached Jerusalem and spent time assessing the situation and getting to know people. Soon after being acquainted he began the rebuild of the wall, but a few people were against the construction of the wall. They were those who wanted Jerusalem to be open to their criminal authority and consecutive raids. Three people in particular were Sanballat, Tobiah, and Gesham who were Arabs and greatly disliked this new man who wanted Jerusalem to be protected. They all sat together and conspired against the building and decided to mount and attack against the wall and the inhabitants.

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Special points of interest:

- * Apostles Lent Starts June 16th
- * Fathers Day June 17th.
- * Feast of St. Peter & St. Paul June 29th.
- * Reminder Half Yearly Subscription Due June 30th.

HUMOR

Sharing The Faith . . .

There was a barber that thought that he should share his faith with his customers more than he had been doing lately. So the next morning when the sun came up and the barber got up out of bed he said, "Today I am going to witness to the first man that walks through my door."

Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in and said, "I want a shave!" The barber said, "Sure, just sit in the seat and I'll be with you in a moment." The barber went in the back and prayed a quick desperate prayer saying, "God, the first customer came in and I'm going to witness to him. So please give me the

wisdom to know just the right thing to say to him. Amen." Then quickly the barber came out with his razor knife in one hand and a Bible in the other while saying, "Good morning sir. I have a question for you.....Are you ready to die?"



CALENDAR

Young Adult Meeting:
Call and coordinate Mr. Kirk Edwards for next meeting.

Martha Mariam Samajam: Meeting will be held at Church on Sunday June 10th and 17th.

Sunday School:

June 24th: Sunday School Day Competitions Part I

July 1st: Sunday School Day Competitions Part II

Friday, August 3rd to 5th: OVBS 2007

Prayer meeting:

Please call and coordinate with Mrs. Aleyamma Mathew to host monthly Zonal prayer meeting at your residence.

We're on the Web !



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ESTHER

Esther was a Jewish girl who had been taken captive. After her parents died, she was adopted a family member, Mordecai, who raised her as his own daughter. King Xerxes was looking for a new queen. Many young



women were considered, but after a year of beauty treatments, Esther was chosen to be the new queen. Haman was the most powerful man in the kingdom besides the king. He was an evil man who hated the Jewish people and plotted to have them killed. Mordecai persuaded Esther to go to the king and plead for the lives of the Jewish people. She could be

killed for going before him when she hadn't been called. But she was brave and went to see the king. She invited him and the evil man, Haman, to a banquet. During the meal, she revealed the plot against the Jews and accused Haman. Haman was hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai, and the Jews were allowed to defend themselves. Mordecai was honored. Since that time Jews have remembered Esther and celebrated the Feast of Purim.

What does this story mean to me?

All the sufferings of the Jewish people were caused by the prejudice of Haman, the evil man who wanted them killed. Prejudice causes a person to judge and hate another person based on race, color, or some other factor. Many times families pass on their prejudices to their children, and the children learn to devalue people because of such factors. Do you struggle with some kind of prejudices? Ask God to help you overcome this and look for the good in all people.

You can read this very interesting story of Esther in the book of Esther chapters 1-10.

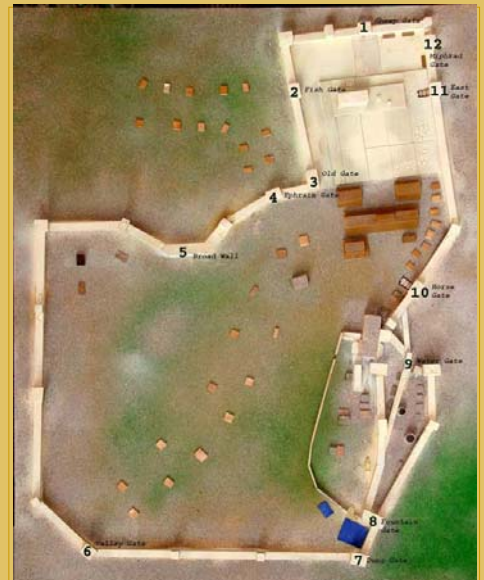
<http://www.gardenofpraise.com/bib21s.htm>

CONTINUED... NEHEMIAH: PRAYER BEFORE ACTION

When this news reached Nehemiah the first thing he did was instead of panicking he prayed, God gave him strength to set up the people into day and night shifts to ensure the continual growth of the wall and safety from an attack. Nehemiah always turned to God when he needed help and was a very righteous man that helped reconstructed the wall of Jerusalem.

Another way Nehemiah's enemies tried to halt the rebuilding of the wall was by having a messenger tell Nehemiah to meet the enemies in one of the villages on the plain Ono. Nehemiah then replied, "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you" (Nehemiah 6:3)? The messenger sent this message four times, but Nehemiah's response was consistent. He and his people continued working despite the disturbances caused by their enemies.

..... By Sarah Mathew and Stephanie Mathew



View of Nehemiah's Walls and Gates

.....To be continued in Next edition