

NEHEMIAH

Loving Our City

THE SWORD AND THE TROWEL

PREVIOUSLY IN NEHEMIAH

- _____ years before, the Walls of Jerusalem were destroyed and the leaders hauled off.
- God breaks Nehemiah's heart for the City.
- Nehemiah talks the King into a 12-year hiatus to lead the mission to _____.
- Nehemiah takes over as Mayor and learns who his friends are.

THE BUILDING BEGINS

RECRUIT & ASSIGN

38 names in chapter 3
42 Teams of people
Working in 7 neighborhoods
(known by their _____)

CONSTRUCTION JOURNAL

_____ worked first
Blessing the Sheep Gate
Some were assigned by their city
Some worked next to their homes
Some didn't _____ at all

OPPOSITION MOUNTS

Sanballat

- Samaritan _____
- Samaria worshipped _____
- Sanballat had an Army
- Actively enticed people to oppose the rebuilding of the Walls

Tobiah the Ammonite

- Ammonite Official
- Partners with Sanballat
- Ammonites also have a _____

A Sundry List of Scalliwags

Arabs
Men of Ashod

WHAT IS SANBALLAT'S PROBLEM?

It's not his project
_____ to rule the City
His people are giving themselves to it.

Next Week:
Wealth and Worship

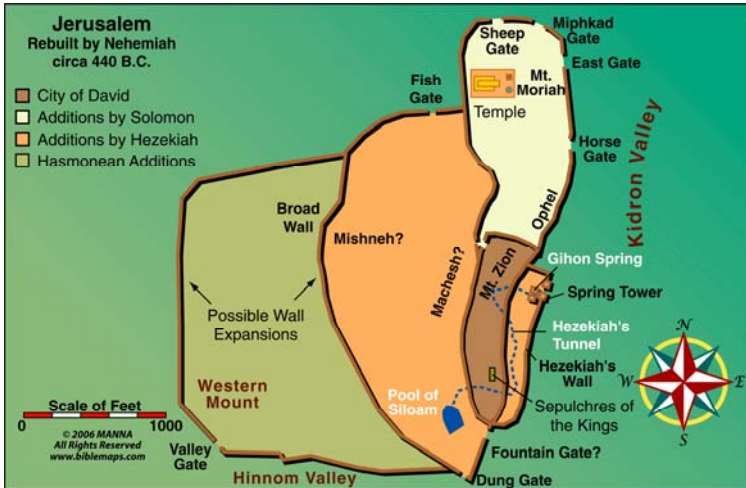
SANBALLAT'S SPEECH

"What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?" Nehemiah 4:2

FACING SANBALLAT

Our church and Sanballat

*There will always be opposition from Jesus People
There will always be opposition from people actively working against Jesus*



Modern Mt. Zion from the South



Sandstone Wall Construction



NEHEMIAH SPRINGS INTO ACTION!

NEHEMIAH'S DEFENSE

Pray:

"Hear us, O our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders." Nehemiah 4:4

PLAN A DEFENSE

- One will defend and keep watch
- One will _____ on the wall
- Those carrying material with also carry a _____
- Work from sun up to sun down
- Nehemiah's own crew stands night watch
- Backed with Encouragement

IF IT IS WORTH BUILDING, IT IS WORTH DEFENDING!

Persian Empire: (below)

Babylon: First conquering empire of Israel and Judah
Susa: Where Nehemiah Served the king as Cupbearer
Jerusalem: four month journey from Susa