

.....
11 So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. **12** Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode. **13** And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. **14** Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but *there was* no room for the animal under me to pass. **15** So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. **16** And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work. **17** Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lies* waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." **18** And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to *this good work*. **19** But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What *is* this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?" **20** So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."
.....

1. Mulling in moonlight

- a. Neh. didn't announce his intent at first
 - a1. He spent 3 days resting & thinking
 - a2. Neither the Jews nor their enemies knew what Neh. was considering
- b. Neh. took a few men into his confidence & then took a night trip around the southern tip of Jer.
 - a1. Jer. was always attacked from the north, so the area around the Damascus & Fish Gates would have been in ruins
 - a2. He went out the Valley Gate facing the Tyropean Valley & then went south to where the Kidron & Hinnom Valley met outside the Refuse (Dung) Gate where the city dump was located (Gehenna)
 - a3. Neh. was stopped at the Millo where the rubble forced him to dismount & go by foot
- c. Nehemiah returned to the Valley Gate
 - a1. He had a good picture of the damage & the steps needed to repair the wall

- a2. Neh. had evaluated the En-Rogel where the 2 eastern valleys met & where the terminus of Hezekiah's tunnel leading to the Pool of Siloam was
 - d. Neh. didn't want to address the Jews until he had a good idea what the problems were
 - a1. No project should begin until the purpose, problems, & procedures are examined
 - a2. Neh. then devised his plan & approach
- ### 2. Nehemiah rallies the people
- a. Neh. had a morale problem to deal with
 - a1. Neb. destroyed the wall 130 yr. earlier
 - a2. The Jews accepted the ruins as fact
 - a3. There was opposition in the land
 - a4. The king had stopped the rebuild earlier
 - b. Neh. gathered the Jews to explain his intent
 - a1. God had sent him to rebuild the walls
 - a2. The king had authorized the project & had sent both help & resources
 - c. Neh. appealed to Jews to restore their heritage
 - a1. He didn't appeal to need of defense
 - a2. We are in *disgrace* (shame, ridicule)
 - a3. Jerusalem was God's city
 - d. The Jews rallied to the cause to rebuild the walls
- ### 3. The opposition
- a. Geshem (*bulky, stout*) the Arab joins Sanballat & Tobiah to oppose the project
 - a1. Geshem was the head of an Arab coalition
 - a2. An inscription on a silver cup donated to the Arab goddess Han-Il tells us that Quat, son of Geshem ruled over Edom, Moab, & parts of the Sinai & Northern Arabia
 - b. Immediately, the enemies come to Jer. to mock the project & accuse Neh. of rebellion against the king
 - c. Neh. responds with 3 assertions:
 - a1. God will prosper the work
 - a2. The Jews will rebuild the walls
 - a3. The opposition had no heritage or part in the project (for Jews only)