**NEHEMIAH – (PART 2)**

**A MESSAGE TO GOD’S MINISTERS AND WORKERS**

***Written By: Tommy Romans February 2015***

In picking up where we left off last month, you must remember, God always takes care of His children, no matter where they are, no matter what country they’re in or what condition. You may be suffering now and going through it, but God moves on a timetable, working a Plan of Deliverance! He has Chosen people in key places just like chess pieces on a Chess Board. It might take time, it may be slow and you may not always see the reasons or understand God’s moves, but with all Wisdom, He moves His chosen to key spots on life’s playing board that will bring not only you victory, but others also who are needing help! (I’m so glad)

Can I tell you – when our God plays, He plays to win and He plays to keep! Hallelujah! Remember child, you are in this thing to win. You’re here for a reason. God will put you where He wants you. He’ll set you in a key spot for a special work. It’s not just about you but God’s got others who are in need and it very well could be you that He uses to bring blessing and deliverance. If you are sincere in serving God, humbly following Him in obedience, He will promote you just like He did Nehemiah, Joseph, Daniel and others. Thank God, He will set you in a position that will save your friends, co-workers and family. Can you say – Please Lord, I’m in your hand, take this living Chess piece, lift me up, move me to the next square on the board. Slide me across the board to win and let me conquer as I go!! In this Newsletter, we will understand what it means to have a vision for God’s work, a burden for souls in need and how our Heavenly Father opens doors and makes a way for us. He goes before us and supplies our needs as we reach out to the hurting who have been wounded by the devil, torn and scattered by sin.

Now, continuing where we left off last month, we have Nehemiah, a young Jewish man about 20 years old standing before the mighty Persian king Artaxerxes. His honest heart, and faithfulness in service as being the king’s cupbearer has gained him full trust and respect from this great monarch of authority. Nehemiah is burdened, he’s stirred and he knows in his heart it’s now time to move. The king asks, Nehemiah, what’s this sorrow of heart seeing you are not sick? Nehemiah answers, “Let the king live forever, Why should

not my Countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ sepulchers lieth waste, and the gates are burned with fire? O king, everything back home is destroyed. I’ve only got a few of my people left and they are in need and suffering! If it would please you and I have found favor in your sight, would you send me back home to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ sepulchers that I may Build it!” (In studying this lesson, I see in king Artaxerxes a type of our Heavenly Father, one who has all power and authority, one who commands and sends workers on missions and supplies for their needs.) The king asked Nehemiah, how long is your journey and when will you return? So he set the king a time.

In reading Nehemiah chapter two and paraphrasing, Nehemiah was saying to the king, O king, I can’t do this on my own. I need your help. I will need you to write me two letters of authority and sign them. I will need a letter of permission to the Governor on the other side of the Euphrates river. If I don’t have proof in your handwriting, He’ll stop me and won’t let me pass through unless you tell him that you sent me on business for the king. And second O king, would you write a letter to Asaph the keeper of the kings forest and tell him in the message to give me timber? I’m going to need some wood to build back the gates for the walls, the houses and palace that the enemy has destroyed. If they hear from you O king and see your handwriting, then I’ll be able to accomplish this great work! (I tell you children, if you have a desire, God will make a way! He’ll open doors and will supply the needs – Hallelujah.)

I can see the king as he hands Nehemiah the Papers of Authority, he folds them and puts them in his pocket. He goes home and gets everything together and packs for the journey. His heart is stirred. Artaxerxes sends captains of the army and horsemen to accompany him on the long haul. I want to ask you, how long do you think it would take you to travel 350 miles by horse? The shortest route Nehemiah could have taken would be 2 whole months of travel. This would be a long time to do some serious thinking about your mission. Two months on horseback braving the elements! Tired and weary? Yes. Heat and cold? O yes. A lot of peoples’ burden would have worn off after a few weeks of journeying, but not Nehemiahs!

Dear reader, what’s driving you onward? Or have you lost the drive? If you ever lose the vision, then you will lose the drive! Mark said concerning Jesus when He started His ministry – the Holy Ghost driveth Him. Matthew said He was led of the Spirit. Jesus knew what He came for! People were lost, hurting and going to Hell. The devil had destroyed their walls of defense, stolen their joy and health, took away their peace and walked all over them. Their needs drove Jesus on to restore what the devil had taken away. Does the love of Christ constrain us? Does it drive us on to see another soul saved and restored?

Let’s now saddle up, throw our blanket and belongings over our horse and tie them on. As we secure the saddle and mount our beast we pull the reins and head off traveling west along with Nehemiah toward that blessed far away homeland – Jerusalem!

I want to ask you, did Nehemiah ever reminisce and think back while on his long journey? He had plenty of time to think. I can see him – he’s tired, it’s now been weeks, he’s traveled another whole day, his beast is worn out. They’ve went through wilderness areas, crossed deserts of rough terrain. He comes to a clearing and stops for the night. The sun is setting and will soon be gone over the hill. The band of soldiers that were accompanying him builds a fire, it will soon be cold in the howling desert. Pardon my imagination in this story, but I see Nehemiah, he wants to be alone, alone with God, so he goes a little distance away from them and builds his own fire. His rations are dwindling and probably running low and there’s many more days of traveling. He fixes a meager meal and eats, warming himself by the fire. Nehemiah stands up, his back is turned to the fire. I can see this blessed man as he looks back the way he came and then looks up to the sky. He sees the stars scattered and dotting the heavens and he remembers God’s promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the chosen seed. He thinks deeply to himself as the cold biting desert wind whips the flames. “Here I am O God, in the middle of nowhere! I’ve traveled many miles and I’m tired, but yet my burden drives me on. I can look at the constellation and tell my way to Jerusalem, my blessed longed for home. It’s where my heart belongs. O God, you have chosen me, lonely me for such a time as this. This one thing I know – you called me and I answered.” Many thoughts go through Nehemiah’s mind as he turns back facing the fire. He reaches in his pocket and pulls out the kings papers, letters of authority signed by the kings own hand (which is equivalent to our Bible today.) He holds them out before him in the light of the fire and reads the words of the king. Mr. Governor, when this young man Nehemiah crosses the river into your land – convey him on his journey. Help him and send him on his way: He’s on business for the king! He’s got a work to do.

 Nehemiah folds the letter, turns back around, the tears begin to roll down his face. He looks up and says, “Dear Lord, how could I ever doubt my calling? You have brought me this far, you have made a way for me and supplied my needs and there ain’t no turning back!” He turns back to the flame once again that is consuming the wood, but there’s another fire that’s burning – it’s in his Heart! It’s God’s fire, a Holy fire of passion for his people who are hurting. I can hear Nehemiah say – “It is worth it! Lord, I’ll go on and pay the price. I don’t know what I’ll face tomorrow, I don’t know the mess I’ll step into when I get there, but I’m going on!

Listen, when we launch out and face the unknown, we have a tendency to question: Am I sure I want to do this? I’ve never been here before! You see, when you get the whole picture and see what the enemy has done, your job will seem hard that you are called to do. Your abilities will seem too inadequate and you will feel too small for the job. The devil will be there to say – “it’s no use to try! It can’t be fixed. There’ll be no revival – there’s too much damage! Why don’t you go back, just go back home and forget it.” (I want to say, your labours in the Lord are never in vain!)

Dear reader, have you ever questioned your calling when the way gets rough and things get hard? It’s times like these that we need a determination that is greater than our hindrances. Did the devil ever tempt Nehemiah while on his mission? Did the enemy try to discourage him? As Nehemiah stands by the fire in the middle of the night, he looks toward his beast of burden that’s tied up a few yards away. He’s already traveled many weary miles. A lonely life? Yes! But he knows in his heart that his brother – Hanani is waiting on him. The last words his brother said to him in the kings palace was – “Nehemiah, the wall is down! The wall is down dear brother and the gates are burnt with fire!” Nehemiah once again reaches in his pocket and pulls out the other letter that is in the kings own handwriting. (Would to God that we would get a hold of that timely old fashioned black back book, called the Bible, so precious and true and read the letters of our King when we need reassurance and guidance! It will reaffirm our calling and strengthen our faith for the work set before us.) Nehemiah holds this letter in front of him in the light of the fire and reads – “Mr. Asaph, keeper of my forest, there’ll be a young man coming your way, he’s got a vision and I want you to show him favor. You are to provide him with supplies. Give him, sir, my timber to make beams for the gates of the walls of Jerusalem and the palace. He’s going to rebuild them!” He folds this letter also, which is equivalent to our Bible that is full of authority, and puts it back in his pocket. He looks up again at the stars and says – O God, you’ve proved yourself to me! I am ready to go and I’m ready to build. This is your work – IT WILL BE COMPLETE, for I know you are in it!!

**NEHEMIAH ARRIVES HOME**

After over 2 months of traveling through the heat and cold, through deserts, barren lands and wilderness, Nehemiah reaches Jerusalem – kept alive and on track by his vision! When Nehemiah got to Jerusalem, it was 3 days before he told anyone. He would get up in the middle of the night and ride upon his beast around the city. He viewed the broken down walls that lay on the ground. He visited each entrance and saw the once strong gates that now were a pile of ashes. He surveys the damage and analyzes the situation.

 Nehemiah then calls all the leaders and the people together. He tells them – “You see the distress that we are in and how Jerusalem lieth waste and the gates are burned with fire: Come, let us build up the wall of Jerusalem that we be no more a reproach!” Then I told them of the Hand of my God which was good upon me: and the king’s words that he had spoken to me. And they said, “Let us rise and build!” So they strengthened their hands for this good work. (Nehemiah said – come, let us build up the wall; the people answered – let us rise and build!)

Listen, this is a unified effort, one man alone cannot carry the load. When people see a desire in their leader, in their Pastor and overseer, when they feel his burden, when they see the desperate needs as he sees them, see homes in trouble, families hurt and scarred by sin, see people scattered, wounded and bruised by the enemy, when they hear the cry of his heart in prayer and see his brokenness and tears, then it should inspire them and it should drive them on in the work of God. (Can I tell you - Now’s the time to strengthen, now’s the time to repair and restore what the enemy has done and taken away from God’s people!) It takes more than one person to have a vision and a burden for the work of God! Can you say – it’s time for the Church to recover and take back what the enemy has stolen?

**IT’S TIME TO REBUILD**

Our God is in the Construction business. He owns His own company. He builds and He constructs; He also rebuilds and renovates and knows how to restore precious lives and souls. Our God can reconcile and put back together, it doesn’t matter how many pieces lie on the ground or how scattered they are! He can erect, lift up and make strong again. He just needs workers who will help Him. Our God can take a house that’s been battered by the storms and weathered by the elements, that’s weakened and collapsed out in the middle of a piece of property covered over in briars and thorns, that people say there’s no hope for, and He can build it back to its former beauty! Hallelujah! The renovators of our day have a trained eye. They can drive by an old dilapidated building and see beyond its broken down and deteriorated condition and see what it can be. They see what others can’t. They see beauty and worthy real estate. This is what Nehemiah saw when he arrived at Jerusalem and viewed its condition. I tell you children, we need the Divine Renovator to restore us and the professional experienced hands of Heavens landscaper to put our lands and homes back on the market that will make the sinner see the beauty and want to buy again! The Church must be restored before the sinner can be! Our Lord, our mighty God and Saviour has a vision – do you?

**ISIAH 58:12** – Children, it was Isaiah that said – And they that shall be of thee, shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called the REPAIRER OF THE BREACH, the restorer of paths to dwell in. Can I tell you there’s work to do? God has made each of us a repairer of the breach, to bring people back together who have been wounded in battles, hurt & confused in trials and scattered in life’s windy storms. O God, would you renew our Vision, strengthen our hands to finish the work! (To be continued:) May God Bless my readers!