

Rebuild My Life, Rebuild Our Church - Summary

- Seek God’s Help (1:1-11)
- Clarify the Vision (2:1-20)
- Enlist a Team to Help (3:1-32)
- Do the Right Things (5:1-19)
- Deal with Discouragement (4:1-23; 6:1-14)
- Follow God’s Word (8:6-18)
- Admit My Mistakes (9:1-10:39)

*** *[Note for the media person. Pause here ... then bring in the next when I ask for it.]*

- Live with Joy (12:27-43)

THE DEDICATION OF THE WALL

Nehemiah 12:27-47 (NLT)

²⁷ For the dedication of the new wall of Jerusalem, the Levites throughout the land were asked to come to Jerusalem to assist in the ceremonies. They were to take part in the joyous occasion with their songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps, and lyres. ²⁸ The singers were brought together from the region around Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites. ²⁹ They also came from Bethgilgal and the rural areas near Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built their own settlements around Jerusalem.

³⁰ The priests and Levites first purified themselves; then they purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

³¹ I led the leaders of Judah to the top of the wall and organized two large choirs to give thanks. One of the choirs proceeded southward along the top of the wall to the Dung Gate. ³² Hoshaiah and half the leaders of Judah followed them, ³³ along with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, ³⁴ Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah. ³⁵ Then came some priests who played trumpets, including Zechariah son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, a descendant of Asaph. ³⁶ And Zechariah’s colleagues were Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani. They used the musical instruments prescribed by David, the man of God. Ezra the scribe led this procession. ³⁷ At the Fountain Gate they went straight up the steps on the ascent of the city wall toward the City of David. They passed the house of David and then proceeded to the Water Gate on the east.

³⁸ The second choir giving thanks went northward around the other way to meet them. I followed them, together with the other half of the people, along the top of the wall past the Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall, ³⁹ then past the Ephraim Gate to the Old City Gate, past the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananel, and on to the Tower of the Hundred. Then we continued on to the Sheep Gate and stopped at the Guard Gate.

⁴⁰ The two choirs that were giving thanks then proceeded to the Temple of God, where they took their places. So did I, together with the group of leaders who were with me. ⁴¹ We went together with the trumpet-playing priests—Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah— ⁴² and the singers—Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malkijah, Elam, and Ezer. They played and sang loudly under the direction of Jezrahiah the choir director.

⁴³ Many sacrifices were offered on that joyous day, for God had given the people cause for great joy. The women and children also participated in the celebration, and the joy of the people of Jerusalem could be heard far away.” (NLT)

Observations:

Nehemiah 12:7 “For the dedication of the new wall of Jerusalem ...”

Nehemiah 12:27-29 “²⁷ ... the Levites throughout the land were asked to come to Jerusalem to assist in the ceremonies. They were to take part in the joyous occasion with their songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps, and lyres. ²⁸ The singers were brought together from the region around Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites. ²⁹ They also came from Beth-gilgal and the rural areas near Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built their own settlements around Jerusalem.”

Nehemiah 12:30 “The priests and Levites first purified themselves; then they purified the people, the gates, and the wall.”

Nehemiah 12:43 “Many sacrifices were offered on that **joyous** day, for God had given the people cause for great **joy**. The women and children also participated in the celebration, and the **joy** of the people of Jerusalem could be heard far away.” (NLT)

“... for **God** had given the people cause for great **joy** ...”

REASONS WHY I CAN HAVE JOY IN THE LORD

Psalms 147:1-2 “¹ Praise the LORD! How good to sing praises to our God! How delightful and how fitting! ² The LORD is **rebuilding Jerusalem** and **bringing the exiles back** to Israel.” (NLT)

1. Because God is COMPASSIONATE.

Psalm 147:3 “He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.”

2. Because God is COMPETENT.

Psalm 147:4-5 “⁴ He counts the stars and calls them all by name. ⁵ How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension!”

3. Because God is JUST.

Psalm 147:6 “The LORD supports the humble, but He brings the wicked down into the dust.”

Psalm 147:7 “Sing out your thanks to the LORD; sing praises to our God with a harp.”

4. Because God PROVIDES.

Psalm 147:8-9 “⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds, provides rain for the earth, and makes the grass grow in mountain pastures. ⁹ He gives food to the wild animals and feeds the young ravens when they cry.”

5. Because God is FAITHFUL.

Psalm 147:10-11 “¹⁰ He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse or in human might. ¹¹ No, the LORD’s delight is in those who fear Him, those who put their hope in His unfailing love.”

Psalm 147:12 “Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!”

6. Because God CALMS OUR FEARS.

Nehemiah 147:13-14 “¹³ For He has strengthened the bars of your gates and blessed your children within your walls. ¹⁴ He sends peace across your nation and satisfies your hunger with the finest wheat.”

7. Because God gives us the WORDS OF LIFE.

Psalm 147:15-20a “¹⁵ He sends His orders to the world—how swiftly His word flies!
¹⁶ He sends the snow like white wool; He scatters frost upon the ground like ashes.
¹⁷ He hurls the hail like stones. Who can stand against his freezing cold? ¹⁸ Then, at his command, it all melts. He sends his winds, and the ice thaws. ¹⁹ He has revealed His words to Jacob, His decrees and regulations to Israel. ²⁰ He has not done this for any other nation; they do not know His regulations ...”

BOTTOM LINE

Psalm 147:20b “... Praise the LORD!”

Nehemiah 8:10 “... Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your **strength**.” (NLT)

Nehemiah 8:10 “... Do not grieve, because the joy of the Lord is your **stronghold**.” (HCSB)

2 Corinthians 11:24-27 “²⁴ Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. ²⁶ I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.^[c] ²⁷ I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.” (NLT)

Philippians 4:4 “**Always** be full of **joy in the Lord**. I say it again—**rejoice!**” (NLT)