



## **Eight Steps to Restoration**

### **Text:**

### **Neh 1**

*1:1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,*

*2 That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.*

*3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.*

*4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,*

*5 And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:*

*6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.*

*7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.*

*8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:*

*9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence,*

*and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.*

*10 Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.*

*11 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.*

### **When God's Kingdom is in ill-repair and disarray, the TRUE heroes of the kingdom cannot rest.**

Let others exist in abject apathy, let others live within the constricting confines of ecclesiastical complacency, but the true heroes of the kingdom arise to the surface prepared to make a difference.

For forty years a carnal and spiritually calloused king never concerned himself with the presence of God, but no sooner had David been coronated until he's trading in his scepter for a sword shouting, "Where is the ark of God?"

While that same king David later languished in iniquity, a true hero of the kingdom named Uriah, slept in the cold on his doorstep saying, "How can I go into the comfort of my home and my bride, while my brethren sleep in tents, awaiting the approaching battle?"

I see Mordecai anxiously pacing the floor before the young and beautiful queen saying, "Don't think you'll escape Esther when Hamaan unsheathes the sword of slaughter. It's time for you to do something. And who knows if you have not been brought to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Whether it was by casual conversation or an expedited dispatch, the message came to Nehemiah that walls and the city of Jerusalem laid in ruins. When the king noticed the distress of his heart and inquired, Nehemiah had no other prerogative but to answer-

**Neh 2:3**

*...why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?*

**Is there anyone here tonight...**

...whose countenance is saddened when the baptismal waters are untroubled?

...whose heart becomes heavy when the altars are barren?

...whose spirit is troubled when they see the spiritual decay in your city?

...whose soul is smitten when you witness the reproach of sin that has imprisoned today's society.

Where are the warriors that will go retrieve God's presence?

Where are strong that will stand up before the wicked and declare, "I'll not allow you to destroy my people"?

Where are the heroes like Nehemiah that will say, "I'll not rest until God's kingdom is restored"?

**God's Kingdom was in affliction and reproach!**

· **Jerusalem was in reproach because the walls were down. It was the walls that caused Israel to retain their distinctiveness.**

· **It was the walls that protected God's people from pagan practices and lewd and promiscuous culture.**

**REPROACH (Hebrew) *Charaph (Khaw-raf)* means, "to be disgraced by betrothal".**

· **Too many see the existence of walls as unnecessary restriction, as constricting bondage. But it is the walls that God has put around us that causes us to retain our distinction and our Godly identity.**

· **Once Israel lost it's walls they were disgraced by unholy yokes and unsanctified marriages until they lost their identity.**

**I've had people tell me, "We don't want walls, we don't want rules and restrictions, we want to do as we please."**

*Just last night, a brother in this church gave me this. As he spoke to a man who had just announced his disdain for Godly separation from the world through holiness standards in the church, he told him...*

*Some parents out of concern for the welfare of their children only allow them to play within a fenced back yard,*

*Others will allow them to play only within the fences of a front yard,*

*Others will demand that their children stay within the yard even if there is no fence.*

*And then there are those parents, with no love and care for their children who will let their children play in the uncontrolled and dangerous environment of the streets.*

*To which the brother said, "That's where your pastor has put you, you're in the street, and you're going to be destroyed."*

**1 Peter 2:9**

***9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth***

*the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

- We need a restoration of righteousness.
- We need a restoration of the fear of God.
- We need a restoration of Apostolic ministry.
- We need a restoration of Apostolic authority.
- We need a restoration of Apostolic power.
- We need a restoration of Apostolic hunger.

### **Eight Steps to Restoration**

#### **A Dissatisfaction with the present.**

##### **Neh 1:3-4**

*3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.*

*4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept,...*

Rachel, where are you tonight? When's the last time you cried, "Give me children, or else I die..." Or have you just accepted the circumstances Rachel and resigned to an empty womb.

When's the last time you got so disgusted with yourself in prayer, that you prayed, "God, whatever you've got to do to change me..."

"I haven't won a soul in a long time, and I hate it."

"I should be doing more than I am, and I can't stand it."

Laodicea, you're here tonight, and God's got a message for you, "You say you're rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, but

I say you had better get dissatisfied with yourself before you become so nauseous to me that I spew you out of my mouth."

*Charlie Peace, a criminal in England, on the day he was being taken to his execution, listened to a minister reading from the Word. And when he found out he was reading about heaven and hell, he looked at the preacher and said, "Sir, if I believed what you and the church of God say, and even if England were covered with broken glass from coast to coast, I would walk over it on hands and knees and think it worthwhile living just to save one soul from an eternal hell like that."*

#### **A Hunger to Pray and Fast.**

##### **Neh 1:4**

*4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,*

##### **2 Chron 7:14**

*14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

*We have had instruction until we are hardened; it is now time for us to pray.*

*-- Charles Grandison Finney*

*And pray Charles Finney did. History records that the shops closed down in Rochester, New York when it was time for service to begin every evening, and that the taverns of Rochester closed down altogether.*

*For seven days, Jonathon Edwards prayed and fasted in the cellar of his home, crying out to God, "Lord, give me New England."*

*Early Sunday morning, when Mr. Edwards came up the stairs of the cellar, he came with a word from the Lord that he called, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God".*

*History records that sinners held on to the pews until their knuckles were white for fear that they would fall into the pits of hell that very moment.*

*Jonathon Edwards, through prayer, did turn New England upside down.*

It is not ability and talent or even finance that is going to turn Brown County upside down, but it's going to happen when somebody gets so desperate as to pray as did George Whitefield, "Give me souls or take my life."

There is an evil adversary who is attempting to lay to shambles the kingdom of God right here in Brownwood...

...If somebody could be moved to prayer, then God would shut the mouths of our opponents and our critics like he shut the mouths of lions.

...If somebody could be moved to prayer then God would set embattlements against the spirits of oppression and fear just like he did for Israel.

*"...the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much..."*

### **A Willingness to Repent!**

#### **Neh 1:6**

*6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.*

The word, "confess" here comes from a Hebrew word which means "to bemoan with the wringing of the hands.

If there ever was a time that the church needs to put aside it's phoniness and hypocrisy and with wringing hands come to God in genuine contrition, ITS NOW!

*"...he that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches..."*

What did the Spirit say to the churches?

REPENT!

To 5 of the 7 churches, Jesus called for them to repent.

- To Ephesus- Repent!
- To Pergamos- Repent!
- To Thyatira- Repent!
- To Sardis- Repent!
- To Laodicea- Repent!

### **Return to the Word!**

#### **Neh 1:7-9**

*7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.*

*8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:*

*9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.*

**A church that gives in to the charismatic spirit of compromise, and abandons the doctrines of God's word, is a church that will be scattered.**

*"In the last days men will not endure sound doctrine..."*

*1 Tim 4:16*

*16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

The Lord tells Nehemiah, "If you'll return to the word of God, even if the sheep have been scattered to the uttermost part of the heavens, I

will bring them unto a place that I have chosen TO SET MY NAME THERE."

**God will gather men to a church that has withheld the sanctity of His Name.**

Brownwood Evangelism Center, should we ever give in to the seducing spirits of compromise, and abandon this Acts 2:38 message then we'll be left out when God begins to gather the harvest of the last days.

**Return to a Fear of the Lord**

*Neh 1:11*

*11 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper,*

The Apostolic youth of our day need a re-baptism of the fear of God.

Why do we go through life so unconcerned about our own souls much less the souls of others? We've lost the fear of the Lord.

Why can a message on the torments of hell be preached, and so many can sit without so much as a whimper? We've lost the fear of God.

If God would restore an old-fashioned fear of God in the church we would see revival.

Nehemiah said that those that would fear the Lord would prosper.

The word "prosper" comes from a Hebrew word *Tsaleach* (*tsaw-lakh*) which means, "to break out, to go over."

One of the greatest soul-winners that I ever knew personally was a man that had suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns all over his body.

What compelled him to reach out to lost souls? He said, "I've already been to hell, and once I came through I decided that I would do all that I could to keep everyone I knew from going there."

**A Desire to Separate Yourself from the Life You Now Live.**

*Neh 1:11*

*For I WAS the king's cupbearer.*

I pressed my face in this carpet this morning and agonizingly cried to God...

"Lord, I'm tired of who I've been...

ashamed of how little I've done...

I want to be changed!"

Nehemiah, upon the completion of these 6 steps, begins to witness the sovereign move of God's Spirit.

- The Lord causes Artaxerxes to give letters of authority to Nehemiah.
- God uses pagan, sinful kings to provide necessary supplies and material to Nehemiah.

***Eccl 8:4***

***4 Where the word of a king is, there is power:***

**Not only did the king send his word, and give Nehemiah letters, but he provided him with his captains and horsemen.**

**How is end-time revival going to begin and then continue here at BEC?**

**God is going to speak it. God will declare His Word, and then He will dispatch the captains and the horsemen of the angelic hosts to carry it through.**

**The Church Must Discover the Strength in Unity.**

***Neh 2:18***

***18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.***

"Strengthened" from the Hebrew- *Chazaq*, which means "to fasten upon, to seize."

David said to his brethren, "If you want to hide in the shadows like a bunch of cowards, then that's your business, but I'm going to fasten upon something here, I'm going to seize the moment. ***Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?***"

Does anybody here want to fasten upon revival?

Anybody here have the faith to seize the opportunity that is before us?

**They Re-opened the Gates of Sacrifice.**

***Neh 3:1***

***1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it;***

The sheep gate was the gate the worshipper came through when he brought sacrifice to be placed upon the altar.

If BEC is to have Apostolic revival then someone's going to have to rebuild the sheep gate, or the gates to sacrifice.

We throw our dollar bills into the offering and try to pacify our conscience by telling ourselves that we've done enough. But how will our giving compare to the saints of God in the New Testament era?

Simon Peter said, "We've forsaken ALL to follow thee.

Mary broke open her alabaster, and poured ALL of it over the Master.

Jesus told a young aspiring rich lawyer one time, "Go and sell ALL that you have and give it to the poor and follow me."

The book of Acts Church sold all their possessions and gave it to the work of God, and there are folks in the modern church who cannot even consistently pay their tithes and offerings.

How do you think you're going to stand next to those folks who have given all?

- **No sooner had Israel restored the "sheep gate" in Jerusalem, then the next thing that materialized was the "fish gate".**

- **Jesus told us that we would be fishers of men.**

- **I believe that a clear message comes through from the Lord here in Nehemiah chapter 3.**

**-If the church will prepare the way to sacrifice, then God says, "I'll fill the nets so abundantly, you'll have to have a huge and a mammoth gate just take them all in.**

### **Eight Steps to Restoration!**

#### **And When We Get There, it Will Get the Enemy Talking!**

*Neh 4:1-2*

*4:1 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.*

*2 And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said,*

**What do these feeble Jews?**

**will they fortify themselves?** (The people that do know their God will be strong and do exploits. You bet we're going to fortify ourselves!)

**will they sacrifice?** (More than we ever have before!)

**will they make an end in a day?** (This was the enemy asking, "Will they ever quit?")

**will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?**

Nehemiah, as he rebuilt the walls, did not use new stones, but they reached into the rubble and pulled out the burned-over, and broken-down blocks and stones of the past.

As God restores revival to the church of the end-time generation, He's not going to use those who have espoused new doctrines and new gospels, but he's going to reach down and pick up some stones that have been scorched at times by the fires of opposition and adversity.

The soot of weariness and the ash of yesterday's unfulfilled dreams may stain the stones of today's work of restoration.

People who feel that their usefulness has expired, and their value to the kingdom diminished, God is going to use them in the thrust of revival for the last days.

And like Sanballat, Satan will issue the challenge...

***"Will God revive the burnt stones?"***

**My answer is YES! YES! YES!**

In 52 days, from July 25 to September 15, 42 different working parties, restored a 50 foot high wall with a circumference of 4 miles at a rate of 504 feet per day.

How? Chapter 4, verse 6 gives the answer.

**Neh 4:6**

*6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.*

### **Eight Steps to Restoration**

**Text:**

**Neh 1**

*1:1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,*

*2 That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.*

*3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.*

*4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,*

*5 And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:*

*6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.*

*7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.*

*8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:*

*9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence,*

*and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.*

*10 Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.*

*11 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.*

**When God's Kingdom is in ill-repair and disarray, the TRUE heroes of the kingdom cannot rest.**

Let others exist in abject apathy, let others live within the constricting confines of ecclesiastical complacency, but the true heroes of the kingdom arise to the surface prepared to make a difference.

For forty years a carnal and spiritually calloused king never concerned himself with the presence of God, but no sooner had David been coronated until he's trading in his scepter for a sword shouting, "Where is the ark of God?"

While that same king David later languished in iniquity, a true hero of the kingdom named Uriah, slept in the cold on his doorstep saying, "How can I go into the comfort of my home and my bride, while my brethren sleep in tents, awaiting the approaching battle?"

I see Mordecai anxiously pacing the floor before the young and beautiful queen saying, "Don't think you'll escape Esther when Hamaan unsheathes the sword of slaughter. It's time for you to do something. And who knows if you have not been brought to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Whether it was by casual conversation or an expedited dispatch, the message came to Nehemiah that walls and the city of Jerusalem laid in ruins. When the king noticed the distress of his heart and inquired, Nehemiah had no other prerogative but to answer-

**Neh 2:3**

***...why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?***

**Is there anyone here tonight...**

...whose countenance is saddened when the baptismal waters are untroubled?

...whose heart becomes heavy when the altars are barren?

...whose spirit is troubled when they see the spiritual decay in your city?

...whose soul is smitten when you witness the reproach of sin that has imprisoned today's society.

Where are the warriors that will go retrieve God's presence?

Where are strong that will stand up before the wicked and declare, "I'll not allow you to destroy my people"?

Where are the heroes like Nehemiah that will say, "I'll not rest until God's kingdom is restored"?

**God's Kingdom was in affliction and reproach!**

· Jerusalem was in reproach because the walls were down. It was the walls that caused Israel to retain their distinctiveness.

· It was the walls that protected God's people from pagan practices and lewd and promiscuous culture.

**REPROACH (Hebrew) *Charaph (Khaw-raf)* means, "to be disgraced by betrothal".**

· Too many see the existence of walls as unnecessary restriction, as constricting bondage. But it is the walls that God has put around us that causes us to retain our distinction and our Godly identity.

· Once Israel lost it's walls they were disgraced by unholy yokes and unsanctified marriages until they lost their identity.

**I've had people tell me, "We don't want walls, we don't want rules and restrictions, we want to do as we please."**

*Just last night, a brother in this church gave me this. As he spoke to a man who had just announced his disdain for Godly separation from the world through holiness standards in the church, he told him...*

*Some parents out of concern for the welfare of their children only allow them to play within a fenced back yard,*

*Others will allow them to play only within the fences of a front yard,*

*Others will demand that their children stay within the yard even if there is no fence.*

*And then there are those parents, with no love and care for their children who will let their children play in the uncontrolled and dangerous environment of the streets.*

*To which the brother said, "That's where your pastor has put you, you're in the street, and you're going to be destroyed."*

### **1 Peter 2:9**

*9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

- **We need a restoration of righteousness.**
- **We need a restoration of the fear of God.**
- **We need a restoration of Apostolic ministry.**
- **We need a restoration of Apostolic authority.**
- **We need a restoration of Apostolic power.**
- **We need a restoration of Apostolic hunger.**

### **Eight Steps to Restoration**

#### **A Dissatisfaction with the present.**

##### **Neh 1:3-4**

*3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.*

*4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept,...*

Rachel, where are you tonight? When's the last time you cried, "Give me children, or else I die..." Or have you just accepted the circumstances Rachel and resigned to an empty womb.

When's the last time you got so disgusted with yourself in prayer, that you prayed, "God, whatever you've got to do to change me..."

"I haven't won a soul in a long time, and I hate it."

"I should be doing more than I am, and I can't stand it."

Laodicea, you're here tonight, and God's got a message for you, "You say you're rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, but

I say you had better get dissatisfied with yourself before you become so nauseous to me that I spew you out of my mouth."

*Charlie Peace, a criminal in England, on the day he was being taken to his execution, listened to a minister reading from the Word. And when he found out he was reading about heaven and hell, he looked at the preacher and said, "Sir, if I believed what you and the church of God say, and even if England were covered with broken glass from coast to coast, I would walk over it on hands and knees and think it worthwhile living just to save one soul from an eternal hell like that."*

#### **A Hunger to Pray and Fast.**

##### **Neh 1:4**

*4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,*

##### **2 Chron 7:14**

***14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.***

*We have had instruction until we are hardened; it is now time for us to pray.*

*-- Charles Grandison Finney*

*And pray Charles Finney did. History records that the shops closed down in Rochester, New York when it was time for service to begin every evening, and that the taverns of Rochester closed down altogether.*

*For seven days, Jonathon Edwards prayed and fasted in the cellar of his home, crying out to God, "Lord, give me New England."*

*Early Sunday morning, when Mr. Edwards came up the stairs of the cellar, he came with a word from the Lord that he called, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God".*

*History records that sinners held on to the pews until their knuckles were white for fear that they would fall into the pits of hell that very moment.*

*Jonathon Edwards, through prayer, did turn New England upside down.*

It is not ability and talent or even finance that is going to turn Brown County upside down, but it's going to happen when somebody gets so desperate as to pray as did George Whitefield, "Give me souls or take my life."

There is an evil adversary who is attempting to lay to shambles the kingdom of God right here in Brownwood...

...If somebody could be moved to prayer, then God would shut the mouths of our opponents and our critics like he shut the mouths of lions.

...If somebody could be moved to prayer then God would set embattlements against the spirits of oppression and fear just like he did for Israel.

***"...the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much..."***

### **A Willingness to Repent!**

#### **Neh 1:6**

***6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.***

The word, "confess" here comes from a Hebrew word which means "to bemoan with the wringing of the hands.

If there ever was a time that the church needs to put aside it's phoniness and hypocrisy and with wringing hands come to God in genuine contrition, ITS NOW!

***"...he that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches..."***

What did the Spirit say to the churches?

REPENT!

To 5 of the 7 churches, Jesus called for them to repent.

- To Ephesus- Repent!
- To Pergamos- Repent!
- To Thyatira- Repent!
- To Sardis- Repent!

· To Laodicea- Repent!

### **Return to the Word!**

#### **Neh 1:7-9**

*7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.*

*8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:*

*9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.*

**A church that gives in to the charismatic spirit of compromise, and abandons the doctrines of God's word, is a church that will be scattered.**

*"In the last days men will not endure sound doctrine..."*

#### **1 Tim 4:16**

*16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

The Lord tells Nehemiah, "If you'll return to the word of God, even if the sheep have been scattered to the uttermost part of the heavens, I

will bring them unto a place that I have chosen TO SET MY NAME THERE."

#### **God will gather men to a church that has withheld the sanctity of His Name.**

Brownwood Evangelism Center, should we ever give in to the seducing spirits of compromise, and abandon this Acts 2:38 message then we'll be left out when God begins to gather the harvest of the last days.

### **Return to a Fear of the Lord**

#### **Neh 1:11**

*11 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper,*

The Apostolic youth of our day need a re-baptism of the fear of God.

Why do go through life so unconcerned about our own souls much less the souls of others? We've lost the fear of the Lord.

Why can a message on the torments of hell be preached, and so many can sit without so much as a whimper? We've lost the fear of God.

If God would restore an old-fashioned fear of God in the church we would see revival.

Nehemiah said that those that would fear the Lord would prosper.

The word "prosper" comes from a Hebrew word *Tsaleach* (*tsaw-lakh*) which means, "to break out, to go over."

One of the greatest soul-winners that I ever knew personally was a man that had suffered 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns all over his body.

What compelled him to reach out to lost souls? He said, "I've already been to hell, and once I came through I

decided that I would do all that I could to keep everyone I knew from going there."

### **A Desire to Separate Yourself from the Life You Now Live.**

*Neh 1:11*

*For I WAS the king's cupbearer.*

I pressed my face in this carpet this morning and agonizingly cried to God...

"Lord, I'm tired of who I've been...

ashamed of how little I've done...

I want to be changed!"

Nehemiah, upon the completion of these 6 steps, begins to witness the sovereign move of God's Spirit.

- The Lord causes Artaxerxes to give letters of authority to Nehemiah.
- God uses pagan, sinful kings to provide necessary supplies and material to Nehemiah.

*Eccl 8:4*

*4 Where the word of a king is, there is power:*

**Not only did the king send his word, and give Nehemiah letters, but he provided him with his captains and horsemen.**

**How is end-time revival going to begin and then continue here at BEC?**

**God is going to speak it. God will declare His Word, and then He will dispatch the captains and the horsemen of the angelic hosts to carry it through.**

### **The Church Must Discover the Strength in Unity.**

*Neh 2:18*

*18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.*

"Strengthened" from the Hebrew- *Chazaq*, which means "to fasten upon, to seize."

David said to his brethren, "If you want to hide in the shadows like a bunch of cowards, then that's your business, but I'm going to fasten upon something here, I'm going to seize the moment. ***Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?***"

Does anybody here want to fasten upon revival?

Anybody here have the faith to seize the opportunity that is before us?

### **They Re-opened the Gates of Sacrifice.**

*Neh 3:1*

*1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it;*

The sheep gate was the gate the worshipper came through when he brought sacrifice to be placed upon the altar.

If BEC is to have Apostolic revival then someone's going to have to rebuild the sheep gate, or the gates to

sacrifice.

We throw our dollar bills into the offering and try to pacify our conscience by telling ourselves that we've done enough. But how will our giving compare to the saints of God in the New Testament era?

Simon Peter said, "We've forsaken ALL to follow thee.

Mary broke open her alabaster, and poured ALL of it over the Master.

Jesus told a young aspiring rich lawyer one time, "Go and sell ALL that you have and give it to the poor and follow me."

The book of Acts Church sold all their possessions and gave it to the work of God, and there are folks in the modern church who cannot even consistently pay their tithes and offerings.

How do you think you're going to stand next to those folks who have given all?

- No sooner had Israel restored the "sheep gate" in Jerusalem, then the next thing that materialized was the "fish gate".

- Jesus told us that we would be fishers of men.

- I believe that a clear message comes through from the Lord here in Nehemiah chapter 3.

-If the church will prepare the way to sacrifice, then God says, "I'll fill the nets so abundantly, you'll have to have a huge and a mammoth gate just take them all in.

### **Eight Steps to Restoration!**

### **And When We Get There, it Will Get the Enemy Talking!**

*Neh 4:1-2*

*4:1 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.*

*2 And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said,*

**What do these feeble Jews?**

**will they fortify themselves?** (The people that do know their God will be strong and do exploits. You bet we're going to fortify ourselves!)

**will they sacrifice?** (More than we ever have before!)

**will they make an end in a day?** (This was the enemy asking, "Will they ever quit?")

**will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?**

Nehemiah, as he rebuilt the walls, did not use new stones, but they reached into the rubble and pulled out the burned-over, and broken-down blocks and stones of the past.

As God restores revival to the church of the end-time generation, He's not going to use those who have espoused new doctrines and new gospels, but he's going to reach down and pick up some stones that have been scorched at times by the fires of opposition and adversity.

The soot of weariness and the ash of yesterday's unfulfilled dreams may stain the stones of today's work of restoration.

People who feel that their usefulness has expired, and their value to the kingdom diminished, God is going to use them in the thrust of revival for the last days.

And like Sanballat, Satan will issue the challenge...

*"Will God revive the burnt stones?"*

**My answer is YES! YES! YES!**

In 52 days, from July 25 to September 15, 42 different working parties, restored a 50 foot high wall with a circumference of 4 miles at a rate of 504 feet per day.

How? Chapter 4, verse 6 gives the answer.

***Neh 4:6***

***6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.***