

Will be rebuilt...

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah chapter 1-4 & 6

Nehemiah served as the cup bearer in the same palace where Queen Esther was. The Susan palace was 1600 Kilometers away from Jerusalem. A few from Jerusalem had come there. Nehemiah inquired of them about his fellow brothers and of his homeland. Nehemiah had never seen Jerusalem before. They told him about the broken walls of Jerusalem and the gates that were burnt. He was also told about the persecutions his people were going through. On hearing this Nehemiah wept. Not just weeping, he also fasted and prayed. He confessed his sins and the sins of his people to God. He remembered the promises of God and sought God's help to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

One fine day the king asked Nehemiah why his countenance was sad. Nehemiah hesitated to respond because none should be sad in the presence of the king. He told the truth to the king. He asked the king's permission to go and rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. The king gave him permission and also gave letters to the ministers there to provide the required help to Nehemiah. Though it was seemingly impossible task to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah believed that he could do it with the help of God. He called his people into unity in building the temple so that they would not be taken for granted by others. He said that the task would become simpler if people took up individual responsibilities. The people accepted it and worked diligently with much joy.

Sanballat and Tobiah being the enemies of Jews were saddened about the fact that they were prospering in their plans. They tried hindering the work saying the Jews were conspiring against the king. Their efforts went futile and thus they began to mock at the Jews trying to divert their focus. The people were not bothered of it. They diligently worked and finished almost half the work. Enraged by their progress, the enemies planned to battle against them. The people worked with one hand and in the other had a sword being prepared for battle. Later, those enemies disguised themselves as friends and tried to destroy their plans. They played the blame game against Nehemiah. At last, they planned to kill Nehemiah.

With all of these efforts by the enemies, they were still unable to stop the progress of the wall building. In 52 days they finished the work and completed building the walls of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was again a city that was protected.

Questions:

1. What were the struggles that came against building the walls of Jerusalem?
2. In how many days did they complete the building work?
3. How did Nehemiah pray unto God?