

LET'S REBUILD THE WALL!



"Nehemiah, why are you so sad?" asked King Artaxerxes.

Nehemiah replied, "Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" This city was Jerusalem. After king Nebuchadnezzar won the war against Judah, he burned God's temple and the doors into the city and tore down the walls.

The king asked Nehemiah, "What is it you want?"

Nehemiah prayed to God before he answered. He knew he had to be careful and say exactly what God wanted him to. "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

The king didn't want Nehemiah to leave because he was his cupbearer and he liked Nehemiah. But he gave permission for Nehemiah to go. When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, no one was told what he had

come to do. And one night when the moon was shining brilliantly, Nehemiah went out to inspect the wall and saw that it was in total ruins; there were no doors for its inhabitants to defend themselves against enemies.

The next day, Nehemiah got the whole city together and told them, "You see the trouble we are in. Jerusalem is in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, and we'll no longer be in disgrace."

The people replied, "Let us start rebuilding." And they began their work. Soon, some leaders of neighboring kingdoms heard what was happening. They didn't want Jerusalem to regain their strength and be a secured city again, so they went and tried to stop the construction. They said, "What is this you are doing? Are you rebelling against the King?"

