

The New Testament Church
Spiritual Warfare #6 – Ekklesia Walls and Gates – Nehemiah 4:17-23
Pastor Paul Jehle – March 12, 2023

I *Spiritual Warfare* required in these days – seven lies to keep the church ineffective

- A. Truths covered – *maturity is how we live out faith; God always joins the generations; the Kingdom is a tapestry of ethnic groups; and we can discern by God’s Spirit/Word*
- B. **As Christianity has receded, the Enemy’s deceptive influence has increased**
 - 1. Warfare is primarily *submitting more deeply to God’s Word to resist the enemy*
 - 2. Keys of the Kingdom - the *Ekklesia* advances through decrees against gates of hell
 - 3. **We do not attack the enemy directly; but always “under authority in His name”**

II The Lie we expose today – *God’s goal is revival of His people*

- A. The **Truth** – *revival is the means of maturing the Church to manifest His Kingdom*
 - 1. Molding us (and the church) into the image (character) of Christ is the goal of God
 - 2. Character formation - dying to self, embracing the cross, is not as popular
- B. The pattern of returns – Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Esther, Malachi) – 539-400 B.C.
 - 1. 538 B.C. - First return under Zerubbabel - Ezra 1-6 - *restoring the foundations* – revival
 - a. The decree of Cyrus – Zerubbabel (civil) and Jerusha (priest) – 1.7% (of 2.5 m) return
 - b. They restore the altar of the Temple – Passover – the blood – forgiven and cleansed
 - 2. 457 B.C. - Second return under Ezra - Ezra 7-10 - *restoring the covenant* - awakening
 - a. Haggai, Zechariah, and Ezra lead another .3% to return – now 2% had returned! (50k)
 - b. The restoration of the covenant – Pentecost – Law of the Spirit – church in unity/order
 - 3. 444 B.C. - Third return under Nehemiah - Nehemiah - *rebuilding the walls* - reformation
 - a. The city is broken down and without walls – Nehemiah 1:3-7 – like today’s culture
 - b. Build walls and gates – Tabernacles – His reign and presence in culture (Ps. 118:25)
- C. Nehemiah 4:17-23 – preparing for revival to extend beyond us – built on the blood and Spirit
 - 1. The Blood applied – cleanses our conscience, brings forgiveness, opens our way to God
 - a. Gates are similar symbols – let godly in, keep ungodly out - counsel – Pr. 1:21; 31:31
 - b. How we handle our personal lives will extend to the church and out into neighborhoods
 - c. We need to learn to discourse today’s topics in light of a distinctly Biblical worldview
 - 2. The Spirit anointing – the oil is always applied on top of the blood – Leviticus 14:17
 - a. Walls are similar – presence of God, righteous laws of a nation – Is. 26:1-2; Ez. 22:30
 - b. Walls define borders and also indicate the application of the Law – Biblical worldview
 - c. Each of us have skills that we should practice to help people through difficult times
 - 3. Nehemiah had each family have a weapon and tool to build with *a mind to work* (4:6,13)
 - a. Maintaining a clean conscience (blood) is critical in spiritual warfare – the sword
 - b. Learning how to utilize one’s skills in wisdom in the world are tools of the Spirit
 - c. They rotated so that during the day and night they kept watch – *prayer and warfare*
 - 4. Decrees we can agree upon and in unity as we prepare for increased Kingdom work!
 - a. We decree to practice the foundations of confession and anointing with a mind to work!
 - b. We decree that whether single or married, *we will work first in our hearts and homes!*
 - c. We decree to be faithful priests and pray without ceasing (and fast) in spiritual warfare
 - d. We decree to be faithful kings and sharpen our skills to advance the Kingdom in culture
 - e. We decree to heed the call of God to assemble in unity for both building and warfare
 - f. We decree that will be ready to lead people to Christ as God moves upon their hearts
 - g. We decree that we will disciple others through building relationships for edification
 - h. We decree that we will work to use our unique skills to serve others in difficult times