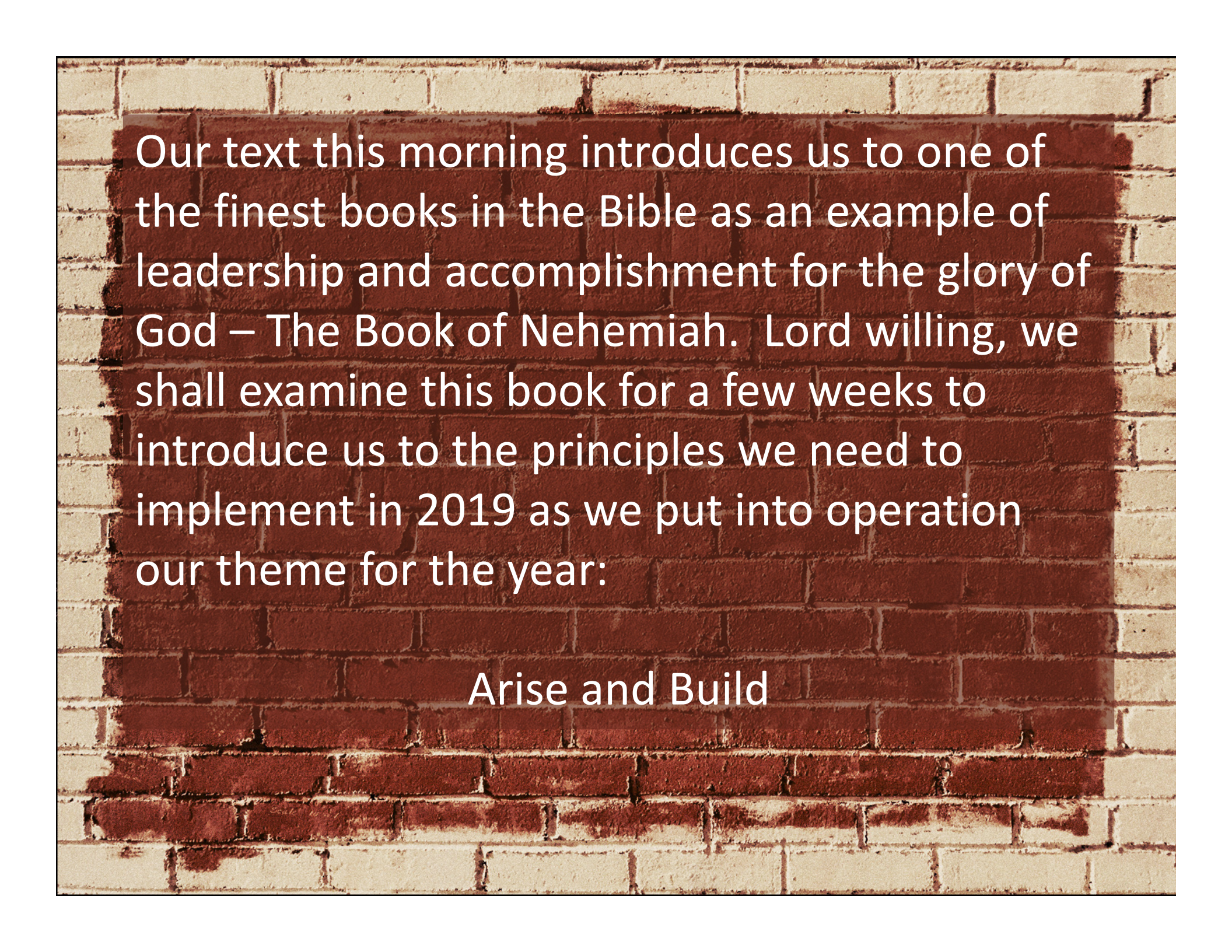


# ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

Neh. 2:20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore **we his servants will arise and build:** but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.



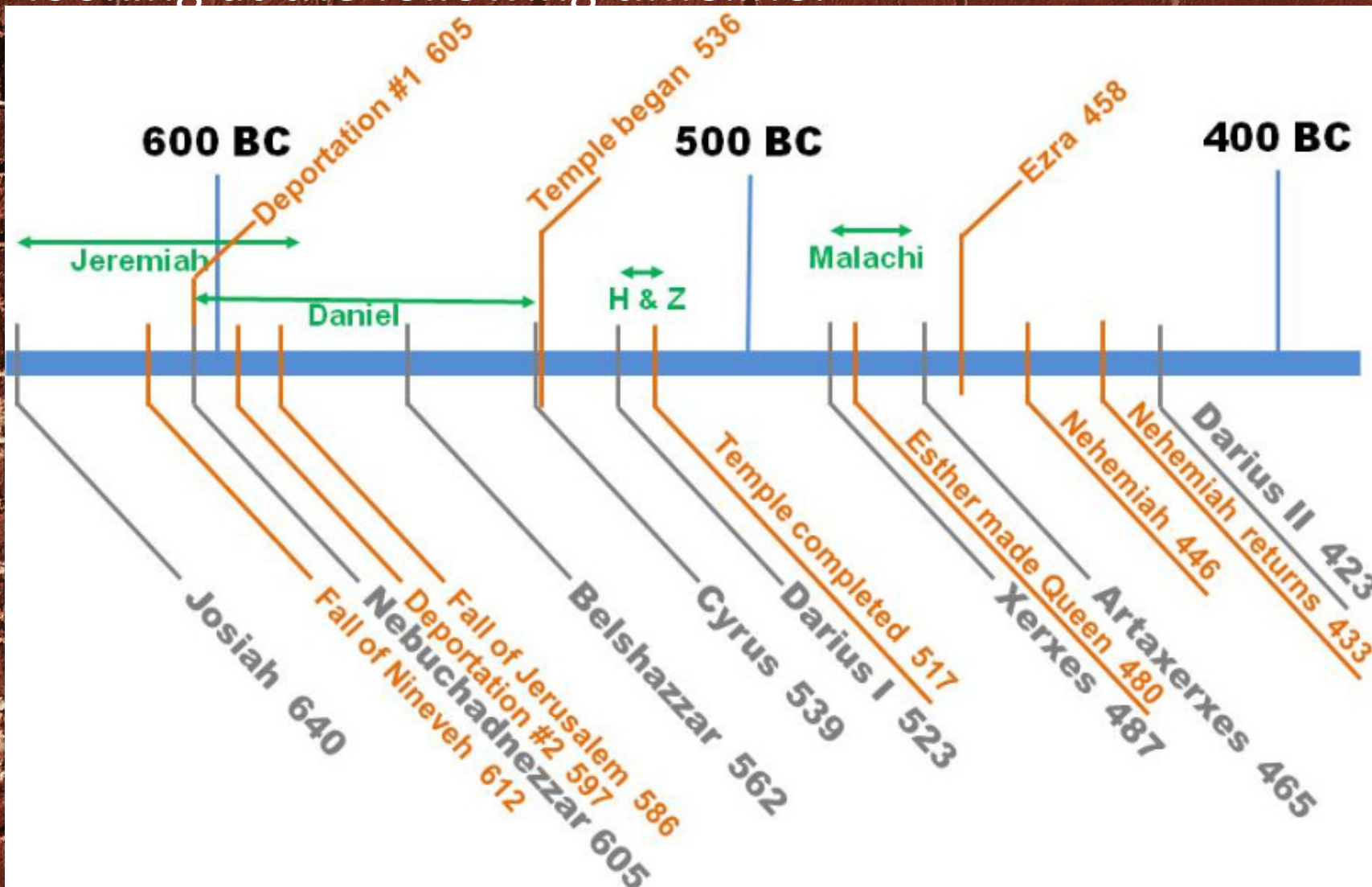


Our text this morning introduces us to one of the finest books in the Bible as an example of leadership and accomplishment for the glory of God – The Book of Nehemiah. Lord willing, we shall examine this book for a few weeks to introduce us to the principles we need to implement in 2019 as we put into operation our theme for the year:

Arise and Build

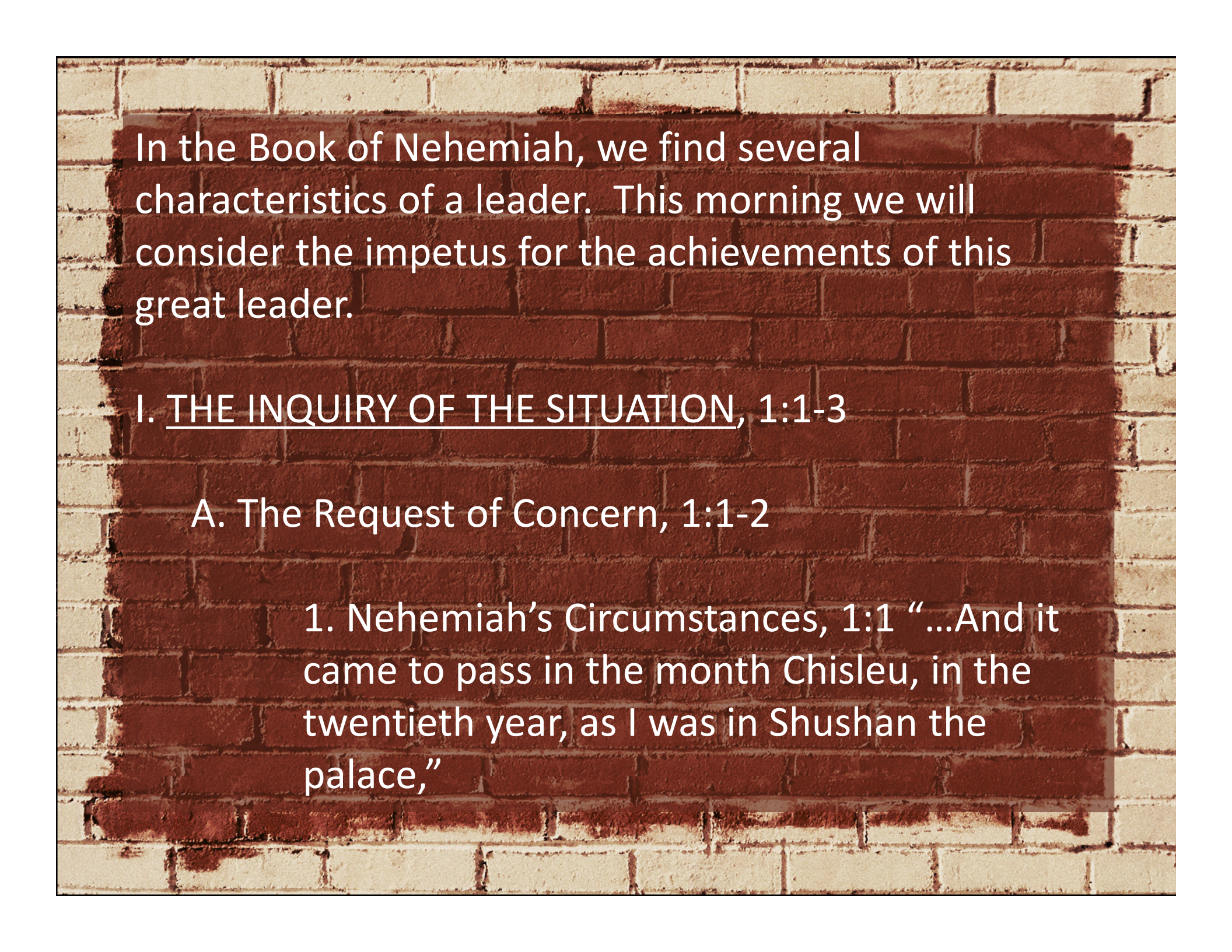


For those unfamiliar with Nehemiah, we will begin by looking at the following timeline:



<https://pastorglenn.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/timeline-of-ezra-nehemiah.jpg>





In the Book of Nehemiah, we find several characteristics of a leader. This morning we will consider the impetus for the achievements of this great leader.

## I. THE INQUIRY OF THE SITUATION, 1:1-3

### A. The Request of Concern, 1:1-2

1. Nehemiah's Circumstances, 1:1 "...And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,"



- During the winter of 446 B.C., Nehemiah was a cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia.
- Throughout the history of mankind, many have been faithful, yet virtually unknown.
- Outside this book, Nehemiah is virtually unknown.

Heb. 11:36 **And others** had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:  
37 **They** were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;  
38 (**Of whom the world was not worthy:**) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.



- Believers may be virtually unknown to mankind, but the Lord knows His children.

Jn. 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and **know my sheep**, and am known of mine. ...

27 My sheep hear my voice, and **I know them, and they follow me:**

- There are no insignificant children to our heavenly Father!

## 2. Nehemiah's Concern, 1:2

Neh. 1:2 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.**



- Why was Nehemiah so concerned about the Jews and Jerusalem?
- The fingerprints of God are all over the lives of His children.

Neh. 2:12 And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I *any* man **what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem**: neither *was there any* beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.

Neh. 7:5 And **my God put into mine heart** to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein,



- The Lord was working in hearts about Jerusalem before Nehemiah came along.

Ezra 7:27 Blessed *be* the LORD God of our fathers, which hath **put *such a thing as this* in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which *is* in Jerusalem:**

- The Lord is responsible for anything mankind does that is considered “great.”

Ex. 36:2 And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, **in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom,** *even* every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work **to do it:**



1 Kings 10:24 And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, **which God had put in his heart.**

2 Cor. 8:16 But thanks *be* to **God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.**

- When God begins working in our hearts, for His glory, our responsibility is to be obedient, by faith.

Psa. 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and **he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.**



## B. The Response of Calamity, 1:3

Neh. 1:3 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.**

- The people are in dire situations – “...in great affliction and reproach...”
- “The Place” – God’s chosen city – Jerusalem is in shambles – “...the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down and the gates thereof are burned with fire.”
- The passion of Nehemiah’s heart is stirred, upsetting his “comfort zone.”



## II. THE INTERCESSION OF THE SERVANT, 1:4-11

### A. The Prayer of Repentance, 1:4-7

Neh. 1:4 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,**

#### 1. Nehemiah's Approach to God, 1:4

- a. The emotional response, 1:4a "...when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days..."
- The passion of Nehemiah is an expression of conviction – God was working in his heart and life.



b. The effectual response, 1:4b "...and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven."

Jas. 5:16b "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

- Nehemiah exhibited the reaction of a godly man – fasting and soul-searching prayer!

Psa. 37:39 But the salvation of **the righteous is of the LORD: *he is their strength in the time of trouble.***



## 2. Nehemiah's Appeal to God, 1:5-7

### a. The Respect Shown, 1:5

Neh. 1:5 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**:

- The humble prayer of a man of God reflects his respect for his Creator.
- Nehemiah exhibited knowledge of God's love and mercy, in connection with obedience.



## b. The Repentant Submission, 1:6-7

Neh. 1:6 **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.**



- Nehemiah exhibited conviction with consistency while making intercession for the children of Israel.
- The servant of God is honest enough to face the reality of sin and its consequences.

Prov. 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but **whoso confesseth and forsaketh** *them* shall have mercy.

B. The Promise of Redemption, 1:8-11

1. Nehemiah's Recollection, 1:8-10



a. He recalls the Scriptures, 1:8 “...the word that thou commandest thy servant Moses, saying *If* ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:”

- Nehemiah acknowledges that the condition of Israel is a result of sin and disobedience to God’s commands.

Psa. 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* **all the nations that forget God.**



b. He reviews the Situation, 1:9

Neh. 1:9 **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.**

- Nehemiah's hope was in the promises of God!

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;** and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**



- Though sin brought despair, repentance would bring restitution to fellowship and its blessings – the promise of the return from captivity for the Jews.

- The man of God knows that the Lord is always true to His Word!

c. He reminds of the Servants, 1:10 “Now these *are* thy servants and thy people, whom **thou hast redeemed...**”

- Nehemiah reminds the Lord of His relationship, with His people, with His redeemed.



Ex. 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, **then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people**: for all the earth *is* mine:

Deut. 14:2 For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and **the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that *are* upon the earth.**

Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people**, zealous of good works.

1 Pet. 2:9 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:**



## 2. Nehemiah's Request, 1:11

Neh. 1:11 **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.



## Summary

- The keys to leadership and accomplishment are having close fellowship with God and letting Him work through us.
- The project to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem has yet to be considered in Chapter One.
- The true foundation of spiritual accomplishment begins with God working in hearts.

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

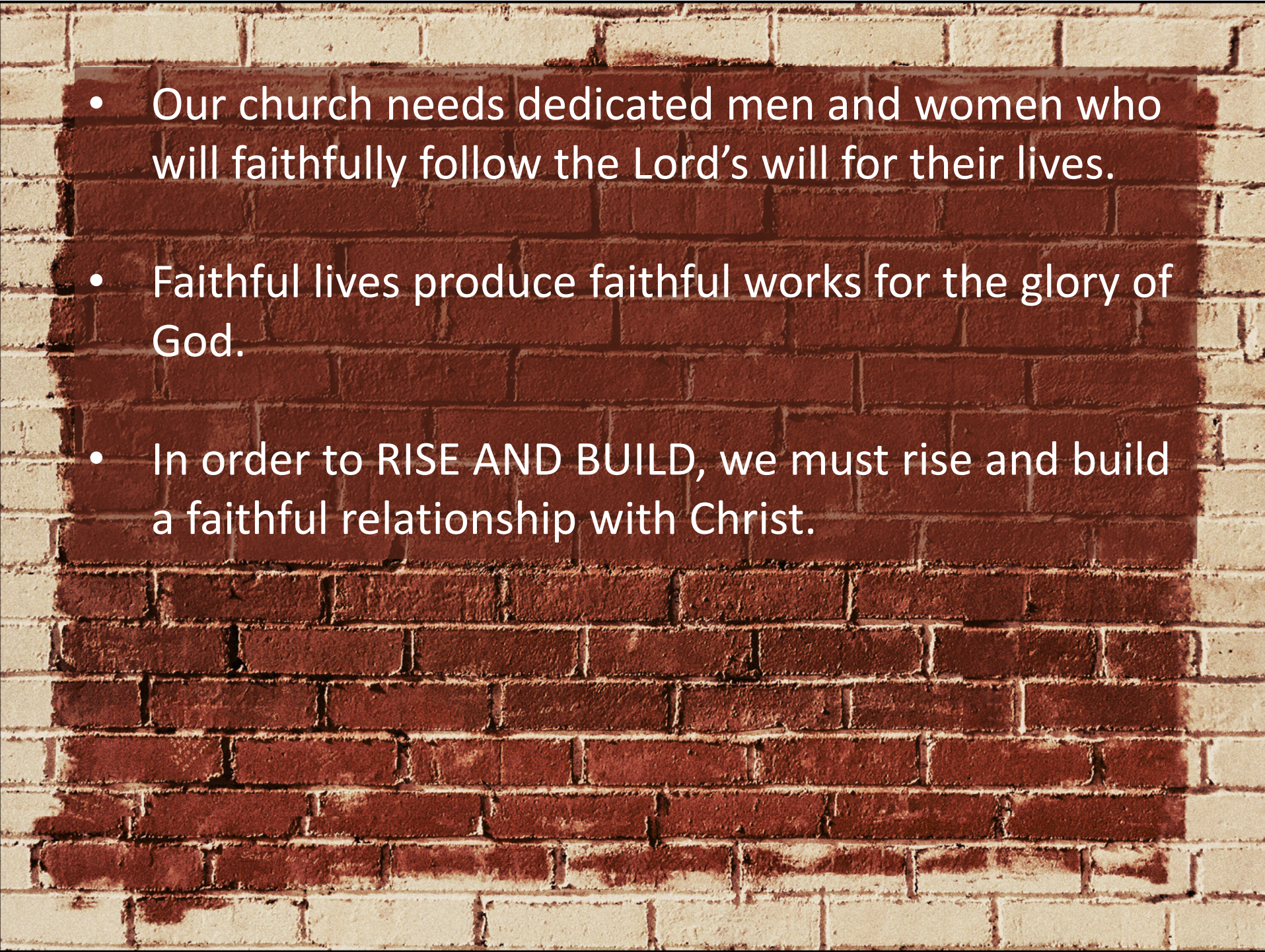


Phil. 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.**

- Nehemiah was a godly man before he became the leader to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem.
- Before we can expect the Lord to use us, we must draw close to Him, stay in fellowship with Him, and follow His leadership for our lives.



- 
- Our church needs dedicated men and women who will faithfully follow the Lord's will for their lives.
  - Faithful lives produce faithful works for the glory of God.
  - In order to RISE AND BUILD, we must rise and build a faithful relationship with Christ.



## Conclusion

Titus 2:11 For **the grace of God** that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and **the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might **redeem us** from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**