

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.

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

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

III. THE INVOLVEMENTS OF THE SOVEREIGNS, 2:1-20

IV. THE INDIVIDUAL SPECIFICATIONS, 3:1-31

A. The Participants – they built and repaired.

B. The Progress – what and where was built and repaired.

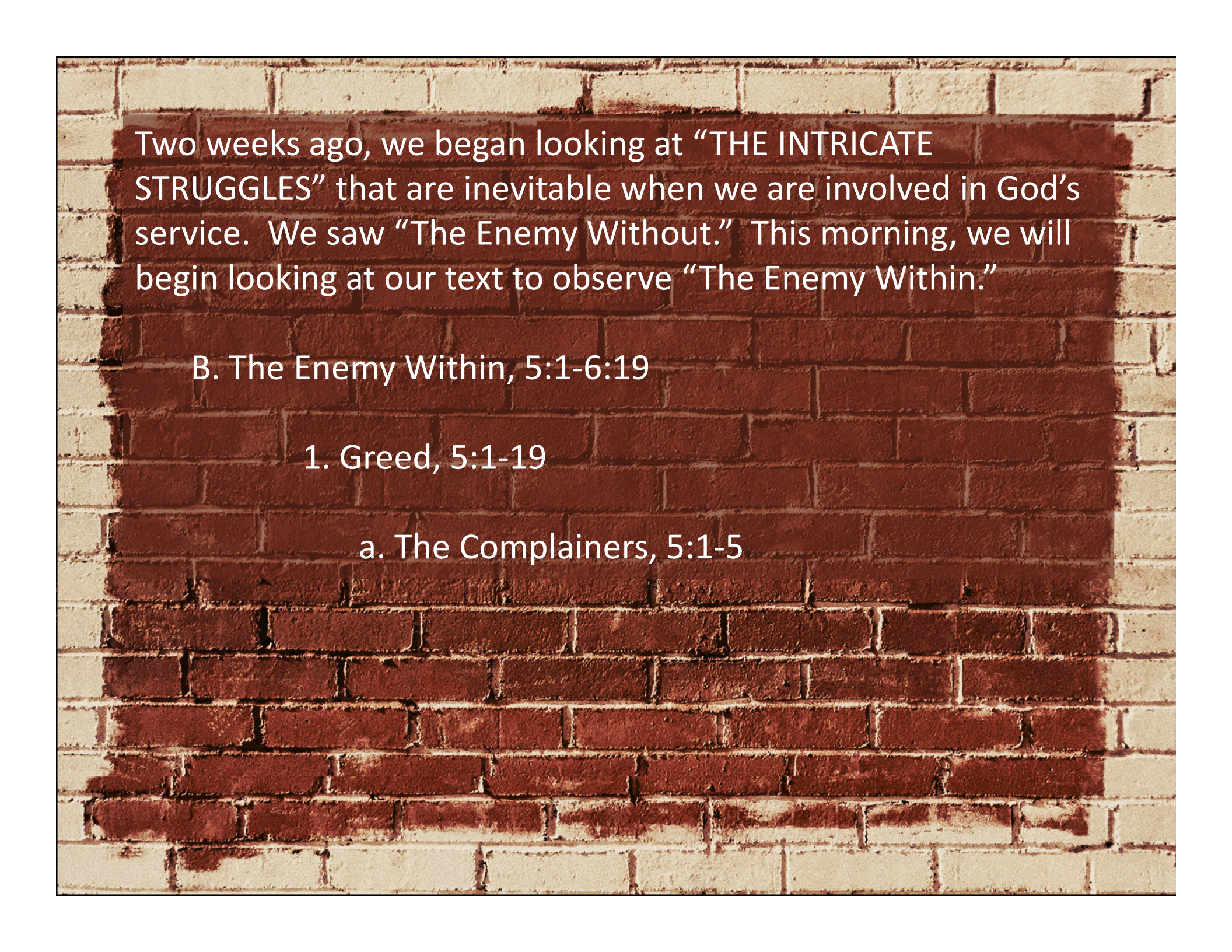
In the first three chapters, most of the material is regarding the beginning of the work in Jerusalem. Besides the men and supplies listed, incidents revealed the opposition to the work. In chapter four, we saw the “Enemy Without.”



V. THE INTRICATE STRUGGLES, 4:1-6:19

A. The Enemy Without, 4:1-23

1. Ridicule, 4:1-6
2. Rage, 4:7-9
3. Rubbish, 4:10-11
4. Resistance, 4:12-13
5. Return, 4:14-23
 - a. Return to the work and the war, 4:14-15
 - b. Return to watch as you work, 4:16-23



Two weeks ago, we began looking at “THE INTRICATE STRUGGLES” that are inevitable when we are involved in God’s service. We saw “The Enemy Without.” This morning, we will begin looking at our text to observe “The Enemy Within.”

B. The Enemy Within, 5:1-6:19

1. Greed, 5:1-19

a. The Complainers, 5:1-5

Neh. 5:1 And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews.

2 For there were that said, We, our sons, and our daughters, *are* many: therefore we take up corn *for them*, that we may eat, and live.

3 *Some* also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth.

4 There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, *and that upon* our lands and vineyards.

5 Yet now our flesh *is* as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and *some* of our daughters are brought unto bondage *already*: neither *is it* in our power *to redeem them*; for other men have our lands and vineyards.



❖ The complaints are toward those “within” – v. 1 “...their brethren the Jews.”

❖ There are three areas of complications:

(1) Not enough food – v. 2 “...we take up corn *for them* that we may eat, and live.”

(2) Not enough finances – vs. 3-4 “...We have mortgaged our lands...”

(3) Not enough freedom – v. 5 “...we bring our sons and our daughters to be servants...”

b. The Confrontation, 5:6-11

Neh 5:6 And **I was very angry** when I heard their cry and these words.

7 Then **I consulted with myself**, and **I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers**, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And **I set a great assembly against them.**

8 And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? **Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer.**

9 Also I said, It is not good that ye do: **ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God** because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?

10 I likewise, *and* my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us **leave off this usury.**

11 **Restore**, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth *part* of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them.

❖ A good leader must confront opposition that hinders the objective.

❖ Nehemiah's reaction contained several steps:

(1) The consternation, v. 6 – “...I was angry...”

(2) The consultation, v. 7a – “Then I consulted with myself...”

(3) The confrontation, v. 7b – “...I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers...”

(4) The clarification, vs. 8-11 “...walk in the fear of our God...leave off this usury...Restore...”

❖ Note the silence from those in the wrong – “...**Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer.**”

❖ Truth silences the enemies' unreasonable criticism.

“Secret guilt is by silence revealed.” — John Dryden

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/185040-secret-guilt-is-by-silence-revealed>



I had the right to remain silent..
but I didn't have the ability!

<https://omgquotes.com/funny/best-funny-quotes-guilty/>

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and **they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.**

14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, **they could say nothing against it.**

Neh. 5:6 And **I was very angry** when I heard their cry and these words.

- ❖ How do we discern what is “righteous indignation” and what is simply “losing our temper?”
- ❖ What is the motivation for our anger?
- ❖ Are we angry due to a violation of a Scriptural principle?
- ❖ Nehemiah’s anger was motivated by the disobedience of the Jews regarding the Scriptures:

Ex. 22:25 If thou lend money to *any of* my people *that is* poor by thee, **thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.**

Lev. 25:35 And **if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him:** *yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee.*

36 **Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God;** that thy brother may live with thee.

37 **Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury,** nor lend him thy victuals for increase.

38 *I am* the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, *and* to be your God.

39 And **if thy brother *that dwelleth* by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant:**

40 *But* as an hired servant, *and* as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, *and* shall serve thee unto the year of jubile:

❖ Jesus was composed as He made a scourge of small cords BEFORE He cleansed the Temple:

Jn. 2:13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And **when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple**, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, **The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.**

❖ The motive of the Lord Jesus was due to His zeal for Scriptural principles.

Psa. 69:9 "For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up..."

❖ Jesus' anger was motivated by the hardness of hearts to those He ministered:

Mark 3:5 And when **he had looked round about on them with anger**, being **grieved for the hardness of their hearts**, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

❖ During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave a warning about anger.

Mt. 5:22 But I say unto you, That **whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment**: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

❖ The Bible states that God is angry every day.

Psa. 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and **God is angry with the wicked every day.**

❖ We are encouraged to modify our anger and “sin not”

Eph. 4:26 **Be ye angry, and sin not:** let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

❖ If a good leader is angry at us, for good reason, we should take it to heart:

Prov. 19:12 **The king's wrath** is as **the roaring of a lion**; but his **favour** is as **dew upon the grass.**

Prov. 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: **rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.**

Eccl. 7:5 *It is* **better to hear the rebuke of the wise**, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

c. The Confirmation, 5:12-19

Neh. 5:12 Then said they, **We will restore *them*, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou sayest.** Then I called the priests, and **took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.**

13 Also I shook my lap, and said, **So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied.** And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.

14 Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, *that is*, **twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.**

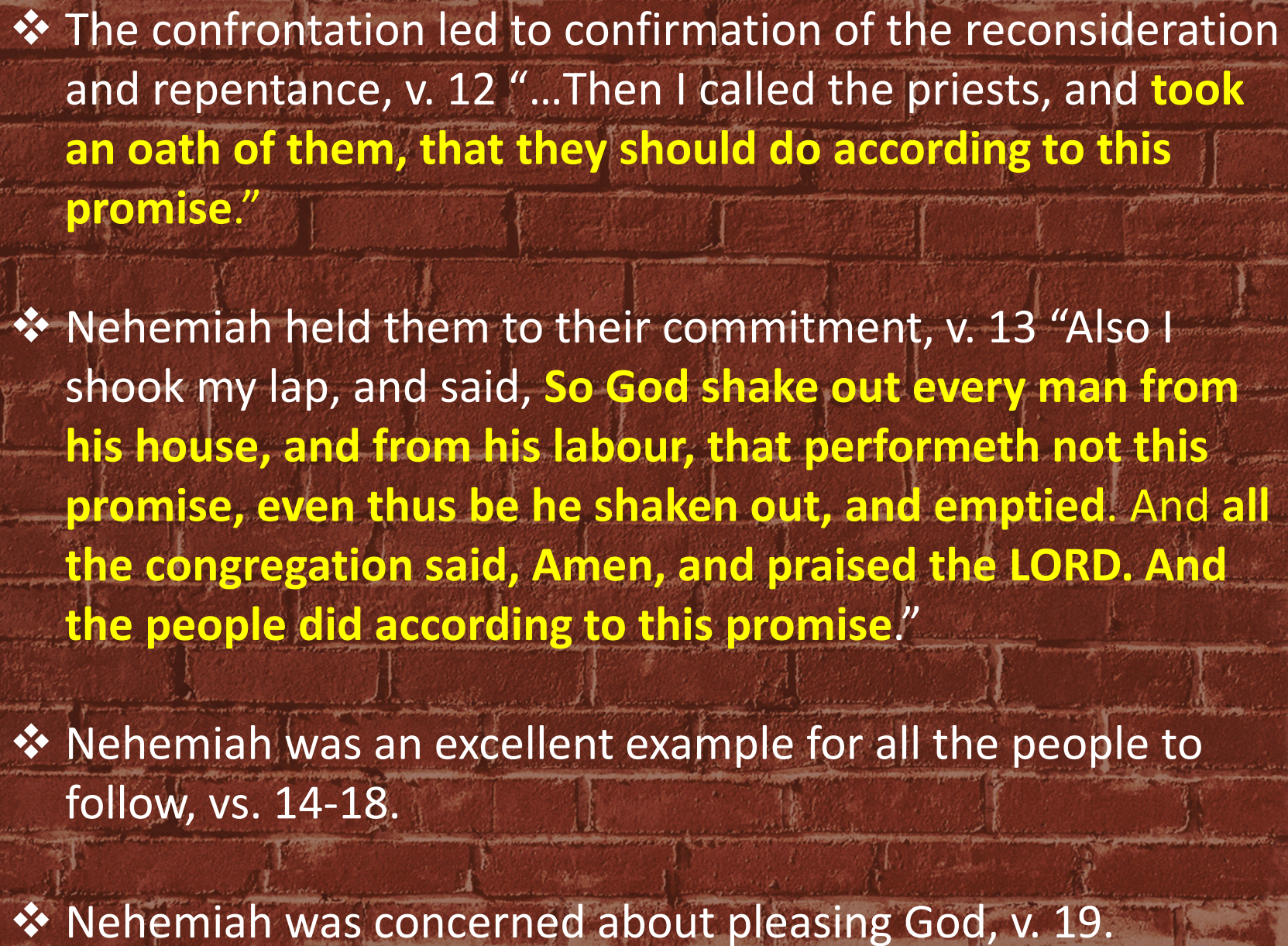
15 But the former governors that *had been* before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God.

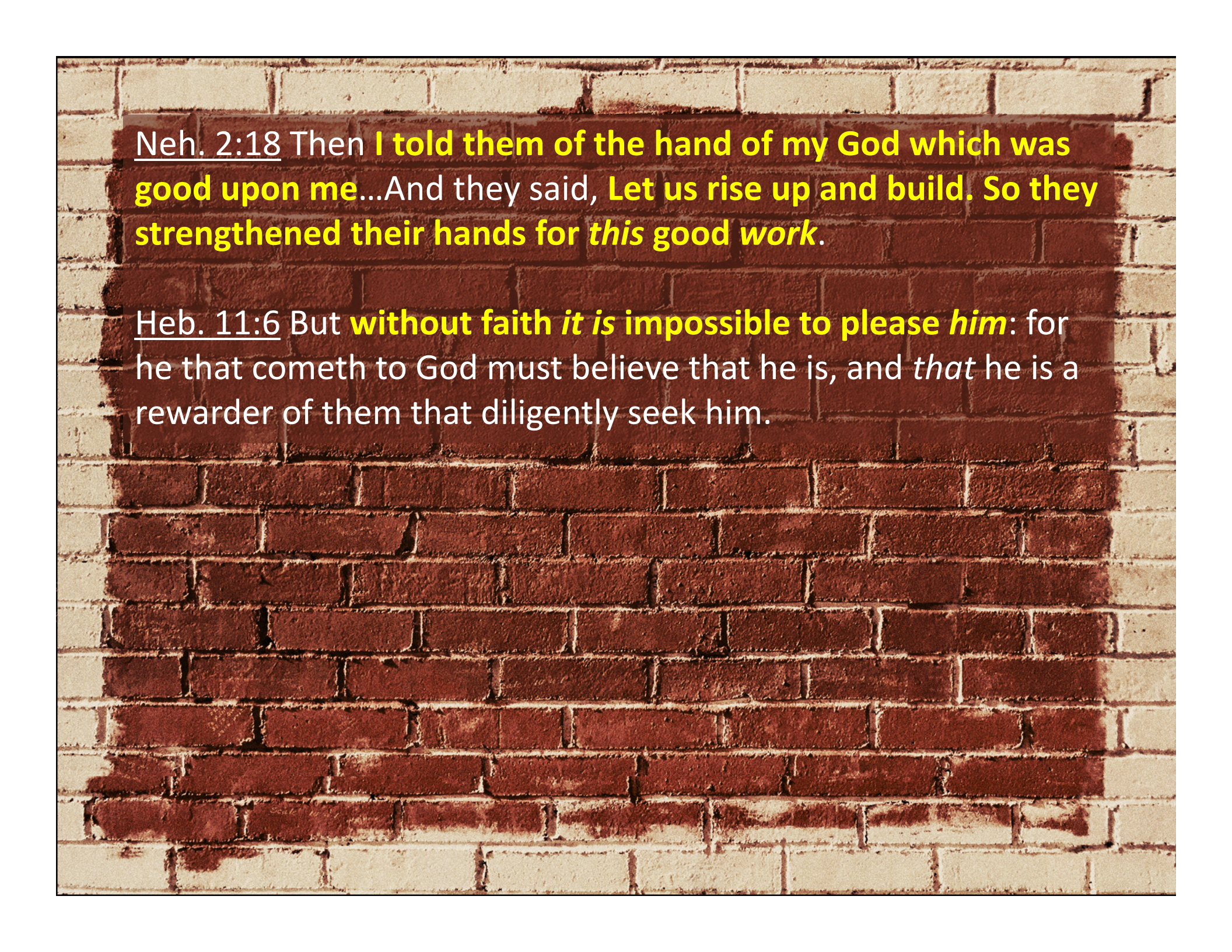
16 Yea, **also I continued in the work of this wall, neither bought we any land: and all my servants were gathered thither unto the work.**

17 Moreover *there were* at my table an hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, beside those that came unto us from among the heathen that *are* about us.

18 Now *that* which was prepared *for me* daily *was* one ox *and* six choice sheep; also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days store of all sorts of wine: yet for all this required not I the bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this people.

19 **Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.**

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- ❖ The confrontation led to confirmation of the reconsideration and repentance, v. 12 “...Then I called the priests, and **took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.**”
 - ❖ Nehemiah held them to their commitment, v. 13 “Also I shook my lap, and said, **So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.**”
 - ❖ Nehemiah was an excellent example for all the people to follow, vs. 14-18.
 - ❖ Nehemiah was concerned about pleasing God, v. 19.



Neh. 2:18 Then **I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me...** And they said, **Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for *this* good work.**

Heb. 11:6 But **without faith *it is impossible to please him***: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Conclusion

Jas. 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and **I will shew thee my faith by my works.** ...

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead?**

Hab. 2:4 “...but **the just shall live by his faith.**”

Rom. 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**

2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith**, not by sight:)

Gal 3:11 "...for, **The just shall live by faith.**"

Rom. 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and **hearing by the word of God.**

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

Eph. 2:8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is* **the gift of God:**

9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

10 For **we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.