

# 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 theme this year is *“Arise and Build.”* We have been considering the Book of Nehemiah which is a perfect example in implementing our theme.

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

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

VI. THE INCLUSION FOR SPIRITUALITY, 7:1-10:39

A. The Beloved Congregation, 7:1-73

B. The Bible Conference, 8:1-18

C. The Bitter Confession, 9:1-10:39

- Conviction of sin (ch. 8) led to
- Confession of sin (ch. 9) and resulted in a
- Covenant with God (ch. 10).



## VII. THE INTERMEDDLING OF SITUATIONS, 11:1-13:31

### A. How It Was Commenced, 11:1-12:26

1. Responsiveness, 11:1-36

2. Responsibility, 12:1-26

### B. How It Was Completed, 12:27-13:31

1. Dedicating the Site, 12:27-47

2. Dividing via the Scriptures, 13:1-3

3. Defiling the Sanctuary, 13:4-9

### **(1) PERMISSIVENESS BECAUSE OF IMPROPER FAITHFULNESS**

(13:4-9).

4. Deserting the Service, 13:10-14

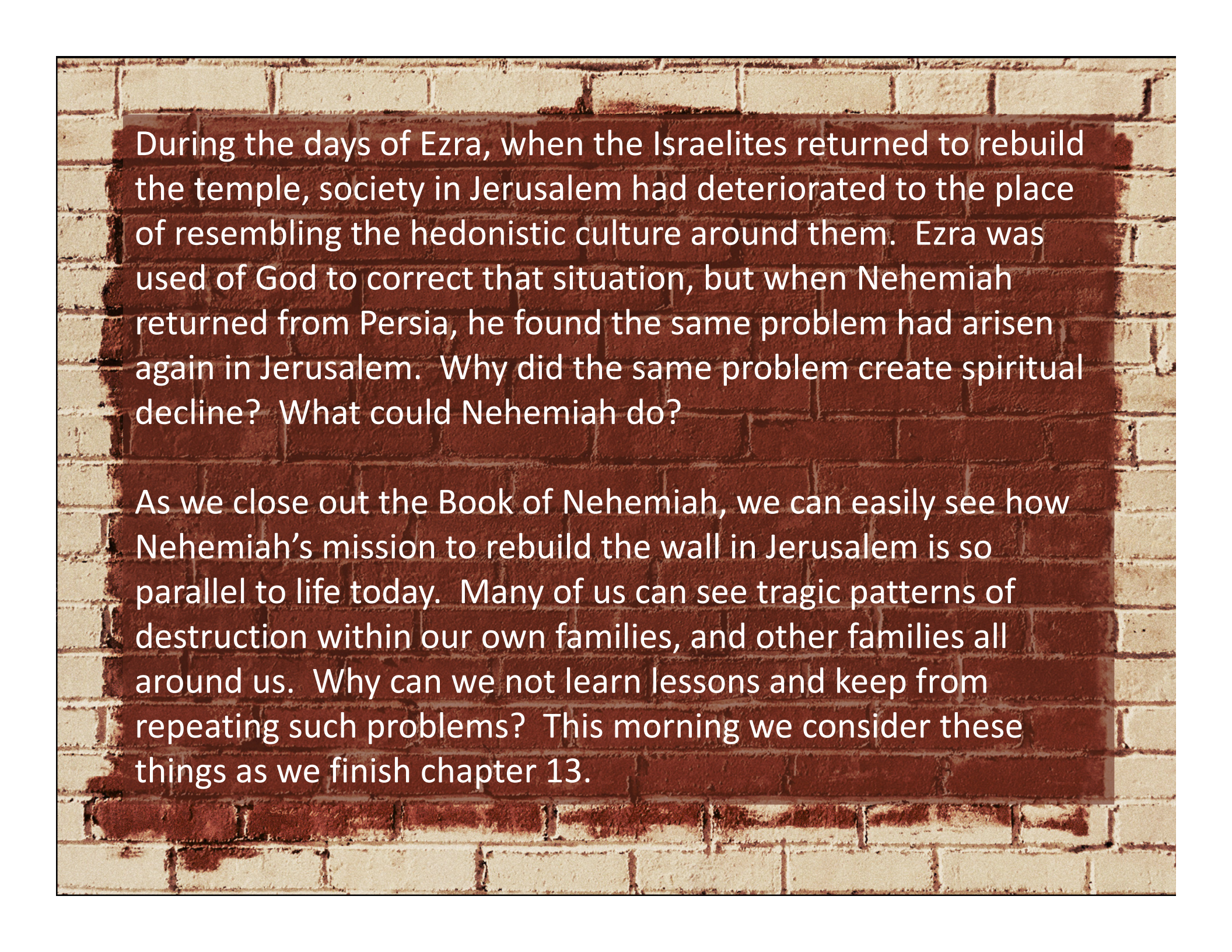
### **(2) PERMISSIVENESS BECAUSE OF IMPROPER FINANCES** (13:10-14).

5. Desecrating the Sabbath, 13:15-22

### **(3) PERMISSIVENESS BECAUSE OF IMPROPER FRACTIONATION**

(13:15-22).





During the days of Ezra, when the Israelites returned to rebuild the temple, society in Jerusalem had deteriorated to the place of resembling the hedonistic culture around them. Ezra was used of God to correct that situation, but when Nehemiah returned from Persia, he found the same problem had arisen again in Jerusalem. Why did the same problem create spiritual decline? What could Nehemiah do?

As we close out the Book of Nehemiah, we can easily see how Nehemiah's mission to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem is so parallel to life today. Many of us can see tragic patterns of destruction within our own families, and other families all around us. Why can we not learn lessons and keep from repeating such problems? This morning we consider these things as we finish chapter 13.



## 6. Doing the Same, 13:23-31

### (4) PERMISSIVENESS BECAUSE OF IMPROPER FAMILIES

Neh. 13:23 **In those days also saw I Jews *that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab:***

24 And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.

25 **And I contended with them**, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, *saying*, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.



26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel:

**nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.**

27 Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, **to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?**

28 And *one* of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was **son in law to Sanballat** the Horonite: **therefore I chased him from me.**

- ❖ The deterioration of a home is usually a very slow process of compromise that manifests horrible fruit of destruction as time slowly passes from generation to generation.
- ❖ The life of King Jehoshaphat is a perfect example of the slow generational destruction:



2 Chron. 17:1 And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel.

2 And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.

3 And **the LORD was with Jehoshaphat**, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim;

4 But **sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments**, and not after the doings of Israel.

5 **Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand**; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.

6 And **his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD**: moreover **he took away the high places** and groves out of Judah.



7 Also in the third year of his reign **he sent** to his princes, *even* to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.

8 And with them *he sent* Levites, *even* Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests.

9 **And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.**

## God's Perspective of Jehoshaphat

- He was *one* of only *eight* godly kings in Judah.
- He was *one* of only *three* kings compared to David (17:3).
- He walked in the ways of David (17:3, 4).
- He took heart-delight in the ways of the Lord (17:6).
- He appointed leaders to teach God's Law throughout Judah (17:7–9).
- He brought the people of Judah back to the Lord God (19:4).



2 Chron. 19:4 And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the people from Beersheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers.

- He appointed judges throughout Judah and strictly charged them to carry out their duty faithfully in the fear of the Lord (19:5–11).

2 Chron. 19:6 And said to the judges, **Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. ...**

9 And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.



- He set himself to seek the Lord in crisis and saw God deliver Judah (20:1–30).
- He walked in the way of his father Asa, doing what was right in the sight of the Lord (20:31, 32).

2 Chron. 20:31 And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: *he was* thirty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

32 And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD.

33 **Howbeit the high places were not taken away:** for as yet **the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers.**



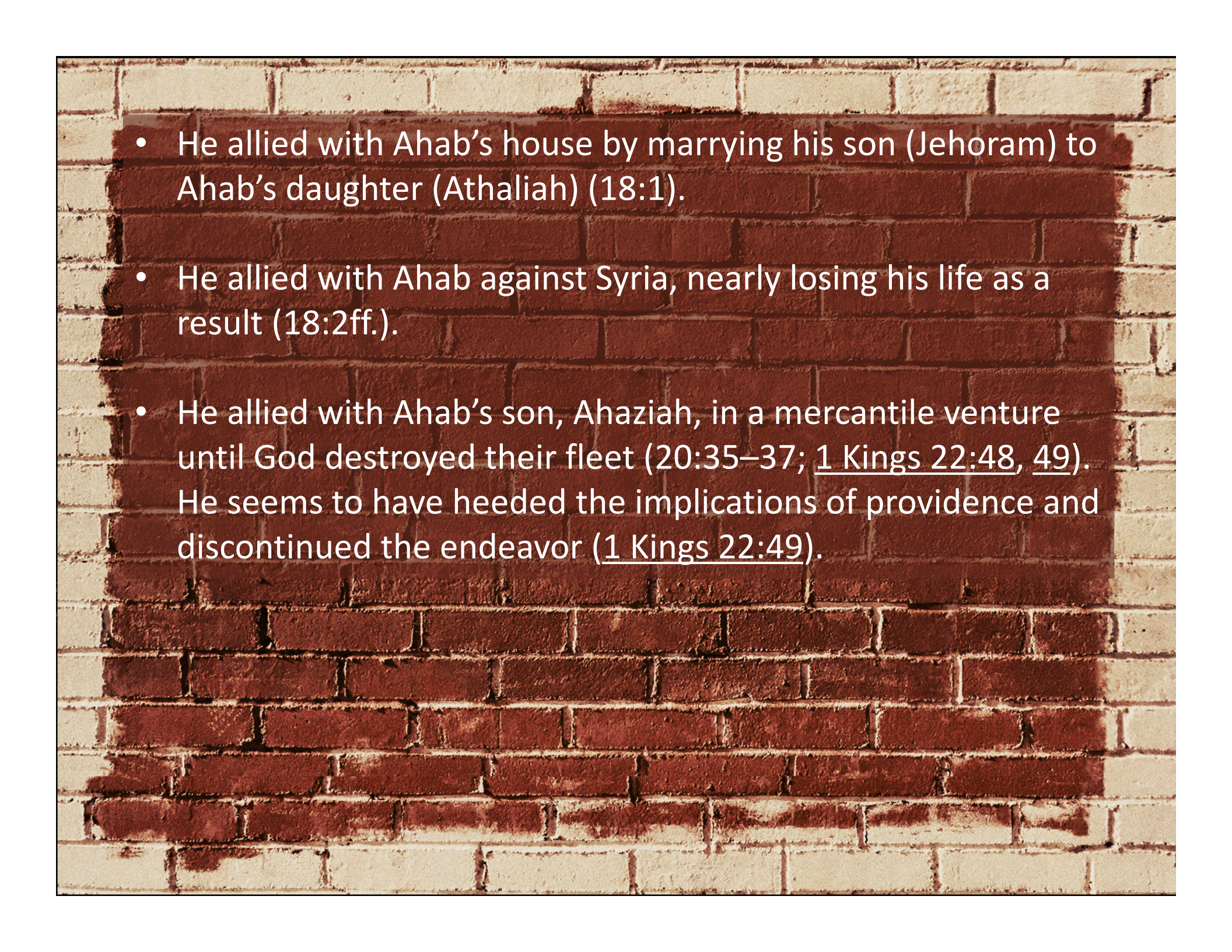
## Jehoshaphat's Permissiveness → COMPROMISE

2 Chron. 18:1 Now **Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.**

2 And after *certain* years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that *he had* with him, and persuaded him to go up *with him* to Ramothgilead.

3 And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, **I am as thou art, and my people as thy people;** and *we will be* with thee in the war.



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- He allied with Ahab's house by marrying his son (Jehoram) to Ahab's daughter (Athaliah) (18:1).
  - He allied with Ahab against Syria, nearly losing his life as a result (18:2ff.).
  - He allied with Ahab's son, Ahaziah, in a mercantile venture until God destroyed their fleet (20:35–37; 1 Kings 22:48, 49). He seems to have heeded the implications of providence and discontinued the endeavor (1 Kings 22:49).



2 Chron. 20:35 And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah **join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly:**

36 And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongeber.

37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, **Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works.** And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

1 Kings 22:48 Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Eziongeber.

49 Then said Ahaziah the son of Ahab unto Jehoshaphat, Let my servants go with thy servants in the ships. But Jehoshaphat would not.



- He allied with Ahab's other son, Jehoram, against Moab (2 Kings 3:6ff.). Even at this stage, Elisha maintains a respect for him (2 Kings 3:14).

## Jehoshaphat's Compromise Revealed

2 Kings 3:6 And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel.

7 And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, The king of Moab hath rebelled against me: wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle? **And he said, I will go up: I am as thou art, my people as thy people, and my horses as thy horses. ...**

14 And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, **surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.**



## Jehoshaphat's Compromising Consequences for the following Generations of His Family

- Jehoshaphat's marriage alliance with Ahab—in which his son, Jehoram, married Ahab and Jezebel's daughter, Athaliah—had far-reaching consequences:
- It created a loyalty to Ahab that pulled him into a life-threatening military alliance (18:31).
- It created an added loyalty to Ahab's son, **Ahaziah (now the brother-in-law of Jehoshaphat's son)**, to ally with him in the joint mercantile venture (20:35–37).
- It created an added loyalty to Ahab's other son, **Jehoram (also the brother-in-law of Jehoshaphat's son)**, to ally with him against Moab (2 Kings 3).
- **It introduced a sustained wicked influence on his own son, Jehoram** (21:6; 2 Kings 8:16–18).



2 Chron. 21:5 Jehoram *was* thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

6 And **he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife:** and he wrought *that which* was evil in the eyes of the LORD.

2 Kings 8:16 And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat *being* then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign.

17 Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

18 And **he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife:** and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.



- It introduced **a sustained wicked influence on his grandson, Ahaziah** (22:3, 4).

2 Chron. 22:2 Forty and two years old *was* Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. **His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.**

3 He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for **his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.**

4 Wherefore **he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction.**

- It occasioned the judicial slaughter of his grandson, Ahaziah, by Jehu (22:7).



- It occasioned the near extinction of the entire Davidic line, when Athaliah, after her son Ahaziah's death, seized the throne and attempted to execute every Davidic claimant to the throne (22:10ff.).

2Ch 22:10 But **when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah.**

- It introduced a sustained wicked influence on God's people in Judah, for by the time of the coronation of Joash (**some twenty years later**) there was a Temple of Baal apparently in Judah itself (23:17).



## Jehoshaphat's Confrontation with Scriptural Principles

2 Chron. 19:1 And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem.

2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, **Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD?** therefore *is* wrath upon thee from before the LORD.

3 **Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.**

- He was rebuked for helping the wicked and loving those who hate the Lord.
- He brought the Lord's wrath on himself for his inappropriate alliances with God's enemies.
- Despite all that, God still found good in him for his righteous reign and God-seeking heart.



## Jehoshaphat's Example

- does *not* mean that all his actions are, therefore, right (19:2).
- does *not* mean that his wrong actions should be overlooked or go unrebuked because he is, after all, a good and godly and sincere man (19:2).
- does *not* mean that there is not “wrath on him from the Lord” for his wrong actions or alliances—whether we see evidence of that wrath or not (19:2).
- does *not* mean that his wrong actions necessarily nullify his good, godly, and sincere character (19:3).



## Jehoshaphat's Residual Effects

Neh. 13:29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

30 **Thus cleansed I them from all strangers**, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business;

31 And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. **Remember me, O my God, for good.**

❖ What can we do to prohibit generational deterioration?

Gen. 17:1 And **when Abram was ninety years old and nine**, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, **I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.**



Josh. 22:5 But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, **to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.**

Psa 101:2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? **I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.**

Jn. 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**



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

Gal 5:16 *This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ...

25 **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

Eph. 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that **we should walk in them.**

Eph. 5:2 And **walk in love**, as **Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us** an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. ...

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but **now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**



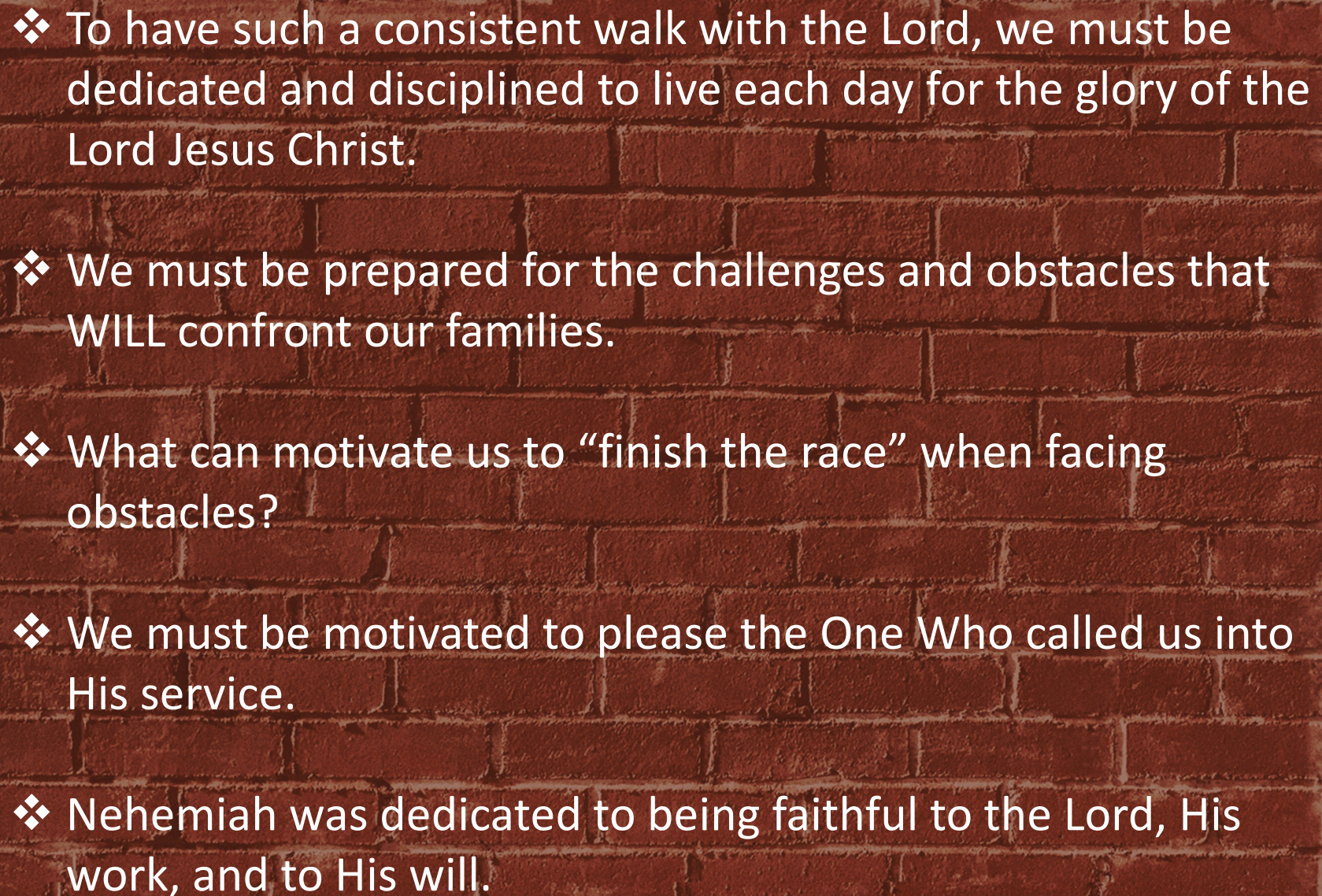
Col. 1:10 That ye might **walk worthy of the Lord** unto all **pleasing**, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1 Thess. 2:12 That ye would **walk worthy of God**, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

1 Jn. 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him **ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**

3 Jn. 1:4 **I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.**



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- ❖ To have such a consistent walk with the Lord, we must be dedicated and disciplined to live each day for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - ❖ We must be prepared for the challenges and obstacles that WILL confront our families.
  - ❖ What can motivate us to “finish the race” when facing obstacles?
  - ❖ We must be motivated to please the One Who called us into His service.
  - ❖ Nehemiah was dedicated to being faithful to the Lord, His work, and to His will.



Neh. 13:14 **Remember me, O my God**, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof. ...

22 “...**Remember me, O my God**, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.”

31 And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. **Remember me, O my God, for good.**

❖ Let's “*Arise and Build*” our families for the glory of God!



## Conclusion

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, **neither count I my life dear unto myself**, so that I might finish my course with joy, and **the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus**, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

2 Tim. 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 **I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which **the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**