



2021

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

Nehemiah 2:11-20

Neh. 2:11 So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

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.

13 And **I went out by night** by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire. ...

15 **Then went I up in the night** by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned.


16 And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told *it* to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

17 **Then** said I unto them, **Ye see the distress that we are in**, how Jerusalem *lieth* waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and **let us build up the wall of Jerusalem**, that we be no more a reproach.

18 **Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me**; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, **Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for *this* good work.**

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard *it*, **they laughed us to scorn, and despised us**, and said, What *is* this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?

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.**



We seem to be having a “hangover” from last year. This year, too, appears to be continuing to be challenging, but in spite of the confusion, this year is an opportunity to move past the past and *RENEW*, *REBUILD*, and *REKINDLE*.

By God’s grace we will **renew our strength, rebuild our steadfastness, and rekindle our spirit.** That is our theme for 2021...

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We have been considering the example of Nehemiah. He already knew somewhat about the challenges in Jerusalem, but upon hearing recent news, the Lord burdened his heart to return.

Nehemiah's renewal started in Shushan the palace:

I. RENEWING: THE CONCERN

A. The Personal Conviction

1. The Interruption of the Routine – cupbearer to the king.

❖ **The Holy Spirit used the information to convict Nehemiah's heart.**

2. The Ingredients for a Renewal

- ❖ Before anyone does anything of eternal value for the glory of God, the heart must be spiritually convicted to move from complacency to commitment.
- ❖ The path to renewal begins with conviction that leads to commitment.
- ❖ This spiritual process of renewal is private and personal, but it has public ramifications.

B. The Public Conversation

1. The Continual Concern – “...Why *is* thy countenance sad, seeing thou *art* not sick?
this is nothing else but sorrow of heart...”

2. The Critical Consideration – “...Then I was **very sore afraid,**”

❖ Accomplishments are done in spite of fear – walking by faith!

❖ **Courage is not the absence of fear; it is motivation to do what needs to be done regardless of the unknown factors perceived to be hindrances.**

❖ When a burden moves from consideration to commitment, a myriad of challenges must be anticipated and overcome.

3. The Cautious Confession

4. The Casual Curiosity

Neh. 2:4 Then the king said unto me, **For what dost thou make request?...**”

5. The Crucial Cry – “...**So I prayed** to the God of heaven.”

6. The Construction Considered

7. The Covert Calculations

As we consider Nehemiah's path to...

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...this morning, we move from the renewal to the rebuilding.

- ❖ Nehemiah's heart and spirit are renewed and his feet are following his heart – he's ready to rebuild Jerusalem.
- ❖ Before beginning the rebuilding project, Nehemiah had a plan.

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, **sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?**

II. REBUILDING: THE CONSTRUCTION

A. The Plan

- Nehemiah scouted the area by night – 2:12, 13, 15

Neh. 2:17 **Then** said I unto them, **Ye see the distress that we are in**, how Jerusalem *lieth* waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and **let us build** up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

18 **Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me**; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, **Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for *this* good work.**

- The “Concern” leads to the “Construction” –
 - Leadership provides a vision – Nehemiah points out the obvious “...Ye see the distress that we *are* in...”
 - Nehemiah provides a solution, v. 18, which indicates God’s leadership – “**Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me**; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me...”
 - Good leadership instills good “followship” = **unity** – “And they said, **Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for *this* good work.**

B. The Preparation

- The renewal is the foundation for rebuilding, the motivation by renewed relationship with the Lord.
- As the Lord leads a renewed believer into greater service, **then** follows the “what” and “where” and “how.”

C. The Problems

- Obstacles were confronted before the mission could begin to rebuild.

Neh. 2:19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard *it*, **they laughed us to scorn, and despised us**, and said, What *is* this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?

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.**

- Obstacles are expected to be a perpetual challenge when engaged in the Lord's work.

Mt. 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! **for it must needs be that offences come**; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

D. The Production – Neh. 3. “...they builded...they repaired...”

Mark 1:19 And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were **in the ship mending their nets.**

- Believers must constantly work on building their faith, correcting mistakes (sin), repairing relationships, and “fighting the good fight of faith.”

2 Pet. 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For **if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

9 **But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off,** and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

E. The Perseverance

Neh. 4:6 **So built we the wall**; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work. ...

9 Nevertheless **we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch** against them day and night, because of them.

10 And Judah said, **The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and *there is much rubbish*; so that we are not able to build the wall.**

11 And **our adversaries** said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and **cause the work to cease.**

- If serving the Lord was easy, everyone would do it! We must persevere through the difficult times.
- We must remove the rubbish that hinders our testimony and fellowship with Christ.

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Neh. 4:21 **So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.**

22 Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

23 So **neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes,** *saving that* every one put them off for washing.

- In order to serve the Lord, a servant must face and overcome obstacles: the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- Faithful service **MUST** be dependent upon spiritual encouragement and enablement:

Zech. 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, **This is the word of the LORD** unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

- What God has called us to do, He is able to empower us to complete the mission.

“When

God places

a burden

upon you,

He places

His arms

underneath

you.”

- C.H. SPURGEON



2 Cor. 9:8 And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you**; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, **may abound to every good work**:

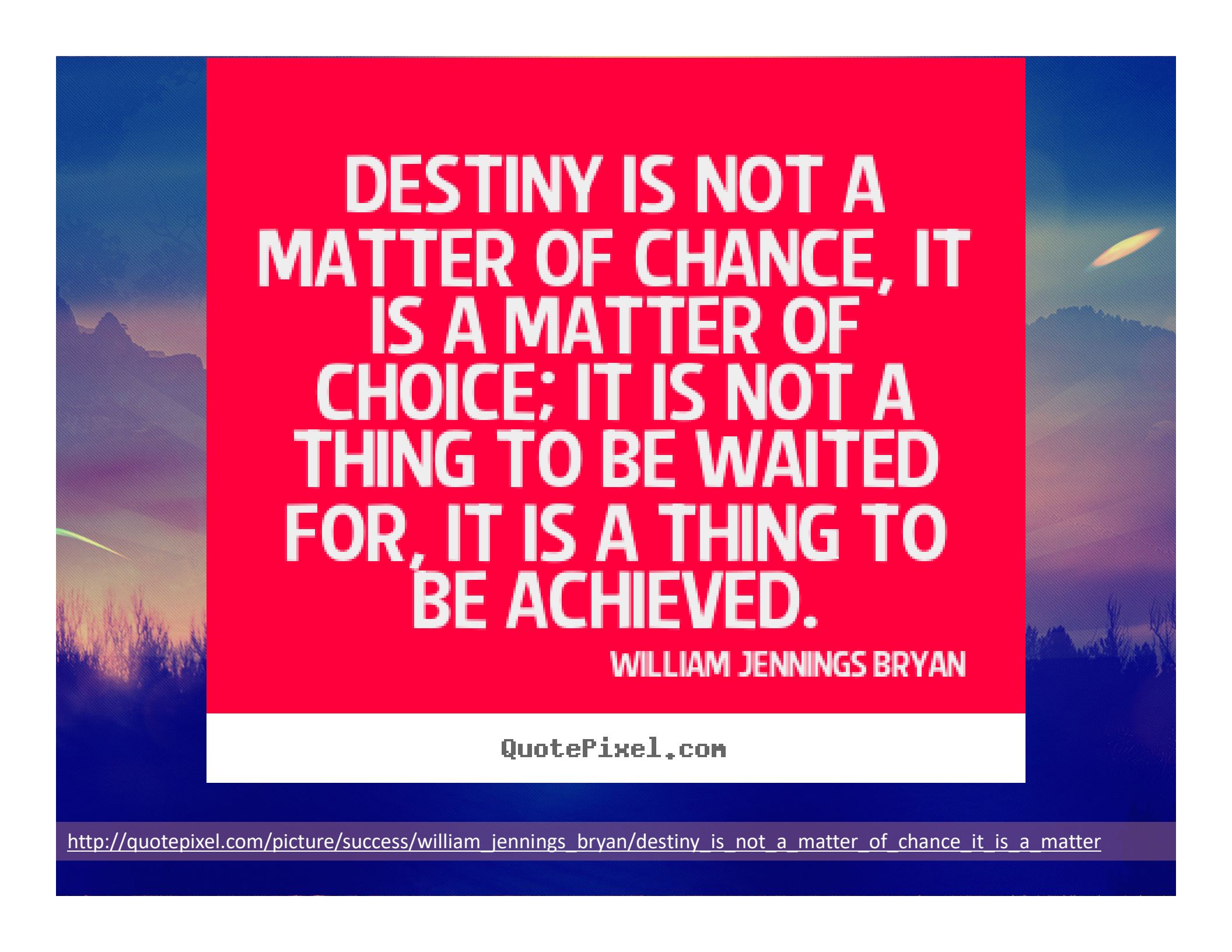
Phil. 1:6 **Being confident of this very thing**, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ**:

Phil. 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure**.

F. The Productivity

Neh. 4:6 **So built we the wall**; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

Neh. 6:15 So **the wall was finished** in the twenty and fifth *day of the month* Elul, in fifty and two days.



**DESTINY IS NOT A
MATTER OF CHANCE, IT
IS A MATTER OF
CHOICE; IT IS NOT A
THING TO BE WAITED
FOR, IT IS A THING TO
BE ACHIEVED.**

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

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G. The Purpose

1 Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or **whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**

Phil. 4:19 But **my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

20 **Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever.** Amen.

The Summary

1. The Resourcefulness
2. The Resources

Phil. 4:19 But **my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

3. The Removal
4. The Resolve

Conclusion

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

1 Pet. 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you:** on their part he is evil spoken of, but **on your part he is glorified.**

1 Pet. 5:10 But **the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus,** after that ye have suffered a while, **make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.**