

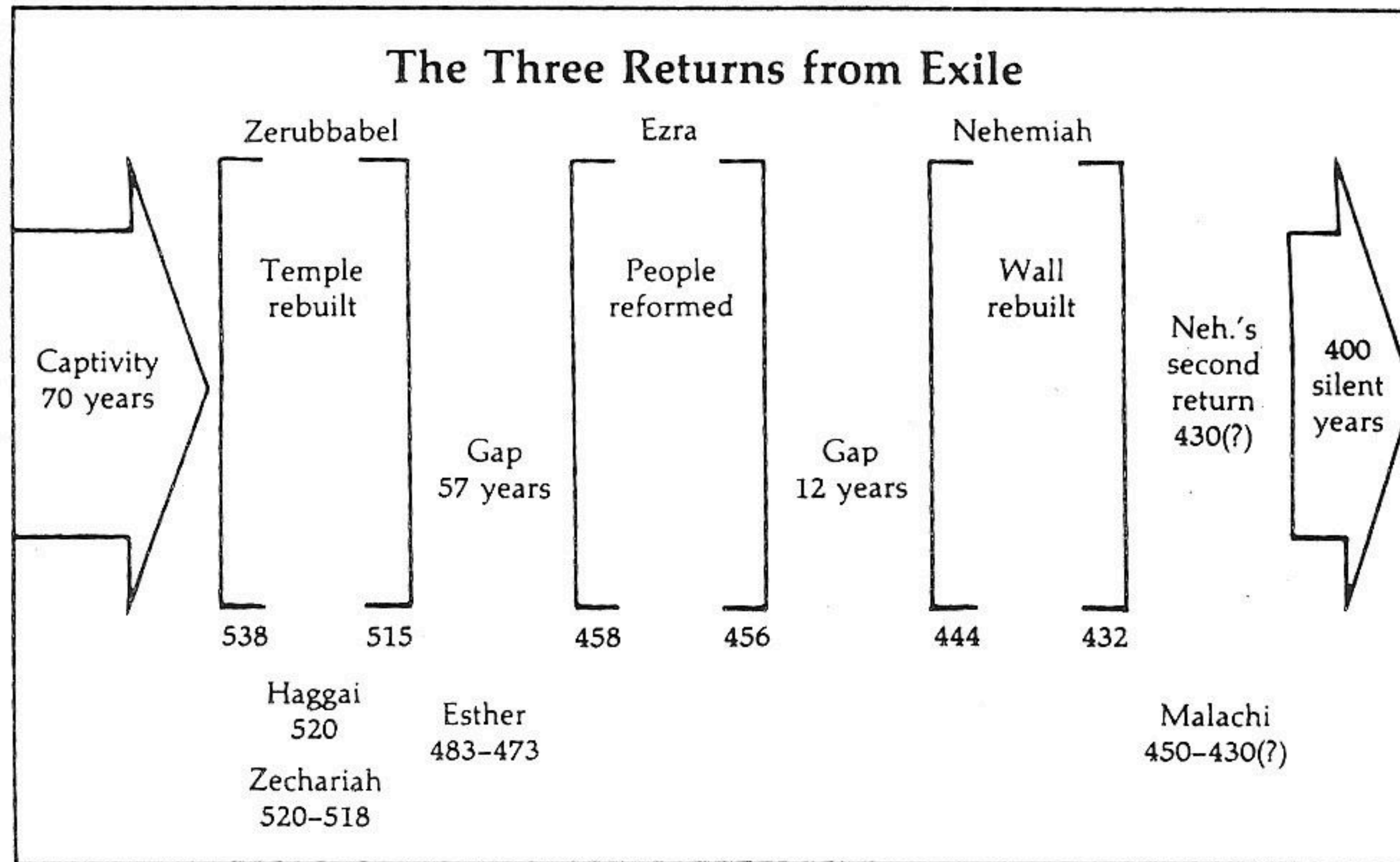




Build

LESSONS
FROM
EZRA &
NEHEMIAH

W





Nehemiah 4

Under Pressure Prayers



**When faced with opposition,
what is your reflex?**

Nehemiah 4:1-3

“When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?” Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!””



Nehemiah 4:4-5

“Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.”



Under Pressure Prayers

A dark, monochromatic landscape illustration. In the foreground, a path or stream winds through dense foliage and trees. The middle ground shows rolling hills and more trees, with a small body of water visible in the distance. The background features more hills under a dark sky. The overall tone is somber and atmospheric.

Nehemiah 4:6

“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.”



Nehemiah 4:6

“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.”

One with a
reflex of
prayer has a
reflex of
action



Fly home Buddy. I work alone.

Nehemiah 4:9-18 Summarized

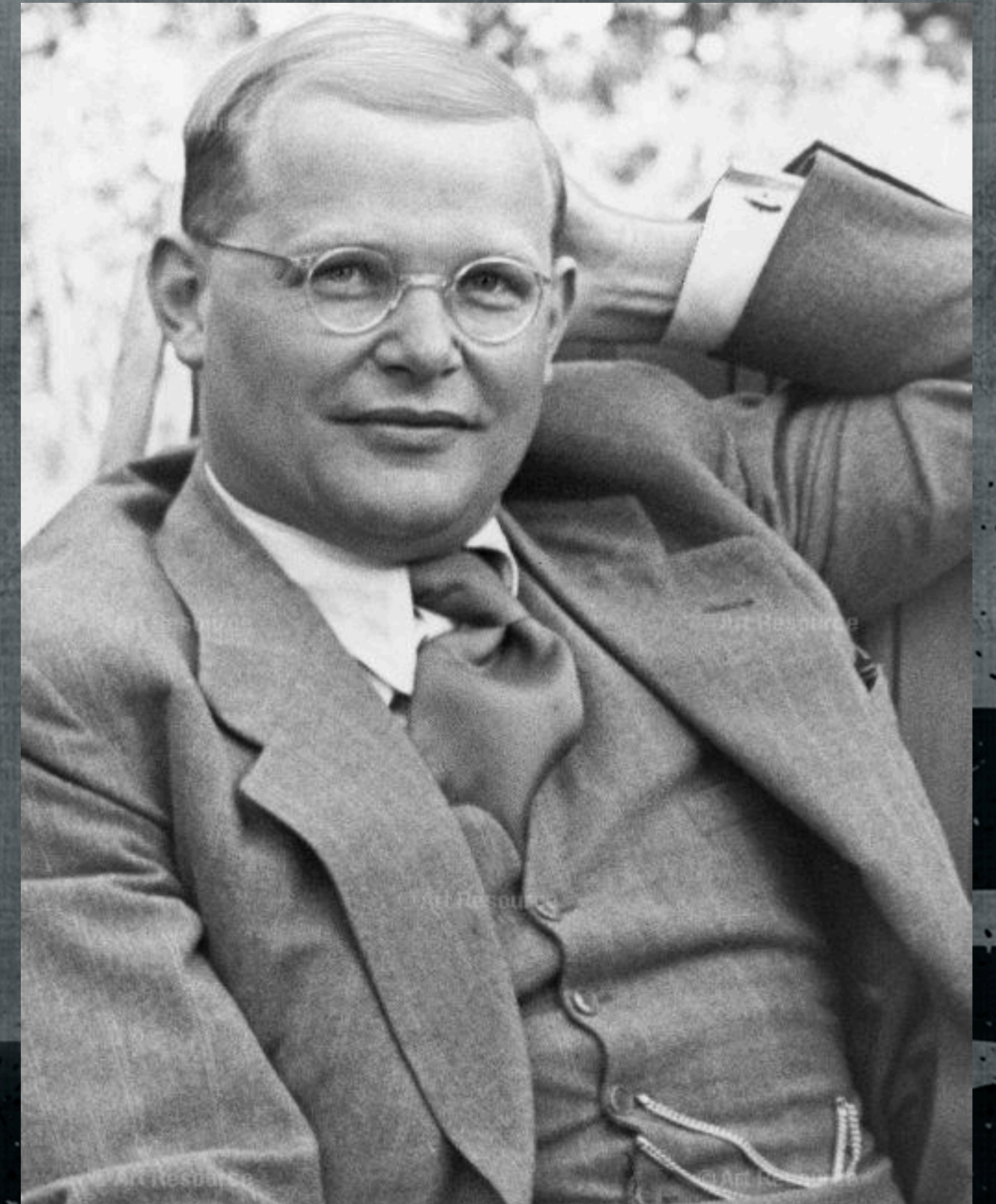
- Tobiah and Sanballat conspire to fight against the Israelites
- Some of the Jews found out and told Nehemiah
- They station guards to protect themselves



Nehemiah 4:19-23:

“Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!” So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.” Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.”

“Christianity means
community through Jesus
Christ and in Jesus Christ.
No Christian community is
more or less than this.” -
Dietrich Bonhoeffer



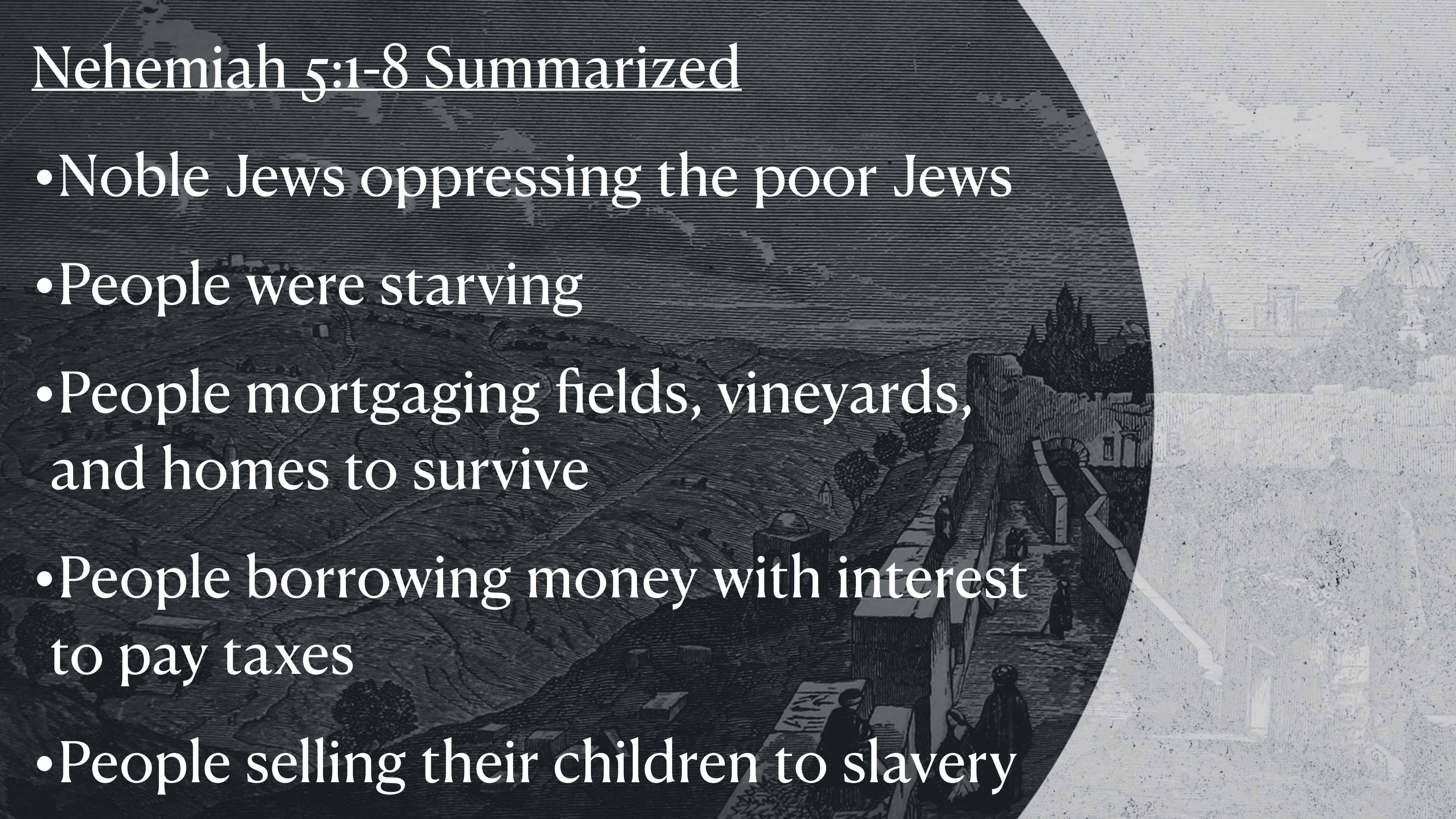


Nehemiah 5

Challenge = Change

Nehemiah 5:1-8 Summarized

- Noble Jews oppressing the poor Jews
- People were starving
- People mortgaging fields, vineyards, and homes to survive
- People borrowing money with interest to pay taxes
- People selling their children to slavery




Nehemiah 5:6-8

“When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.



Nehemiah 5:6-7

“When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them...”

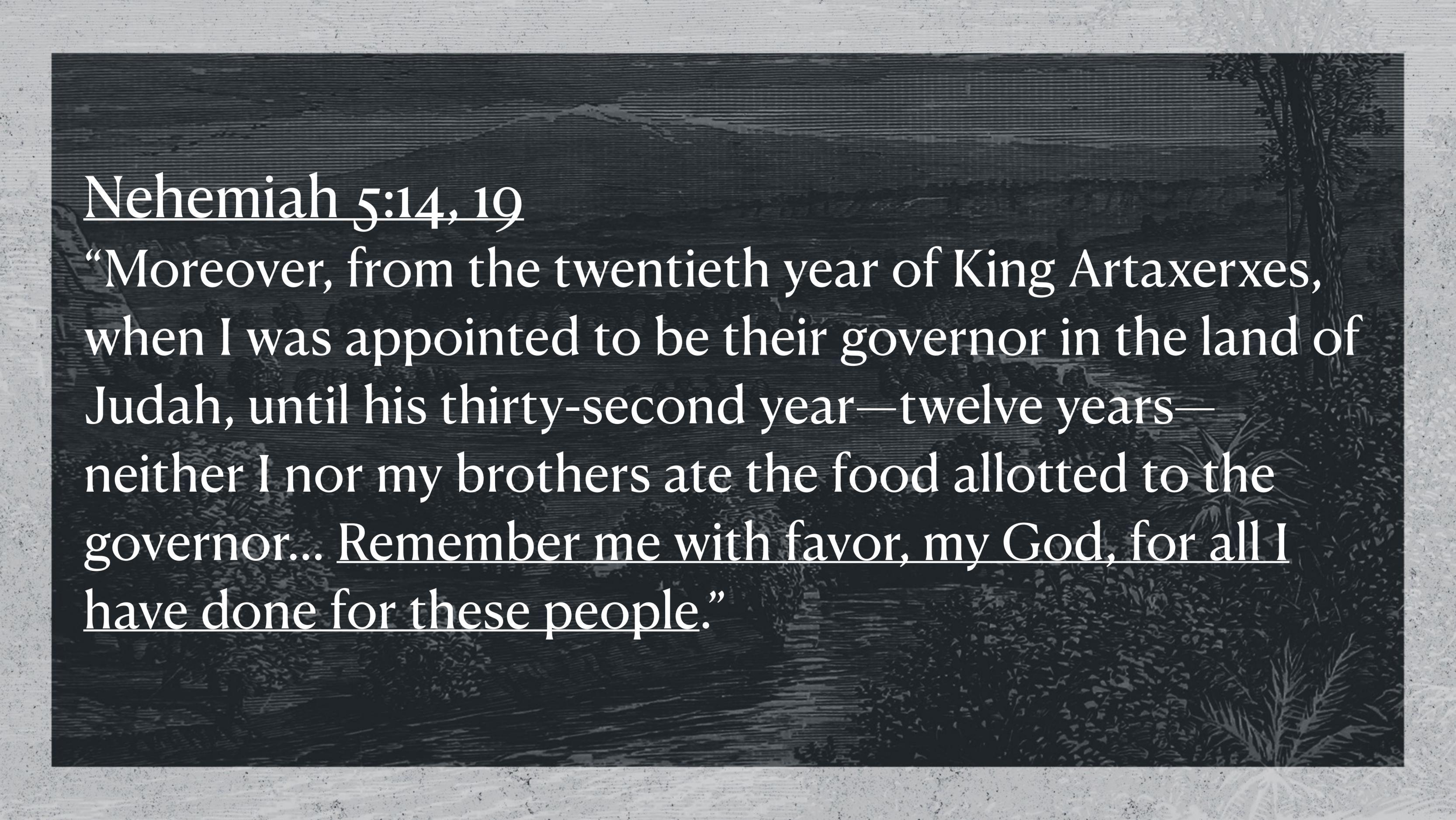


Who have you been
waiting to confront?



Nehemiah 5:12

“We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.”



Nehemiah 5:14, 19

“Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year—twelve years—neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor... Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people.”

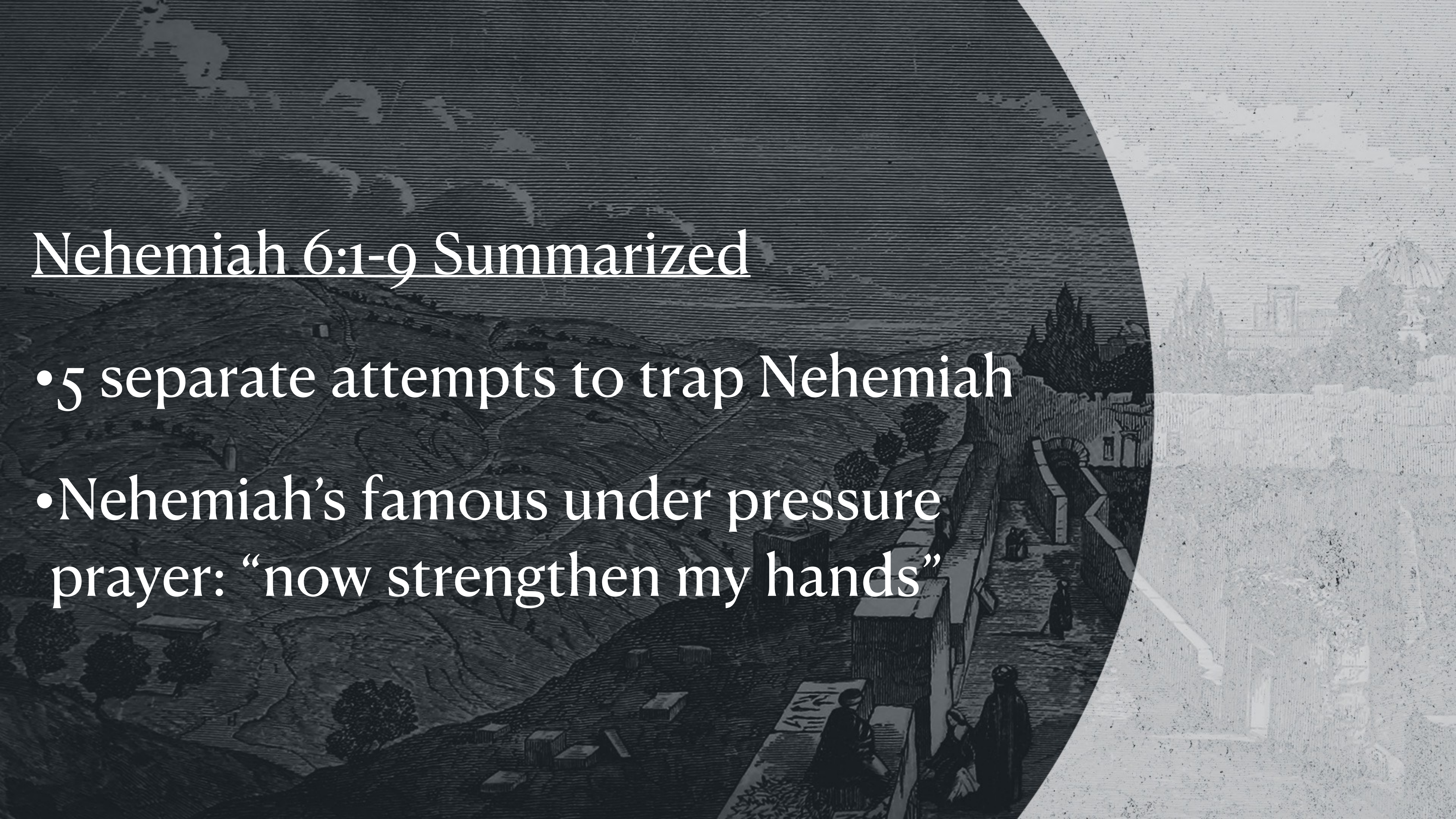


Nehemiah 6

Tenacity = Triumph

Nehemiah 6:1-9 Summarized

- 5 separate attempts to trap Nehemiah
- Nehemiah's famous under pressure prayer: "now strengthen my hands"





Nehemiah 6:10

“One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, “Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you—by night they are coming to kill you.””



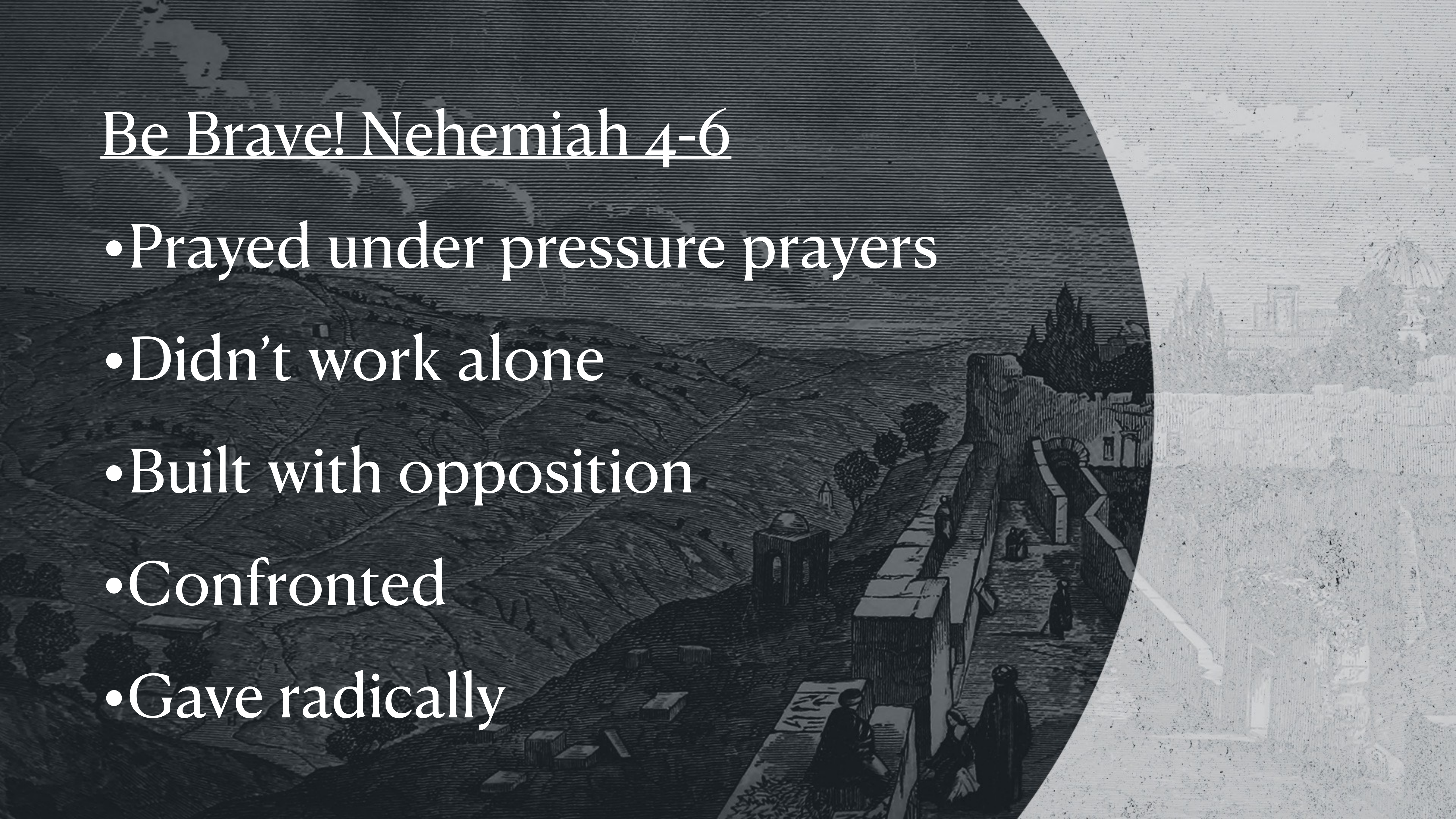
Bravery

“But I said, “Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!””

Nehemiah 6:11

Be Brave! Nehemiah 4-6

- Prayed under pressure prayers
- Didn't work alone
- Built with opposition
- Confronted
- Gave radically



- Which aspect of Nehemiah's character resonates with you the most?
- What have you been too afraid to do?