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# Prayers of Protection (The Burden of the Lord)

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## Rebuilding The Walls Of Protection

Pastor Wil Nichols

May 7, 2023

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***Sermon: Rebuilding The Walls Of Protection: Prayers of Protection (The Burden of the Lord)***

***Lesson Text***

Nehemiah 1:1–4 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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,

Matthew 17:19–21 (KJV)<sup>19</sup> Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? <sup>20</sup> And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.** <sup>21</sup> Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Matthew 11:28–30 (KJV)<sup>28</sup> **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

***Introduction***

In our previous series, “Rebuilding The Work,” we looked at The Call, The Tear Down, The Fight, The Stirred Up, The Provisions, The Foundation, The Altar, The Delay, The Cross, The Restart, and The Glory!

But now we will look at the importance in protecting the Work that we are Rebuilding!

Nehemiah 1: (NLT)<sup>2</sup> Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> They said to me, **“Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.”**

Rebuilding doesn’t do you a lot of good if you don’t protect it. Otherwise, the enemy will just come and tear it all back down again. And that’s insanity, “Doing the same thing over and over expecting different results!”

Therefore, rebuilding the wall becomes just as important as rebuilding the temple!

Isaiah 59: <sup>19</sup> So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

Whenever the enemy comes upon God's people, like a flood of all-engulfing water racing down a narrow path, the Lord in the very midst of the flood raises a standard, (a dam) to stem the tide and thus delivers His people.

But somebody has got to build the dam, build the wall to protect God's people.

Over the next several messages we will look at the call of God to take on the burden of rebuilding the wall of protection for the people of God during their rebuild.

This call starts with the process of prayer!

***Series and Sermon: Rebuilding The Walls Of Protection: Prayers of Protection (The Burden of the Lord)***

***“Weeping for Protection, Fasting for Protection, Praying for Protection”***

***I. Weeping for Protection (Feeling God's Burdens)***

Nehemiah 1: <sup>4</sup> 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,

There are a lot of reasons we weep and mourn; generally, it's because of the vicissitudes or cares of life! It could be from the pain we suffer from the loss of loved ones, the destruction of resources, or the emotional suffering from physical, emotional, or spiritual attacks.

And although God has compassion on us when we go through these sufferings and losses, there is a greater weeping that moves God, and that is the loss of the things of God.

When I went through some personal losses it impacted all three levels of the soul: emotionally, physically, and spiritually; it affected my mind, my emotions, and my will.

But in the words of Eva Peron, from her song “Don't Cry For Me Argentina,” meaning don't join the pity party because of my loss. Why? Because there is something greater to weep for.

I remember weeping, but what I was weeping for was not the hurt and pain I was going through, but for the people of God and the purpose of which I was called for.

Don't cry for me, cry for the purpose of God, cry for the work of the ministry, cry for those who quit and gave up, cry for souls that were devastated.

“Weep for something bigger than yourself!”

Nehemiah 1: (NLT) <sup>3</sup> They said to me, **“Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.”**

Nehemiah wasn't weeping because he was having a bad day, he didn't get the promotion, his marriage was in turmoil, his money was funny; he was weeping because the things of God were under attack!

Matthew 5: <sup>4</sup> **Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.**

The mourning here is not about the crying of our stuff, but it's about the sorrow one experiences when the fellowship with the Lord is being attacked. It is about the attack on the church, attack on the saints of the Most High, about the attack on our Love, Joy, Peace, Purpose, and Destiny.

“For They Shall Be Comforted,” God will wipe away every tear!

Revelation 21: <sup>4</sup> And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

## ***II. Fasting for Protection (Experiencing God's Burdens)***

Nehemiah 1: <sup>4</sup> 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,

Whereas weeping is about taking on the burdens of God, fasting is about taking part in them by denying our flesh what it wants so that our Spirit can grow and become what God wants.

Nehemiah was the cupbearer for the king, and so by default he lived in the luxury of the King's palace, had access to the exquisite food of the kingdom, and relished in the position and authority of being next to the king.

And so, although he wasn't in Jerusalem under the constant attack of the enemy, and although he wasn't living in constant fear of having no protection, he made up his mind that he had to do something more than just cry about it.

Jesus didn't just feel our pain, he experienced it! Hebrews 4:15 (KJV)<sup>15</sup> For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

- He experienced it through humility: Philippians 2:5–8 (KJV) <sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
- He experienced it through sacrifice: Luke 4:2 (KJV)<sup>2</sup> Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.
- He experienced it through death: Philippians 2: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

When we are troubled with the feelings of God's Burdens, we must take on the experiences of God's burdens!

Matthew 17: <sup>19</sup> Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

<sup>20</sup> And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and**

it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. <sup>21</sup> Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Luke 9: <sup>23</sup> And he said to *them* all, **If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

Romans 8: <sup>17</sup> And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

### ***III. Praying for Protection (The Deliverance of God's Burden)***

Nehemiah 1: <sup>4</sup> 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,

When there is no protection for God's people:

- We take on the Feelings of God's Burden by weeping! But weeping may endure for a night, but Joy comes in the morning.
- We take on the Experiences of God's Burden by fasting! When we come after Jesus, we must deny ourselves and take up our cross to follow him.
- We take on the Deliverance of God's Burden by praying. We stop complaining, we stop worrying, we stop stressing, and we start praying.

The reason why a lot of people never experience deliverance is because they are carrying the wrong burdens. They are carrying their burdens, their heartbreaks, their betrayals, their frustrations, their depression, their brokenness.

Matthew 11: <sup>28</sup> **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

When we come to the Lord in prayer, he exchanges his burdens for ours. And we get deliverance because his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

Philippians 4: <sup>6</sup> Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Luke 18: <sup>1</sup> And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

1 Thessalonians 5: <sup>16</sup> Rejoice evermore. <sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing. <sup>18</sup> In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

P.U.S.H. Pray Until Something Happens.

Pray Until Deliverance Happens, Pray Until Peace Happens, Pray Until Faith Happens, Pray Until Victory Happens, Pray Until Joy Happens!

## Prayers of Protection (The Burden of the Lord)

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### Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Prayers of Protection (The Burden of the Lord))

#### Lesson Text

- Nehemiah 1:1–4, Matthew 17:19–21, Matthew 11:28–30

#### Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. *Weeping for Protection (Feeling God's Burdens)*
- II. *Fasting for Protection (Experiencing God's Burdens)*
- III. *Praying for Protection (The Deliverance of God's Burden)*

#### Questions (What was your takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

##### I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. When someone asks you what you do or where you are from, what question do they always ask you?
2. What do you wish someone taught you a long time ago?

##### II. Into the Bible

1. Matthew 17:21 says, "<sup>21</sup> **Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**" What is Jesus referring to when He says "this kind"?
2. Matthew 11:28-30 speaks of a yoke and burden. What is the yoke and burden symbolic of here in this passage?

##### III. Life Application

1. Explain how our weeping, fasting and praying builds protection?
2. Choose any one of the three points in the sermon. How would you use that point to encourage your friend who is having a difficult time with a challenge in their life?