

Discovered:

- Nehemiah heard a report that Jerusalem had a broken, destroyed wall & gates.  
↳ Upon hearing this Nehemiah was distressed, he fasted & prayed.
- Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king, when he went to give the king his wine, King Artaxeses asked why he was sad.  
N: My hometown is in ruins & gates are destroyed.  
K: What are you requesting?  
N: I want to rebuild it.  
K: You may go.  
N: Can I have letters of safe passage & timber from the royal forest?  
K: Granted!
- Upon arrival, Nehemiah went out @ night, in secret to inspect the walls & gates.  
He kept his mission a secret until he announced it to the Jews.
- Everyone worked on different parts of the walls, gates. Came from different houses, different jobs.
- Sanballat, Horonite & Tobiah, Ammonite, harassed the Jews - taunting them.
- The wall soon reached halfway because of teamwork & will to work.
- Angry - Arabs & Ammonites began to plot attacks.  
↳ Afraid - they prayed for protection, but continued to work: half on guard duty, half on rebuilding, but they had faith in God's protection.
- Nehemiah found out that Jews were exploiting other Jews, was angry & assembled them to order them to change, obey the law.
- Nehemiah was appointed governor of Judah for 12 years, he knew the Jews could not support him, so he took nothing, but he often entertained officials & other nations on his dime.
- Enemies sought to harm him - "invited him to meet" (to be attacked) Nehemiah: I'm busy doing great work. - they tried 4 times. 5<sup>th</sup> time: sent an open letter accusing him of preparing to become King of Judah.
- Wall was finished in 52 days! Enemies were in fear because of the speed it was done.
- First day of 7<sup>th</sup> month, everyone gathered & Ezra read the Law & helped them to understand it & they worshipped the Lord.  
↳ they celebrated the feast of booths.
- 7<sup>th</sup> month, 24<sup>th</sup> day - they gathered together to confess their sins, made a Covenant, put it in writing & sealed it.  
↳ Covenant: to observe & do all the commandments of the Lord.
- With the wall finished, Jerusalem needed people, blessed were those that gave up what they had to start fresh.
- They celebrated the dedication of the wall with JOY & great thanks!
- Nehemiah helped to correct/teach the Jews of behavior that was against God, such as foreign marriage, Levites not being given their portion, misuse of offerings & contributions to priests.

Help me to remember:

that we are not to sit in fear but take wise action & rely on/have faith that God will provide & deliver.

Lord, I ask that

I not be afraid to take risks, to be brave but prepared like those rebuilding the wall.

Heavenly Father, I am thankful for...

those who are sent by You to help Your plans along!