

***“Come, Let Us
Build Together.”***

Nehemiah 2-6

Emmanuel Baptist Church

January 28, 2018

“THE STATE OF THE CHURCH”

1. A Look Back: The Dream Is Born

- **A plan was conceived.**

Nehemiah 2:1–4 (CSB) - *During the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was set before him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had never been sad in his presence, ²so the king said to me, “Why are you*

sad, when you aren't sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart.”

I was overwhelmed with fear³ and replied to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should I not be sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

***4Then the king asked me, “What
is your request?”***

Nehemiah 2:17 (CSB) - *So I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins and its gates have been burned. Come, let’s rebuild Jerusalem’s wall, so that we will no longer be a disgrace.”*

- **God sent leaders.**

Nehemiah 2:5 (CSB) - *“If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, send me to Judah and to the city where my ancestors are buried, so that I may rebuild it.”*

- **God provided generously.**

Nehemiah 2:7–8 (CSB) - *I also said to the king: “If it pleases the king, let me have letters written to the governors of the region west of the Euphrates River, so that they will grant me safe passage until I reach Judah.*
⁸*And let me have a letter written*

to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so that he will give me timber to rebuild the gates of the temple's fortress, the city wall, and the home where I will live."
The king granted my requests, for the gracious hand of my God was on me.

- **Nehemiah asked for commitment, always reminding them of God's goodness.**

Nehemiah 2:17–18a (CSB) - So I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins and its gates have been burned. Come, let’s rebuild Jerusalem’s wall, so that we will no longer be a disgrace.”¹⁸I told them how the gracious hand of

*my God had been on me, and
what the king had said to me.*

- **The people committed to build.**

Nehemiah 2:18b (CSB) - *They said, “Let’s start rebuilding,” and their hands were strengthened to do this good work.*

2. Rising to the Challenge

- **An enemy is identified.**

Nehemiah 2:10 (CSB) - *When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard that someone had come to pursue the prosperity of the Israelites, they were greatly displeased.*

Nehemiah 4:1a (CSB) - *When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious.*

- **The strategy of the enemy:**

**Strategy #1: Ridicule
and demoralize.**

Nehemiah 4:1b-3 (CSB) – *He mocked the Jews ²before his colleagues and the powerful men of Samaria, and said, “What are these pathetic Jews doing? Can they restore it by themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they ever finish it? Can they bring these burnt stones back to life from the mounds of*

rubble?”³ Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, “Indeed, even if a fox climbed up what they are building, he would break down their stone wall!”

**Total number of families
increasing their giving
over last year:**

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increasing their giving
over last year:**

Approximately 97.

General Offerings:

In 2016:

General Offerings:

In 2016: \$890,663.21

General Offerings:

In 2016: \$890,663.21

In 2017:

General Offerings:

In 2016: \$890,663.21

In 2017: \$1,085,086.94

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In 2016: \$890,663.21

In 2017: \$1,085,086.94

Difference: \$194,423.73
(+22%)

**Strategy #2: Attack
families.**

Nehemiah 4:8 (NASB) - *And all of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.*

**Nehemiah 4:9 (CSB) - So we prayed
to our God and stationed a guard
because of them day and night.**

Nehemiah 4:13–18 (CSB) - So I stationed people behind the lowest sections of the wall, at the vulnerable areas. I stationed them by families with their swords, spears, and bows. ¹⁴After I made an inspection, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of

them. Remember the great and awe-
inspiring Lord, and fight for your
countrymen, your sons and
daughters, your wives and homes.”

¹⁵When our enemies heard that we
knew their scheme and that God had
frustrated it, every one of us
returned to his own work on the
wall. ¹⁶From that day on, half of my

men did the work while the other half held spears, shields, bows, and armor. The officers supported all the people of Judah, ¹⁷who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried the loads worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other. ¹⁸Each of the builders had his sword strapped around his waist while he was building, and the trumpeter was beside me.

Strategy #3:

**Distraction and
Busyness**

Nehemiah 6:2 (CSB) - *Sanballat and Geshem sent me a message: “Come, let’s meet together in the villages of the Ono Valley.” They were planning to harm me.*

Nehemiah 6:3 (CSB) - *So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing important work and cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”*

**Strategy #4: *“It’s
getting dangerous.
You need to give
up!”***

Nehemiah 6:10 (CSB) - I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was restricted to his house. He said: "Let's meet at the house of God, inside the temple. Let's shut the temple doors because they're coming to kill you. They're coming to kill you tonight!"

**Nehemiah 6:11 (CSB) - *But I said,*
“Should a man like me run away?”
*How can someone like me enter the
temple and live? I will not go.”***

3. Finishing the Work

Nehemiah 6:15–16 (CSB) - *The wall was completed in fifty-two days, on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul. ¹⁶When all our enemies heard this, all the surrounding nations were intimidated and lost their confidence, for they realized that this task had been accomplished by our God.*

**The envelope,
please!**