12/03/2023

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DEUTERONOMY 30:19

call heaven and earth to record this day against you that....

have set before YOU.... LIFE and DEATH BLESSING and CURSING

THEREFORE:

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<u>CHOOSE</u> LIFE,

that BOTH THOU and THY SEED

may **LIVE**!!

DEUTERONOMY 30:19

CHOOSE LIFE !!!

NOT A SERMON....JUST A THOUGHT !!!

"What is taking place in America is a war against the child. And if we accept that the mother can kill her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another."

Mother Teresa

BUILD & FIGHT

NEHEMIAH 4:17-18 (KJV)

¹⁷They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, **every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon**. ¹⁸For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

BUILD TO LAST FIGHT TO WIN

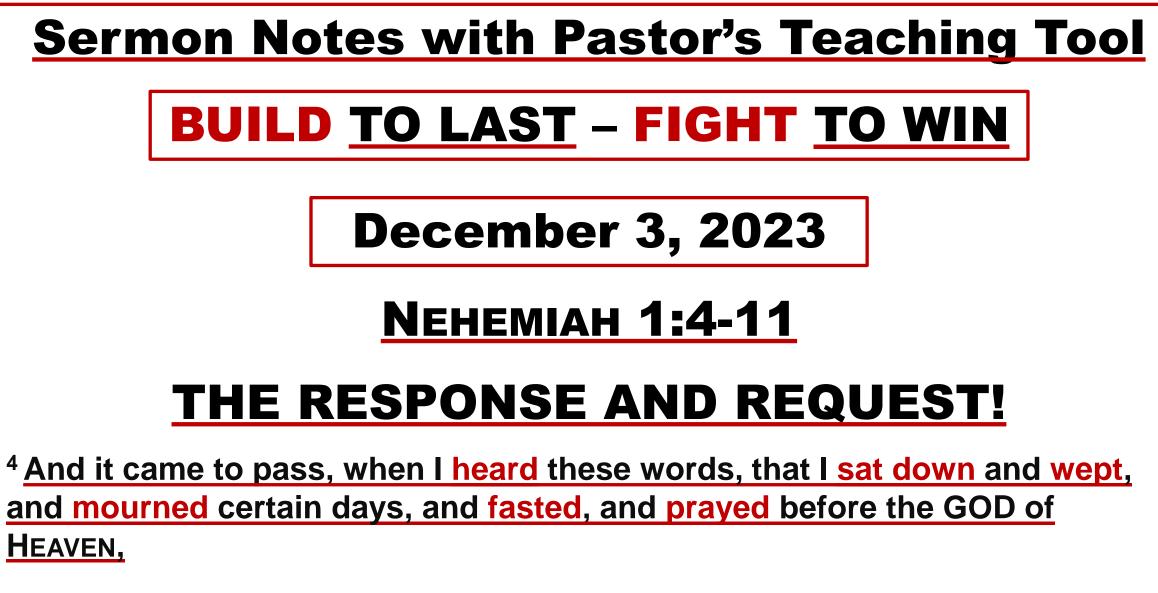
NEHEMIAH 4:17-18 (AMP)

¹⁷ Those who were rebuilding the wall and those who carried burdens loaded themselves *so that everyone* worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other. ¹⁸ Every builder *had* his sword secured at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet [to summon the troops] stood at my side.

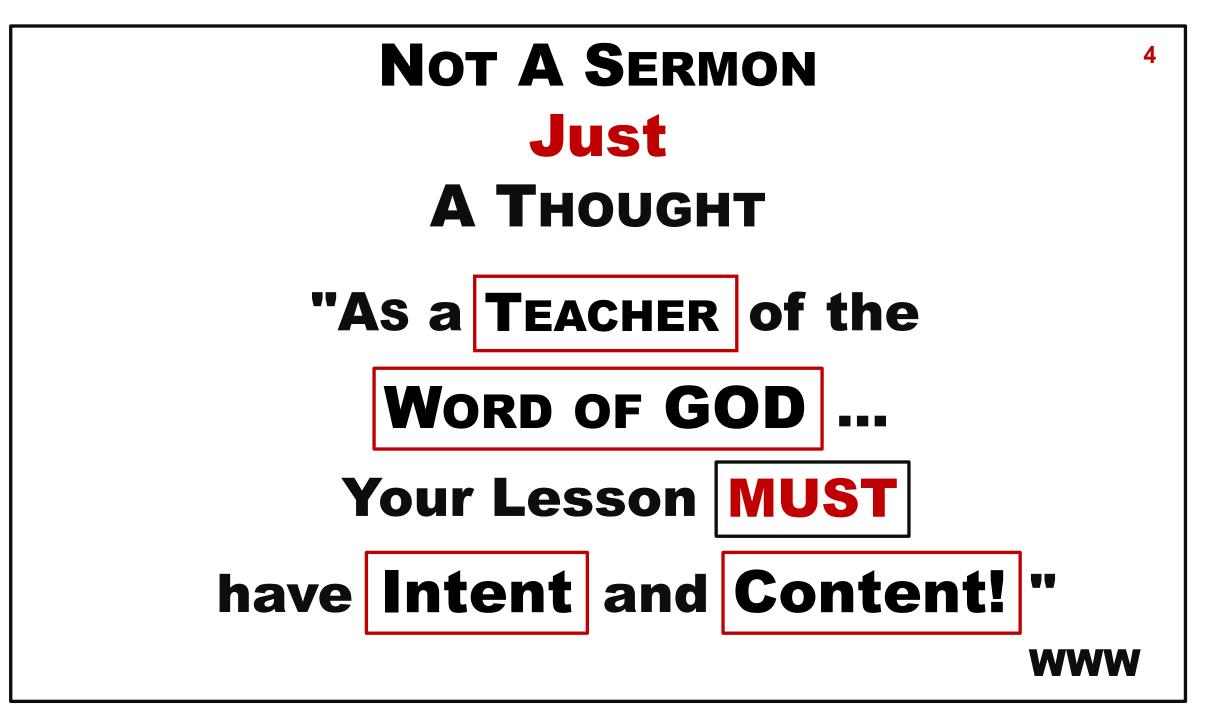
BUILD....To Last! FIGHT... To Win!



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⁵ And said, I <u>beseech</u> thee, <u>O LORD GOD of HEAVEN</u>....



<u>Teaching Purpose</u>

Answers the question, "How should I understand this verse?" Is the passage dealing with a:

S	Р	E	С	S
Sin to confess and forsake?	Promise to claim?	Example to follow?	<u>Command</u> to obey?	Situation or State of mind to avoid before it develops into a sin?

Sermonic Principle(s)

Answers the Question, "What's in it, or What's the take away for me?"

- 1) The Book of Nehemiah is the classic book in the Bible on the matter of Personal Service.
- 2) No SERVICE of any kind can be taken on with so much potential as Service to THE MASTER

<u>Sermonic Principle(s) - cont.</u>

- 3) Service TO HIM can be so/so REWARDING on one hand and ...so/so Disappointing on the other hand
- 4) Whenever GOD wants to get a major work done HE calls out a willing SERVANT
- 5) Never was there a time when men and women of Faith/ Principles/ Conviction/ and Courage are called out to SERVE THE MASTER than NOW...RIGHT NOW!
- 6) The Divine Writer of the Book of Nehemiah declared three (3) purposes for its Existence
 - a) to show the Steadfast Faithfulness of the returning exiles
 - in the face of severe opposition
 - b) to show the RIGHT PATH to PURITY of Worship... the WORSHIP of the ONE TRUE GOD

<u>Sermonic Principle(s) - cont.</u>

c) to encourage GOD's People of every Generation to be FAITHFUL in their COMMITMENT and SERVICE to THE LORD as they face difficult tasks that confront them / US

7) Three (3) men were used by GOD to REBUILD JERUSALEM

- a) **Zerubbabel**....The **PRINCE** represented the **political** class
- b) **Ezra**......The **PRIEST** represented the **clergy** class
- c) Nehemiah......The LAYMAN represented the everyday/ ordinary / servant class
- 8) Our GOD still uses the Laiety / Ordinary / Servant class to DO THE GREAT WORK of Putting HIS CAUSE in a PLACE of PRIORITY and BUILD / REBUILD HIS CHURCH on a SURE FOUNDATION

Sermonic Principle(s) - cont.

- 9) Our GOD still uses the Nehemiahs...(male and female Nehemiahs) to watch and wait and work and pray
- 10) R/ R/ NF...Our GOD will ALWAYS Bless Your OBEDIENCE!
- 11) Nehemiah's **RESPONSE** was IMMEDIATE...
 - a) He <u>HEARD</u> the REPORT/He LISTENED and UNDERSTOOD
 - b) He SAT DOWN / He SAT DOWN and REMAINED SEATED
 - c) He WEPT / He CRIED and KEPT ON CRYING
 - d) He MOURNED / His TEARS were filled with SORROW and GRIEF
 - e) He <u>FASTED</u> / He "COVERED" his mouth / He did NOT EAT as a SACRIFICE
 - f) He <u>PRAYED</u> / He SORT the PRESENCE of GOD with INTERCESSION and with SUPPLICATION

Sermonic Principle(s) - cont.

- 12) Nehemiah was born in Babylon (750 miles from Jerusalem)
- 13) Although He had NEVER been to Jerusalem, He understood the "SPIRITUAL" MEANING of "BROKEN DOWN" PHYSICAL WALLS around the City of Jerusalem
- 14) The "BROKEN DOWN WALLS" meant SYMBOLICALLY...
 - a) The "<u>PROTECTION</u>" provided by their GREAT GOD was GONE!
 - b) The "STRENGTH" of their GREAT GOD was GONE!
 - c) The "<u>HOPE</u>" that was FOUNDATION to their FUTURE was GONE!
 - d) The "DIVINE DEFENSE" that their GREAT GOD GAVE them against all EVIL and all ENEMIES was GONE!

<u>Sermonic Principle(s) - cont.</u>

15) The PHYSICAL condition of the CITY....symbolized the **SPIRITUAL** condition of the **CITIZENS** (PEOPLE) which is the LOSS OF RELATIONSHIP with their GREAT GOD and the **LOSS OF THE BLESSINGS** that flow from that **RELATIONSHIP...** a) **PROTECTION** b) **PROVISION** c) STRENGTH d) HOPE e) HOME 16) So...WTPT?...HTPP! **QUESTION...What Is The State of your Relationship with Your** GOD?

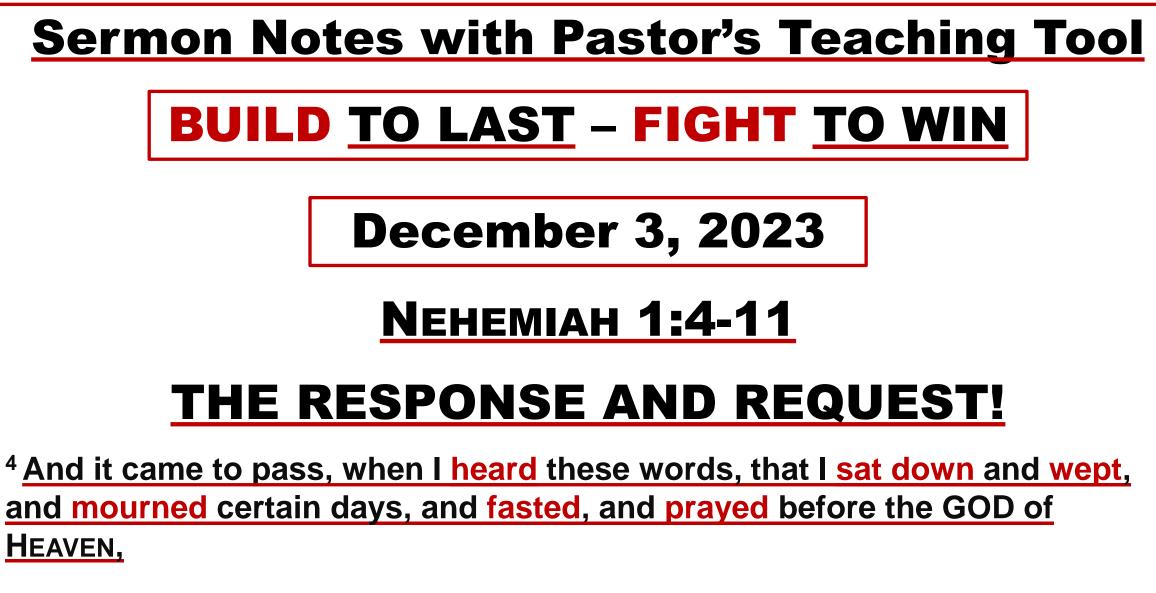
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17) CHECK..."<u>THE WALLS</u>"! The SPIRITUAL WALLS around your RELATIONSHIP with Your GREAT GOD!

Action Point

Having heard and understood this teaching, answers the question, "What should I do?"

LIVE LIKE IT. . . SERVE LIKE IT!



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BUILD & FIGHT

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BUILD TO LAST FIGHT TO WIN

NEHEMIAH 4:15-18 (THE MESSAGE)

¹⁵⁻¹⁸ Our enemies learned that we knew all about their plan and that God had frustrated it. And we went back to the wall and went to work. From then on half of my young men worked while the other half stood guard with lances, shields, bows, and mail armor. Military officers served as backup for everyone in Judah who was at work rebuilding the wall. The common laborers held a tool in one hand and a spear in the other. Each of the builders had a sword strapped to his side as he worked. I kept the trumpeter at my side to sound the alert.



