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COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, April 14, 2011

7:00PM

STUDY OUTLINE #048

THE NEHEMIAH LEGACY: Road Map to Re-Building a Nation

Text: Nehemiah 1-6, Isaiah 9:6-7, Ezekiel 37: 1-23

Words in Marble: 'The birthing of a new nation is here. We are not just going to preach it, we are going to make it. We are not only going to declare it. We are going to articulate!' Dr. Jonathan David (Sunday, March 20, 2011 @ The Latter rain Assembly)

Theme Song: We will arise and fulfill our Destiny.

While rounding up our series on Invasion of the righteous, we came to the conclusion that: "This is the best moment in history to let our light shine in the midst of gross darkness. (Isaiah 60:1-2, Matthew 5:16) It is time to invade every sector and fiber of our nation's profile fully equipped with love of Christ and power of the Holy Spirit. We can change the world if we yield to the call of the Spirit. Change is possible! Change is here!!" These are clear indicators that as change agents we cannot just mouth change. We must articulate and enforce it by getting involved.

Today, we are considering an issue which is an off shoot in our series on Invasion. We shall examine our role in the rebuilding process of our nation taking a cue from the pattern of Nehemiah.. We shall look at: **the Situation, the Response, the Standards and the Solution** with a view to examining our input both spiritually and physically.

Every nation has a purpose and destiny in God to fulfill among the comity of nations. When God called Abram (who later became Abraham), He promised to make him a great nation with a clear purpose; God said: *"And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* (Gen 12:1-3). Nigeria has a prophetic destiny to fulfill based on God's agenda. It takes those who can access the mind of God by His Spirit to implement His master plan for our nation.(1 Corin. 2:9-12). For long many of us (believers) have suffered under the burden of sinful silence and allowed our nation to drift into the strangle-hold of corruption. Our nation has for years been groaning under the burden of corruption. There is a cry for the manifestation of the sons of God to deliver us from this bondage (Romans 8:19-22). **The Big Question is, Who and where are the sons?**

With these in mind we begin our journey into the book of Nehemiah. The book falls into two divisions. The first six chapters cover the reconstruction of the wall, while chapters seven through 13 highlights the rehabilitation of the people. There is no author named for the book, however, both Jewish and Christian traditions recognize Ezra as the author. This is based on the fact that the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah were originally one.

The Book of Nehemiah was likely written between 445 and 420 B.C. Over 140 years had passed since the sacking of Jerusalem by the conquering Babylonians, and generations of Jews have been in exile.

SITUATION

"It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, 2 that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they

THE NEHEMIAH LEGACY: Road Map to Re-Building a Nation *(Continued)*

said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." 4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven." Neh 1:1-4
Nehemiah, a Hebrew was in Persia when the word reached him that the Temple in Jerusalem was being reconstructed. He grew anxious knowing there was no wall to protect the city. He was burdened and stirred for the salvation of the city. In praying, Nehemiah sensed a clear calling and vision, identifying with the Jewish people and confessing their failure to follow God's guidance. He is clear on his intrinsic link with God's answer to the prayer he has prayed.

From the situation report above, key issues stand-out:

- (i) Some people brought him an accurate situation report-Neh. 1:1-3
- (ii) The gory details of the report had burdensome impact on Nehemiah-Neh. 1:4
- (iii) His initial response of weeping was followed by fasting and prayer **before** God-Neh.1:4-11
- (iv) Nehemiah received a clear calling and vision based on a deep-rooted conviction to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem-Neh.1:11 & Neh. 2:5
- (v) He held a sensitive position as the king's cup-bearer- Neh.1:11b

What is the situation in our nation today? Are our walls broken down? Do we have an accurate report of where we are today from a voice God has raised in our land to warn us of an impending doom, if the church remains complacent and keeps **looking-the-other-way**? Do we feel the pain and the burden of the land like Nehemiah? How have we resolved to get involved to bring the needed change we all long for?

SYNOPSIS

Numerous questions stir us in the face today. But, what answers do we have? Our answers by way/mode of response would determine how effectively we can be involved in the rebuilding process of New Nigeria. Our Serving Overseer over the years has set the pace and like Paul will say: ***"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses..."*** (2 Tim 2:1-2, 2 Thess 2:15)

It is not enough to limit our response to prayers, lamentations and complaints, we all have to work for it. How? We shall look at the issue of response in the next study.

PRAYER FOCUS: O Lord give me a burden for change in our Nation.