

# Manifest Destiny

*Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther*

## Calling in the Cavalry

Introduction to Nehemiah 1-3

We have all seen the west-erns where the wagon train is surrounded by "Indians" on every side, when suddenly the cavalry from the nearby fort rides in to rescue them. Essentially this is what happened to Jerusalem in the days of Nehe-miah. He was in Susa, the Persian capitol, when he heard about the desperate conditions in Jerusalem, with its wall broken down and the city in ruins. Al-though the temple had been rebuilt about 75 years be-fore, it was defenseless with-out a wall, and the people were in distress. This, in turn, put Nehemiah in dis-tress, and he became the cavalry who would ride in to rescue Jerusalem by helping its inhabitants rebuild their walls. His first step was to

enlist God's help. He im-mediately prayed when he heard the problem, then waited for God to provide the opportunity to for him to speak to the king. This came about 4 months later when the king asked Nehe-miah, his wine-taster, why he was sad. Nehe-miah was prepared for this moment, and, offering up another quick prayer, explained the problem in Jerusalem, and requested permission to return and rebuild the wall. He gave the king specifics, and was given carte blanche to re-turn and rebuild the wall. Once he arrived Nehemiah surveyed the situation, envisioned the solution and met with the leaders. They all agreed to his plan, which seemed to be



**Understanding how God's destiny for us is fulfilled.**

ordained of God. Although there was some opposi-tion, they immediately began to build the wall as a team, with most of the builders probably focusing on the section of the wall in front of their homes. The first step was to re-place the gates and start from the bottom; with the structure established they were ready to complete the wall. Truly the cav-alry, a.k.a. Nehemiah, had been called in.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

## Daily Questions for Nehemiah 1-3

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

1. Read 1:1-3. What did Nehemiah ask (v2), and what was the answer (v3)?	
2. Based on 1:4-7 how did Nehemiah respond to bad news (v4)? Describe the first part of his prayer (v5-7).	
3. According to 1:8-11 what did Nehemiah re-quest (v11), and what was the basis of this re-quest (v8-9, 10)? How can we apply that?	

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## Ezra 7-10 Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. From 2:1-4 after 4 months what happened (v1-2)? How did he respond to the king's reaction (v3) and to his question (V4)? Why was this good?</p>	
<p>5. In 2:5-8 what were the specifics of Nehemiah's request (v5, 6, 7, 8) and what does this show about him? How did the king respond (v6, 8), and why (v8)?</p>	
<p>6. Looking at 2:9-11 when Nehemiah arrived what was the reaction (v10) and why (v11)? What did he do first (v11)?</p>	
<p>7. Using 2:12-16 what was Nehemiah's approach to inspecting the wall (v12, 16)? Why do you think he did it this way, and what did he find (v13-15)?</p>	
<p>8. Read 2:17-18. What did Nehemiah suggest (v17) and why (v18)? How did the people respond (v18)?</p>	
<p>9. According to 2:19-20 who opposed the work (v19) and what was their general tactic (v19)? How did Nehemiah deal with this (v20) and what can we learn from this?</p>	
<p>10. Looking over 3:1-32 who built the wall of Jerusalem (generally speaking)? What was one strategy that was used (v28, 29, 30)?</p>	
<p>11. How can you apply Nehemiah's approach of enlisting God's help (chap 1), envisioning the solution (chap 2) and establishing the framework (chap 3) to a project God has given you?</p>	

### Scripture to Remember

*"The God of heaven will give us success, therefore we His servants will arise and build."*

***Nehemiah 2:20 (NAS)***

### Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—  
Restoring—Raising Up*

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### Life Group Questions—A River Runs Through It

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Talk about what demands your attention mostly these days. Why must we focus on the Bible, the blood, and the "blessed hope" (the 2nd coming) the most?
2. Review the "river of blood" that runs through the Bible. What does this say about God's plan to deal with sin? How do people try to deal with sin in other ways?
3. What is redemption, and why does Jesus' blood secure it? How should the redemptive power of His blood affect our relationships?
4. Talk about how the shed blood of Jesus restores us, gives us rest, and refreshes us. Which of these means the most to you, and how can you make these real each day?
5. Share some specific ways that we can make the blood of Christ a priority in our lives each day?
6. Discuss anything else important to you from the message today if you have time.