# CHANGE YOUR SURROUNDINGS? SHINE, DON'T MOVE!

April 2, 2017

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.  $^{14}$  You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5:13-14 (NKJV)

NEHEMIAH WAS A PERSON OF HOPE

HE HAD NOT LIVED IN JERUSALEM

HIS GRANDPARENTS AND PARENTS HAD TOLD HIM ABOUT JERUSALEM, THEIR FAITH AND THE TEMPLE

HE RECEIVED WORD OF GREAT **DIFFICULTIES** IN JERUSALEM

And they 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."

Nehemiah 1:3 (NKJV)

#### AS A BELIEVER YOU ARE CONNECTED TO HOPE AND SALVATION

YOU ARE A CONNECTION TO HOPE AND SALVATION

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

Proverbs 13:12 (NKJV)

Nehemiah was a man who had...

### A BURDEN THAT BECAME A VISION Nehemiah 1:1-11

THE BURDEN--Nehemiah 1:1-11 (NKJV)

THE VISION--Nehemiah 2:5-8 (NKJV)

### A VISION THAT BECAME A REALITY

THERE WILL BE: PLOTTING

RIDICULE Chapter 4:1-6

ANGER AND THREATS Chapter 4:7-9

**DISCOURAGEMENT FROM WITHIN Chapter 4:10-12** 

NEHEMIAH PRAYS Chapter 4:4-6

So we labored in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared. <sup>22</sup> At the same time I also said to the people, "Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day." <sup>23</sup> So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes, except that everyone took them off for washing.

Nehemiah 4:21-23 (NKJV)

OPPOSITION FROM INTERNAL STRIFE

INTERNAL CONFLICT

DESTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE—LURE NEHEMIAH AWAY Chapter 6

## A VISION THAT BECOMES A TRANSFORMED PEOPLE

So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days.

Nehemiah 6:15 (NKJV)

PEOPLE RETURN Nehemiah 7:5-6

**REVIVAL** Nehemiah Chapters 8-10

Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. <sup>2</sup> So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh mon

Nehemiah 8:1-2 (NKJV)

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. <sup>2</sup> Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. <sup>3</sup> And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.

Nehemiah 9:1-3 (NKJV)