

## **Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall**

Nehemiah 2:11 – 4:23

Nehemiah 6:1 – 7:73a

Nehemiah 11 – 12

by Don Falkos

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After arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah secretly inspected the city wall at night. Then he said to the Jewish leaders, "Jerusalem is in ruins. It's a disgrace. Let's rebuild the wall." All the man and some of the women took on the monumental task to repair and reconstruct the wall.

Samaritan officials mocked the Jews for their efforts. "Look at that pathetic excuse for a wall. They're just rearranging the rubble. Why if a tiny fox were to jump on that thing, it would fall right over." But as the work progressed and the gaps in the wall were being closed, they became angry and plotted to attack the workers.

Guards were posted day and night, and the people continued to build. Weapons were kept close at hand in case of trouble. Even those who delivered materials to the many and scattered worksites carried their weapons with them.

Nehemiah was concerned about how spread-out the people were. He arranged a signal. "When you hear the sound of the trumpet, you'll know we are under attack. Rally to that location, and don't be afraid. Our God is awesome. Trust in the Lord and fight."

The Samaritans tried to coax Nehemiah out of the city on presence of negotiation. But Nehemiah knew they would kill him if they could, so he ignored their repeated requests.

The wall was finished in just fifty-two days, and everyone, friend and foe alike, knew the wall had only been completed through the help of the Lord. A great celebration ensued. Then a tenth of the families in Judah were selected by lot to live in the city of Jerusalem, much to their delight.