



## God's Provision Through the Process

Chris Lindberg // Nehemiah 6-7

Nehemiah 6:16 - <sup>16</sup> *When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.*

### Joshua 7 – Battle of Ai – about 36 men were killed

- 1) Followed the battle of Jericho
- 2) Defeat was brought about by Israel's disobedience in Holy War
  - a) Sin of Achan – Joshua 6:19 – <sup>19</sup> *All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.*
- 3) Joshua 7:5b – 9 - *At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water. <sup>6</sup> Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. <sup>7</sup> And Joshua said, "Alas, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! <sup>8</sup> Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? <sup>9</sup> The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?"*
- 4) Why so distraught over these casualties? – 30,000 of his best fighting men to defeat Ai (Joshua 8:3)
- 5) Assumption was that if God was "with us" then there will be no casualties

### Nehemiah 6

- 1) Wall completed in 52 days
- 1) Nehemiah 6:16 - <sup>16</sup> *When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.*
- 2) No casualties – No mention of enemies (other than Tobiah) for the rest of the story
- 3) Moving into chapter 7 the story shifts to populating the city and the rededication of God's people. Nehemiah appoints guards, musicians, and

teachers as he takes an account of the people of the city. And in the following chapters we see their hearts turn to worship. This is the proper response to what God had done.

## **The presence of God proclaims victory**

**Two things for us to take away from this story:**

- 1) **Presence** - The same God who was “with them” is “with us”
  - a) Peter 2:4-5, 1 Corinthians 3:16, John 14:16-17
- 2) **Proclaim** – As Christians, we need to practice acknowledging God’s presence through the process and in the outcome.
  - Joshua - casualties was a sign of defeat
  - Nehemiah – no casualties
  - Jesus – death is victory – no casualties