

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 27, 2015
A Time to Build: Lessons From the Book of Nehemiah

The Importance of Vision
Nehemiah 2:11-20

“Where there is no vision, the people perish...” (Proverbs 29:18)

“Without prophetic vision people run wild...”

“Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint.”

The vision Solomon speaks of is _____ vision—a sight which goes far beyond our physical capacity to see.

2 key words in this verse:

3 MEANINGS OF THE HEBREW ‘CHAZON’

• _____ =

We experience this in 2 ways:

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation...For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell...” (Colossians 1:15 & 19)

• _____ =

• _____ =

Perish = Para =

WHAT VISION LOOKS LIKE

“A clear mental portrait of a preferable future, communicated by God to His chosen leaders, based upon an accurate understanding of God, self and circumstances.” (George Barna)

Benefit #3. Vision _____
 “But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. ‘What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?’ they asked. I replied, ‘The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall. But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem.’” (Nehemiah 2:19-20)

_____ have always been part of the enemy’s demoralizing tactics. Satan hates it when God’s people are _____ in their calling, and whenever we get _____ about kingdom work, he will oppose us and try to stop us.

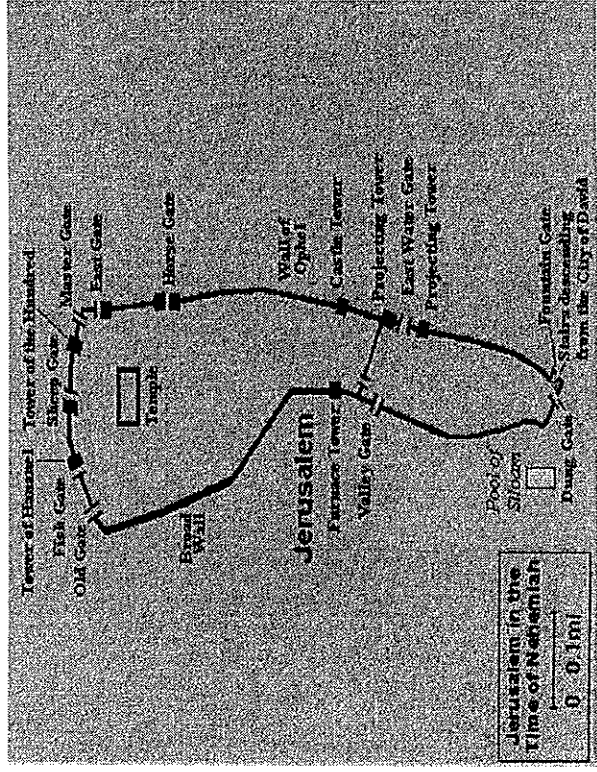
Sanballat =

Tobiah =

How did Nehemiah deal with them?

God is calling you.

What kind of commitment and sacrifice are you willing to make?



#1. Vision is _____.

#2. Vision comes in the form of _____.

Vision focusses on what does not yet _____, but should—a _____ future. Vision is about creating something _____ not in disdain for the past, but rather built upon the foundation of the past and the present, emerging with a reality that's better than what is currently available.

#3. Vision comes from _____.

When we conjure up a vision of the future it is:

God's vision is perfect in every way because:

Vision is a view of the kind of _____ God wants us to live in. A world that He chooses to create through us, if we're willing to submit to the guidance of the _____.

Why is the Holy Spirit's role essential?

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..." (Philippians 2:5)

📌 Building block #3:

3 BENEFITS OF VISION IN NEHEMIAH'S LEADERSHIP

Benefit #1. Vision _____.

"So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding." (Nehemiah 2:11-12)

One of the unfortunate realities of the Church today is the:

The right vision can provide _____ to people's lives. It can give them a sense of a _____—of being a part of something great—something _____ than themselves.

Benefit #2. Vision _____.

"The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration. But now I said to them, 'You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!' Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, 'Yes, let's rebuild the wall!' So they began the good work." (Nehemiah 2:16-18)

Before they could respond, the people needed to know that there was someone _____ than Nehemiah behind this project—they needed to be inspired!

While rebuilding the walls is important, the central theme of the Book of Nehemiah is:

In telling the people about what God had already done and how He'd already provided, Nehemiah was _____ them up for what God was about to do next.

One of the problems faced by the church today is:

All vision is given through the _____.

As a result, vision fuels _____ and _____ ministry.

Passionate people = _____