



# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## Weekly Bible Study - 28:12:2011

Website: [www.victoriouschristianministry.org](http://www.victoriouschristianministry.org)

### Study 25: MAINTAINING THE VICTORY

Nehemiah 7:1-73

"Now it came to pass, when the wall was built and I had set up the doors..." (Nehemiah 7:1). This beautiful phrase introduces us into the victory that God gave Nehemiah and Israel despite the odds and battles of life. The enemies and circumstances worked against them, but God stood by them. The ship where lies the master cannot sink in the storms of life. God's plan will always come to pass. When next you are passing through trials and temptations remind yourself that a time is coming when you will be able to say, "Now it came to pass...." Yes, a time will come when the battle is over, when the warfare is ended, when the storm has ceased and when peace, calm and progress returns. On gaining victory, Nehemiah took appropriate steps to ensure it is maintained. These included the restoration of worship, delegation of responsibility, diligence in detail and giving for the work. It is noteworthy that at this point **"... the city was large and great: but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded"** (Nehemiah 7:4). The small beginning was not a deterrent to Nehemiah being diligent in detail. He knew that "The Young Shall Grow" and that faithfulness in little things attracts divine attention and paves the way for promotion (Luke 16:10-12; 19:17).

#### 1. RESTORATION OF WORSHIP

Nehemiah 7:1; Deuteronomy 28:47-52,58,63-67; 2 Chronicles 6:36-39; 7:12-16.

Nehemiah recognised that it was through sin (e.g. disobedience about keeping Sabbath) and negligence of true worship that Israel went into captivity. Through repentance and faith in God they have been restored to their land and God has prospered the building work. If the victory they had just attained was to be maintained then they needed to make God the centre of their lives, businesses, plans, priority etc - hence he appointed people who could lead them into true worship. When God becomes the centre (of our life, plans, ambitions, education and career, etc) then the circumference takes care of itself (Matthew 6:33).

#### 2. DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

Nehemiah 7:2-4; 2 Timothy 2:19-21; 1 Peter 5:8-10; 4:7; Ephesians 6:10-18.

Nehemiah being on leave from Shushan, had to go back to his royal responsibilities. He did not back-pedal to peace, security and calm of Shushan in the heat of opposition when the work had not been completed; neither would he allow the glories of the victory in the building work, popularity among the Jews or the prospects of becoming their leader to hinder him from returning to Shushan to resume his humble work as one of the servants at the king's palace. All the same, he was not going to throw away the victory gained in 52 days of hard labour to the wind. His concern for sustaining and preserving the victory made him to appoint leaders to direct the people. God is deeply concerned about leading his people into a continued life of

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victory through human leaders (Isaiah 30:20,21; Proverbs 27:6; Jeremiah 3:15; Ephesians 4:11-16; Proverbs 15:31-33; Hebrews 13:7,17; 5:4). The men Nehemiah appointed were already tested and proven (I Timothy 3:10) men of faithfulness and fear of God. Nehemiah charged them on what to do and they did not renege from their responsibility.

### 3. DILIGENCE IN DETAIL

Nehemiah 7:5-69; Proverbs 27:23, 22:29; 1 Peter 3:7.

Though he had appointed leaders and directors of worship, Nehemiah took a keen interest in knowing details of the general populace. ***He could only help them best if he knew them much.*** He could only help them fulfil God's program for their lives if he could understand them better. This search for understanding led him to the discovery of the register of genealogy of those that came up from captivity. ***Is it not amazing that despite the excitement of deliverance they were still diligent enough to keep a record of all those that came out of captivity including the Nethinim (remnants of the Gibeonites)!*** This led to a discovery of some that came out but could not trace their ancestry (vs. 61,62); and of some priests whose names were not in the register. For these priests, Nehemiah stopped their service pending the time it could be ascertained from the Lord that they were priests indeed (vs. 64,65). Had he not been diligent, Nehemiah could have made the costly mistake of allowing "strangers" to offer unacceptable service to the Lord (Leviticus 22:10; Numbers 3:10; Proverbs 25:2). Is your name in the register (i.e. the Lamb's Book of Life)? You had better be sure now to avoid surprises at the last day!

### 4. GIVING FOR DIVINE SERVICE

Nehemiah 7:70-73; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Having set everything in order, Nehemiah gave towards the progress of the work. His good example stimulated others who emulated him by giving generously. The proceeds were collected in the treasury under the oversight of faithful men (Nehemiah 13:13) and used for the service of the Lord and the upkeep of the Levites and priests. In God's economy the Levites were to have no inheritance among the children of Israel, but were to be maintained by tithes and offerings brought to the temple (Numbers 18:20-24; Nehemiah 12:43,44). When giving was either neglected or abused as it was in the case of misplaced priorities that led to alliance with Tobiah (Nehemiah 13:10-13) it adversely affected worship and the service of God, resulting in backsliding. This is noteworthy – that often personal, business or family ties if left unchecked can damage progress in divine service. However, God still provides for His work and usually through the use of willing human agents that He can bless in return (Malachi 3:10-12). The progress of God's work in this generation depends on the willingness of believers to give themselves totally to the Lord (Romans 12:1,2) as well as of their time and treasures (Proverbs 3:9,10). God loves cheerful, willing, sacrificial and constant givers, and He is able to supply all their needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus. The songwriter captured this very well when he penned:

***But we never can prove, the delights of His love  
Until all on the altar we lay  
For the favour He shows, and the joy He bestows  
Are for those who will trust and obey***

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