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### God's Messianic Promises in Nehemiah

**Isaiah 58:9-12** *Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer: you shall cry, and he will say, "Here I am." If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.*

**1 Peter 2:4-5** *As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

Our God is worthy to be praised, because He is great, and glorious, and good, and gracious. He is worthy to be praised because God makes and then keeps His promises to His children

Ultimately, we know that this world is not as it should be; and ultimately we wait for Jesus to come and make all things new, to set the world right

God always keeps His promises. And God is always rebuilding something that is in disrepair. Nehemiah is the story of a rebuilt wall, and rebuilt worship, even a rebuilt people - as glimpses of what God is doing in His Big Gospel Story

In some ways, Nehemiah was like a "new David," more like an incomplete picture of **the new David**, who was Jesus Himself: The One who builds the ultimate Temple, the ultimate Kingdom, and would be the ultimate King:

**2 Samuel 7:10-11** *And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from that time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.*

### The Promise of a New Forever King

**2 Samuel 7:12-13** *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

God has always promised that He would **preserve a remnant** from all people who remain His because of faith in Him

**2 Kings 19:31** *for out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD will do this.*

The Promise of the One who **prepares the way** (access) to God the Father

**Malachi 3:1-3** *Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.*

**In a way, Nehemiah (and Ezra too) are pictures of a New Exodus**

Leaving exile behind

Leaving ignorance of God and His ways behind

Going to (or back to) the place God had always promised

**Nehemiah also shows us that you can relocate people, even change their behavior, but, aside from the gospel work of the Holy Spirit, not necessarily change the hearts of the people**

**2 Timothy 3:5, 7** *...having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power...always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.*

**But Nehemiah is also a picture of how the people are encouraged to return to the kind of worship God demands and King David prescribed for God's people**

Honoring and keeping the Sabbath

Purifying the Temple

Caring for others, including their leaders, the priests and Levites

Leaders who live pure and exemplary lives worth imitating and following

And even how God's people are preserved, but through persecution

Nehemiah even shows us a glimpse of **Jesus's heart for us**

**Nehemiah 1:3-4** *And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire. As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*

**Matthew 23:37** *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!*

Nehemiah is a picture of Jesus, because he finished the work God had given him to do, and he initiated a covenant renewal, both typifying the way Jesus would come and replace the temple with His people the Church, provide the people with security, and initiate a new covenant

Ultimately, Jesus was the One who fulfilled the pattern of heart and activity we see in Nehemiah's life

All of Scripture points to Jesus

Nehemiah testifies to the hope that a Messiah would indeed come

And how God keeps His short-term promises, and those short-term promises being fulfilled point to God keeping His ultimate promise - to preserve a remnant of people who are true believers, the true Church, and how He will eventually make all things new!

God keeps His promises, because keeping promises is in keeping with His Name, His reputation

**The story of Nehemiah is ultimately about God's Name**, and Nehemiah being jealous for God's name and reputation

**Nehemiah 1:9** *but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, through your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.*

**Psalms 23:3** *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*