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Christ in Every Chapter

#MC29

Nehemiah 1-13

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CHAPTER 1

Verse 6: **“Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel . . .”** The name Nehemiah means “comforted by Jehovah.” Jesus was comforted by Jehovah, and Jesus is the One by whom mankind is comforted by Jehovah. Here Nehemiah pictures Christ in that he intercedes on behalf of the people.

CHAPTER 2

Verse 10: **“When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.”** So it grieved the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees that Jesus came to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

Verse 19: **“But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?”** So Jesus was laughed at and despised (Mat. 9:24; Mat. 27:29; Isa. 53:3).

Verse 20: **“. . . but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.”** Jerusalem is the city of the “great King” (Mat. 5:35), not the city of Allah, or the Pope, or Mary, or any other false god.

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CHAPTER 3

Verse 1: **“Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate . . .”** Elishib’s name means “whom God will restore.” This is interesting in light of the fact that the same verse speaks of the *sheep* gate being restored. God sent His Son to restore the way of life for the sheep that had gone astray (Isa. 64:6). In John 10:7-9, Jesus said, **“ . . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”** This was not possible until Jesus came and restored that which He took not away (Psa. 69:4). God has many gates for the Christian to go through, but the first one is the sheep gate of salvation which allows us to enter into His fold.

CHAPTER 4

Verses 1-6: The opposition and ridicule here is much like that which Jesus received, yet the enemy didn’t win. Like Nehemiah and the workers, Jesus remained focused on the Father’s will and accomplished His work.

CHAPTER 5

Verse 7: **“ . . . I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers . . .”** Jesus rebuked the scribes and the Pharisees.

Verses 10-12: Here Nehemiah pictures Christ in that he is responsible for *setting the people free* of the bondage that had been inflicted upon them by their leaders.

CHAPTER 6

Verse 3: **“And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?”** Amen to that! Thank God that Jesus didn’t “come down” (Mark 15:30) while He was doing His great work on Calvary.

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CHAPTER 7

Verse 65: **“And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.”** As seen in earlier studies, the high priest with Urim and Thummim pictures Christ. The Urim and Thummim has to do with *lights* and *perfection*, which obviously points to Christ. Then the fact that they couldn’t eat of the most holy things until such a priest came pictures the fact that sinners cannot partake of the holy things of God until they’ve been *enlightened* and *perfected* in Christ.

CHAPTER 8

Verse 14: **“And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:”** This refers to the Feast of Tabernacles of Leviticus 23, a feast that commemorated the new life that Israel began when she left Egypt. Always occurring in the fall, the feast points to both the first and second coming of Christ when He dwells or “tabernacles” among His people. Jesus was likely born at this time of year, and His second advent will likely be at this time as well. The booths are a temporary dwelling, reminding us that, for the Christian, this earthly life is only a temporary dwelling.

CHAPTER 9

Verse 5: **“... blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise”** For today’s Christian, that name is the Lord Jesus Christ, the name that is above every name (Plp. 2:9)

Verse 15: **“And gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst...”** Both the bread and the water picture Christ: **“I am that bread of life”** (John 6:48), and **“... they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ”** (I Cor. 10:4).

Verse 27: **“... when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.”** So Jesus saved us from our enemies, the world, the flesh, and the devil.

CHAPTER 10

Verse 36: **“Also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that**

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minister in the house of our God.” The firstborn was to be consecrated to God, which pictures Christ the “firstborn son” of Matthew 1:25 (unless you happen to be reading from something other than a King James Bible). Also see Romans 8:29 and Colossians 1:18.

CHAPTER 11

Verse 19: **“Moreover the porters, Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren that kept the gates . . .”** Although in John chapter ten, Jesus is the Shepherd, not the porter, it can still be said that a porter (a gate keeper) can picture Christ because it is Christ who said, **“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death”** (Rev. 1:18), and it was Christ who **“openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth”** (Rev. 3:7).

CHAPTER 12

Verse 43: **“ . . . God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.”** Here we have a foreshadow of the second coming of Christ, when the Jews have returned to the homeland the “second time” (Isa. 11:11) and when Jerusalem will be made to rejoice once again. A good reference is Zephaniah 3:14-15: **“Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.”**

CHAPTER 13

Verses 7-8: **“And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber.”** This was done in much the same fashion and spirit in which Jesus cleansed the temple in Matthew 21:12-13, and it also illustrates the fact that sinners will be cast out of His presence into a lake of fire one day (Rev. 20:15).