

**Monday, 8 April 2019** Nehemiah 6:15-16

*So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.*

Why were all the nations afraid? No question that it was the display of the power of the LORD, God, the Almighty. Fifty-two days to restore and rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. Such a project today would take 52 months just to clear the bureaucracy.

But the more profound question is, do we see that fear being displayed today? Is the Fear of the LORD something that brings terror into secular and pagan hearts? Is that the driving force behind the martyrdom of thousands of our fellow believers? We live sheltered and peaceful lives in this country. Is it because we do not display the Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty in our daily lives?

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**Tuesday, 9 April 2019** Nehemiah 6:18-7:2

*For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah: and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as his wife. Also, they spoke of his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid. Now when the wall had been built, and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many.*

The world spared nothing, no stone unturned in their attempts to dissuade Nehemiah and weaken his resolve. I can almost hear and see his reaction as he maintains a stable business as usual attitude. Wall—finished. Next task—organize the maintenance staff.

Do I, as Nehemiah, or as Jesus in Luke 9:51 “*When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.*” set my face towards the task at hand? The task of making disciples everywhere I go?

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**Wednesday, 10 April 2019** Nehemiah 7:2

*I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many.*

Two men, proven in their integrity and the depth of their faith, appointed to manage the affairs of the restored Jerusalem. Their past demonstrated their ability to advance the task of returning the Jews from exile.

One of the lessons to me is to be diligent in the small things before I step forward seeking more responsibility.

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**Thursday, 11 April 2019** Esther 8:17

*And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.*

Very interesting for I am sure that not many if any of the Persians declared themselves to be Jews while the edict of Haman was in force. But now, with the elevation of Mordecai to second to the king, it was socially beneficial to be a Jew. Likewise in this country until recently, but no longer. Now it is becoming a point of derision for a candidate for public office at any level to declare their belief in and adherence to the Word of the LORD.

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**Friday, 12 April 2019** Esther 9:2-3

*The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could stand against them, for fear of them had fallen on all peoples. All the officials of the provinces and the satraps and the governors and the royal agents also helped the Jews, for the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them.*

Fear in mankind is fear of mankind. It does not include trust or hope but terror. The terror may be weak, but it exists. I cannot wholly trust any man who does not follow the LORD; he will act in self-interest at some point in time, given what may be, to me, an unknown stimulus.

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**Saturday, 13 April 2019** Esther 9:2-3

*The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could stand against them, for the fear of them had fallen on all peoples. All the officials of the provinces and the satraps and the governors and the royal agents also helped the Jews, for the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them.*

I see a more profound fear here in the officials of the kingdom. This Mordecai fellow exhibited an unexplainable power in going from a non-descript Jew sitting at the palace gate to a man of total control and authority. How did he engineer the complete eradication of Haman? And overnight at that? They did not see that he was one of the Chosen; they only saw him as a manipulator.

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**Lord's Day, 230 April 2019**

*Psalm 119:122*

*The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.*

Lord, that light will shine within the prisons as we go in to give the story of salvation through You alone, for there is no other name, given under heaven, whereby men might be saved. Lord, my prayer is that we would preach no other name ever.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*April 8-14, 2019*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Timothy 1:12**

*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.*

Thank you, Christ Jesus our Lord, that You have given us the strength, that You have considered us faithful, that You have appointed us to our personal mission fields

Guide us in all ways that we may never lose our focus on our appointed mission; to proclaim the Gospel, to carry the message of repentance and restoration to all people, nations and tribes, and to lead all to a life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. *Amen*

***To fear or not to fear, that is the question.***

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. All Scripture is from the ESV unless otherwise noted. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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of the Kingdom of God.