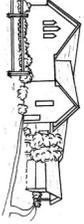


**NORTHWOODS
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WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH. JOHN 4:24

Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." Neh 2:17

THE NORTHWOODS NEWS

Building a Wall

By
Rich Cesal

For those who do not believe in walls as a deterrent for illegal border crossings, a good look at history will show you are mistaken. As a matter of history, there have always been walls to stop people from crossing into a city or country illegally. Paris had a wall, there is the Great Wall of China, the Berlin Wall, and Jerusalem had a wall to name a few.

The Bible also has a great story about a wall. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah tell the story of a rebuilding of the temple and of the wall of Jerusalem after the Babylonian conquest and exile of Judah. The Babylonians completely destroyed Jerusalem in 597 BC—587 BC and took most of the population into captivity. Then after 70 years, the Jews were allowed back into Jerusalem. The experts say these two books are thought to have been one when originally written but were separated into two later on.

The book of Ezra tells of the rebuilding of the temple and the book of Nehemiah tells of the rebuilding of the wall. Jerusalem as all large important cities had a wall around them to prevent unwanted people from entering the city. As the city grew, the wall was extended to encompass the growing city. At the time of the exile, the Jerusalem wall was 4,018 meters (2.4966 mi) long, the average height was 12 meters (39.37 feet) and the average

thickness is 2.5 meters (8.2 feet). The walls contained 34 watchtowers and seven main gates open for traffic.

Nehemiah is the cup bearer for king Artaxerxes which means he has to sample all the food and drink that the king ingests. We are given in 2 Kings 25:8-11 how and why Jerusalem came to be destroyed. "And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire. And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around. Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive the rest of the people who remained in the city and the defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, with the rest of the multitude".

Seventy years later, we are told in Neh 1:1-3, "The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, 'The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.' "

We are told that upon hearing the condition of the people in Jerusalem Nehemiah became sick and he dropped to his knees and prayed that God would have mercy on Jerusalem and to remember His promise. Neh 1:7-9, "We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.' "

Archaeologists have uncovered large portions of the wall that have survived to this day. It was this wall with its gates that Nehemiah reconstructed after his return from Babylon. By 537 BC the Jews were allowed to return to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

Nehemiah had been given the privileged position of cupbearer to King Artaxerxes and held that office when the King allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem. Nehemiah informed the King of his concern for

the people of Jerusalem. It pleased the King to send Nehemiah to Jerusalem to see the problem for himself.

After the Babylonian Captivity, a remnant of the Jewish people had returned to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Ezra. These returned exiles had rebuilt the temple, but they were now in need of protection. The lack of fortified walls around the city left the people defenseless against enemies. Weather, wild animals, opposing people, and other opponents could easily enter and cause "great trouble" to the people.

This news was cause for grave concern, for the walls and gates of ancient cities provided necessary protection from enemies. A community whose walls and gates were broken down was vulnerable and defenseless against attack.

The book of Nehemiah gives us almost a day by day account of the rebuilding of the wall. Following is mostly a paraphrase of the book of Nehemiah.

Nehemiah prayed long and hard finishing with this: "O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." For I was the king's cupbearer. (Neh 1:11)

Nehemiah asked the king to be excused to journey to Jerusalem to repair the wall. The king granted Nehemiah's request. Nehemiah also asked the king to grant him letters for safe passage to Judah and the king's forest keeper for the timbers to repair the gates. The king also sent elements of his army with Nehemiah.

Upon arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah went out at night on a secret trip and traveled around the wall to assess its condition. He gathered much information to assist him in managing the repair of the wall.

There were enemies of Judah in the region, Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab, all vowed to put an end to any attempt to help the people of Judah. But Nehemiah told the people of Jerusalem that the God of heaven would prosper their efforts. Nehemiah organized the people to begin the rebuilding.

Eliashib the high priest along with his priestly brethren built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They built the wall as far as the Tower of the Hundred, and consecrated it, then as far as the Tower of Hananel.

Further repairs to the wall rebuilt it up to the Fish Gate where they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars. Several men are now named as those who repaired the wall's sections up to the

Old Gate whose beams were laid as well as they hung its doors with bolts and bars.

From there, Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, repaired the residence of the governor of the region beyond the River. Next, Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Also next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they fortified Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

And next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, leader of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs. Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs in front of his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabniah made repairs. Malchijah the son of Harim and Hashub the son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section, as well as the Tower of the Ovens.

Several others are named as having repaired specific sections of the wall. Also, there were the daughters of some of the repairers who are named as having repaired some of the wall. The Valley Gate, a thousand cubits of the wall, the Refuse Gate, and the Fountain Gate also were repaired.

Leaders of the districts of Jerusalem also made repairs of sections of the wall. And after them the priests, the men of the plain also made repairs. Many made repairs in front of their houses.

But when Sanballat heard that they were rebuilding the wall, he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. Tobiah the Ammonite was with Sanballat bent on stopping Nehemiah and the repairers.

When Nehemiah heard of the actions of those opposed to them, he prayed. "Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders." (Neh 4:4-5)

"Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion." (Neh 4:7-8)

Nehemiah set a watch against them day and night. Nehemiah divided the people into half and set half with spears, shields, bows and armor and the other half to repairing. Those working on the wall worked with one hand and the other hand held a weapon. Everyone of the builders had their swords girded at their side.

The repairs of the wall took 52 days and was complete.

Nehemiah then began a registry of all the people in Jerusalem with their numbers. He listed by families and counted all. The whole of the

assembly was 42,360 with 7,337 servants and 245 male and female singers and 736 horses and 245 mules with 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.

Then the people celebrated the completion of the wall. Neh 8:1-12, "And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel. And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law. And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

"Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, this day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength. So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved. And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them."

So, the people of Jerusalem could rest in peace that they now had the protection and the prestige of the wall surrounding Jerusalem. Ω

Here is the story behind *The Church's One Foundation* written by Tim Challis.

Songs are a powerful means of teaching. The melodies, rhythms, and rhymes that characterize songs make the words easier to remember. The best and most effective songs combine lyrics and music to cultivate feelings that complement the meaning.

All throughout history God's people have used songs to teach. We can see this as early as Exodus 15 where Moses records the song Israel sang after crossing the Red Sea. It taught everyone who heard and sang it about God's character in that great act of delivering his people. In the New Testament we encounter simple but important truths in the earliest Christian hymns.

The Rev. Samuel John Stone was well aware of the effectiveness of singing when he wrote and published *Lyra Fidelium* in 1866. As a curate in the small town of Windsor, England, he was aware of his parishioner's habit of using the Apostles' Creed in their private prayers. But he was concerned that many of them did not grasp the meaning of what they said. The prose felt too academic, disconnected from the average worshipper, and lacking a devotional spirit.

It was in this context that he wrote *Lyra Fidelium*, which consisted of twelve hymns, one for each article of the Apostles' Creed. With each hymn he included a short "summary of truths confessed" in that article, along with a list of the Scripture passages supporting it. "The Church's One Foundation" was the hymn he wrote for article 9 of the Creed, which affirms belief in "the holy catholic church" and "the communion of saints."

"The Church's One Foundation" is the best known of the twelve hymns in this collection. Louis Benson quotes one English archbishop as saying that "wherever he was called upon to open or dedicate a church, he could always count on two things—cold chicken and 'The Church's one Foundation'."

The hymn's long legacy undoubtedly owes to the many sweet doctrines it includes, its use of the words and concepts of Scripture to express them, and its uniqueness in teaching the doctrine of the church. Benson describes it as embodying "practically every doctrine concerning the church [Stone] held most dear (its divine origin, its unbroken continuity, its catholicity and essential unity, its orthodoxy, its sacramental grace, its communion with God and with the departed saints, its militancy and final triumph)."

Things You Should Know

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation,
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

The Church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end:
Though there be those who hate her,
And false sons in her pale,
Against both foe or traitor
She ever shall prevail.

Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed:
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song!

Men's Breakfast— At the church, Saturday Morning, May 20 8:00 AM. . Brian Church will continue teaching from *God's Promises*. We always have a hearty hot breakfast and a great fellowship time. See you there.

Women's Bible Study— The women will continue their monthly Bible Study on May 9th and May 23rd at 7:00 PM. The women attendance is very good and they remark that they are finding the lessons to be very helpful.

Nursery Schedule for May

- 7 ALEX DAIVSON
- 14 KELLEIGH ANDERSON
- 21 HEATHER NORGAUER
- 28 CRISTIN GEFRIDES



Please trade with someone if you are unable to do nursery duty on the assigned day.

Jeff Duncan	3rd	Milly & Emma	21st
Mari Nelson	3rd	Hornung	
Noah Norgauer	3rd	Samuel Sackett	21st
Jesse Twitchell	20th		



Jeff & Autumn Duncan	20th
Mark & Mari Nelson	28th

Following is a very brief listing of 6 of 35 walls listed by Wikipedia for countries around the world.

Botswana

In 2003, Botswana began building a 300-mile (480 km)-long electric fence along its border with Zimbabwe. The official reason for the fence is to stop the spread of foot-and-mouth disease among livestock. Zimbabweans argue that the height of the fence is clearly intended to keep out people. Botswana has responded that the fence is designed to keep out cattle, and to ensure that entrants have their shoes disinfected at legal border crossings. Botswana also argued that the government continues to encourage legal movement into the country. Zimbabwe was unconvinced, and the barrier remains a source of tension.

Ceuta

The Ceuta border fence was erected in 1993 at the Morocco–Spain border at Ceuta, a city on the North African coast that is Spanish territory in order to block the entrance of illegal immigrants to Spain.

Melilla

The Melilla border fence stands at the Morocco–Spain border at Melilla, a city on the North African coast that is Spanish territory, in order to block the entrance of illegal immigrants to Spain.

India

Since the mid-1990s, India has been involved in the construction of some of the lengthiest border barriers along its international borders. Six of the nine countries neighboring India are classified as Least Developed Countries, and thus thousands of people from these countries—especially from Bangladesh and Burma—illegally immigrate into India.

The Indo-Bangladeshi barrier and Indo-Burma barrier are being built to check smuggling, illegal immigration, and infiltration by Islamist terrorists. The refugee crisis could also ensue should a climate catastrophe ravage South Asia.

In addition, India completed the construction of the Indian-Kashmir barrier, which runs along the Line of Control in Kashmir. The purpose of this barrier is to prevent infiltration by armed militants.

South Africa

In 1975 a security fence of 120 kilometres (75 mi) was erected by South Africa to keep the violent revolution in Mozambique from spilling into Kruger National Park. In 1990 it was reported:

Concern is growing in South Africa over the country's use of a lethal, 3,300 volt one amp electrified fence on its borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe. According to a report recently published by the South African Catholic Bureau for Refugees, the fence has caused more deaths in three years than the Berlin Wall did in its entire history. Local people call the fence the 'Snake of Fire'. There have been calls by South African church leaders over the past months for the fence to be switched off permanently. Most of its victims have been women and children fleeing the war in Mozambique. The Berlin Wall resulted in 80 deaths over 28 years. Official figures provided by the South African Defence Force (SADF) indicate that 89 people were electrocuted at the fence between August 1986 and August 1989. Church leaders dispute these figures, and claim that the true figure is nearer 200 each year.

Brunei

Brunei is building a security fence along its 20-km border with Limbang, Malaysia, to stop the flow of irregular migrants and smuggled goods. Ω

Session Report

May 2017 Session Report

Thank you for all who agreed to help us stay in contact with our missionaries. We had a tremendous response.

Information is now available on our website about the 2017 Reformation Conference. It will be October 6th and 7th. This year's title - *Celebrating the Reformation at 500: God's Glory Alone*. Our speaker is Dr. David VanDrunen. Please plan on attending, you will be glad you did. Go to <http://conference.wyreformed.org/> for more information. Start letting others know about it as well.



The Berlin Wall

One wall in history which did the job required of it is the Berlin Wall. Of course the Berlin Wall is not to be used as a model for our border wall. We are not going to shoot those who try to get over it. However, the purpose of the wall was to stop people from crossing it except at a few managed crossings. This it accomplished very well.

The Berlin Wall was a huge milestone in the Cold War.

On August 13, 1961, the Communist government of the German Democratic Republic (GDR, or East Germany) began to build a barbed

wire and concrete "Antifascistischer Schutzwall," or "antifascist bulwark," between East and West Berlin. The official purpose of this Berlin Wall was to keep Western "fascists" from entering East Germany and undermining the socialist state, but it primarily served the objective of stemming mass defections from East to West. The Berlin Wall stood until November 9, 1989, when the head of the East German Communist Party announced that citizens of the GDR could cross the border whenever they pleased. That night, ecstatic crowds swarmed the wall. Some crossed freely into West Berlin, while others brought hammers and picks and began to chip away at the wall itself. To this day, the Berlin Wall remains one of the most powerful and enduring symbols of the Cold War.

The Berlin Wall: The Partitioning of Berlin

As World War II came to an end in 1945, a pair of Allied peace conferences at Yalta and Potsdam determined the fate of Germany's territories. They split the defeated nation into four "allied occupation zones": The eastern part of the country went to the Soviet Union, while the western part went to the United States, Great Britain and (eventually) France.

Did You Know?

On October 22, 1961, a quarrel between an East German border guard and an American official on his way to the opera in East Berlin very nearly led to what one observer called "a nuclear-age equivalent of the Wild West Showdown at the O.K. Corral." That day, American and Soviet tanks faced off at Checkpoint Charlie for 16 hours. Photographs of the confrontation are some of the most familiar and memorable images of the Cold War.

Even though Berlin was located entirely within the Soviet part of the country (it sat about 100 miles from the border between the eastern and western occupation zones), the Yalta and Potsdam agreements split the city into similar sectors. The Soviets took the eastern half, while the other Allies took the western. This four-way occupation of Berlin began in June 1945.

The Berlin Wall: Blockade and Crisis

The existence of West Berlin, a conspicuously capitalist city deep within communist East Germany, "stuck like a bone in the Soviet throat," as Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev put it. The Russians began maneuvering to drive the United States, Britain and France out of the city for good. In 1948, a Soviet blockade of West Berlin aimed to starve the western Allies out of the city. Instead of

retreating, however, the United States and its allies supplied their sectors of the city from the air. This effort, known as the Berlin Airlift, lasted for more than a year and delivered more than 2.3 million tons of food, fuel and other goods to West Berlin. The Soviets called off the blockade in 1949.

After a decade of relative calm, tensions flared again in 1958. For the next three years, the Soviets-emboldened by the successful launch of the Sputnik satellite the year before and embarrassed by the seemingly endless flow of refugees from east to west (nearly 3 million since the end of the blockade, many of them young skilled workers such as doctors, teachers and engineers)-blustered and made threats, while the Allies resisted. Summits, conferences and other negotiations came and went without resolution. Meanwhile, the flood of refugees continued. In June 1961, some 19,000 people left the GDR through Berlin. The following month, 30,000 fled. In the first 11 days of August, 16,000 East Germans crossed the border into West Berlin, and on August 12 some 2,400 followed—the largest number of defectors ever to leave East Germany in a single day.

The Berlin Wall: Building the Wall

That night, Premier Khrushchev gave the East German government permission to stop the flow of emigrants by closing its border for good. In just two weeks, the East German army, police force and volunteer construction workers had completed a makeshift barbed wire and concrete block wall—the Berlin Wall—that divided one side of the city from the other.

Before the wall was built, Berliners on both sides of the city could move around fairly freely: They crossed the East-West border to work, to shop, to go to the theater and the movies. Trains and subway lines carried passengers back and forth. After the wall was built, it became impossible to get from East to West Berlin except through one of three checkpoints: at Helmstedt ("Checkpoint Alpha" in American military parlance), at Dreilinden ("Checkpoint Bravo") and in the center of Berlin at Friedrichstrasse ("Checkpoint Charlie"). (Eventually, the GDR built 12 checkpoints along the wall.) At each of the checkpoints, East German soldiers screened diplomats and other officials before they were allowed to enter or leave. Except under special circumstances, travelers from East and West Berlin were rarely allowed across the border.

The Berlin Wall: 1961-1989

The construction of the Berlin Wall did stop the flood of refugees from East to West, and it did defuse the crisis over Berlin. (Though he was not happy about it, President Kennedy conceded that "a wall

is a hell of a lot better than a war.") Over time, East German officials replaced the makeshift wall with one that was sturdier and more difficult to scale. A 12-foot-tall, 4-foot-wide mass of reinforced concrete was topped with an enormous pipe that made climbing over nearly impossible. Behind the wall on the East German side was a so-called "Death Strip": a gauntlet of soft sand (to show footprints), floodlights, vicious dogs, trip-wire machine guns and patrolling soldiers with orders to shoot escapees on sight.

In all, at least 171 people were killed trying to get over, under or around the Berlin Wall. Escape from East Germany was not impossible, however: From 1961 until the wall came down in 1989, more than 5,000 East Germans (including some 600 border guards) managed to cross the border by jumping out of windows adjacent to the wall, climbing over the barbed wire, flying in hot air balloons, crawling through the sewers and driving through unfortified parts of the wall at high speeds.

The Berlin Wall: The Fall of the Wall

On November 9, 1989, as the Cold War began to thaw across Eastern Europe, the spokesman for East Berlin's Communist Party announced a change in his city's relations with the West. Starting at midnight that day, he said, citizens of the GDR were free to cross the country's borders. East and West Berliners flocked to the wall, drinking beer and champagne and chanting "Tor auf!" ("Open the gate!"). At midnight, they flooded through the checkpoints.

More than 2 million people from East Berlin visited West Berlin that weekend to participate in a celebration that was, one journalist wrote, "the greatest street party in the history of the world." People used hammers and picks to knock away chunks of the wall—they became known as "mauerspechte," or "wall woodpeckers"—while cranes and bulldozers pulled down section after section. Soon the wall was gone and Berlin was united for the first time since 1945. "Only today," one Berliner spray-painted on a piece of the wall, "is the war really over."

The reunification of East and West Germany was made official on October 3, 1990, almost one year after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Ω

Have a need? Contact one of the officers.

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If you have a request for the prayer chain contact Branda Church 221-9206 and if not available, Kelleigh Anderson 635-2578 or send an email to churchfamily@outlook.com.

*Peace to the Brethren, and love with
faith, from God the father and the
Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be to all
those who love our Lord Jesus Christ
in sincerity.*

Hallelujah, Amen