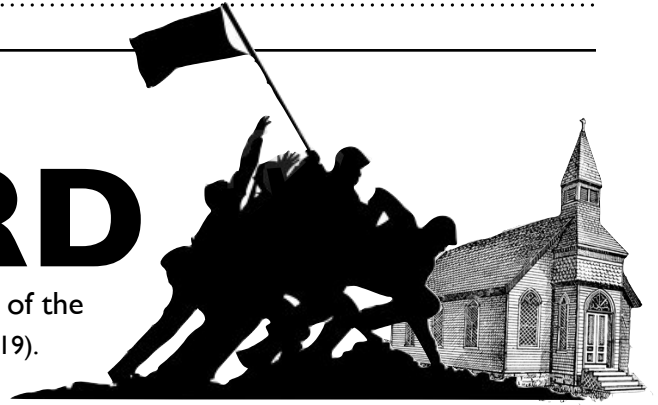


**“For the word of the LORD is right;  
and all his works are done in truth.”**

**Psalm 33:4**

## Lifting Up The **STANDARD**

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 28 - July 28, 2014



B. Kirkland

### **Things Have Changed!**

We are living in an age of worldwide apostasy and as a result things that were

considered unacceptable have now become acceptable.

This is not a time to weaken our stand. It is a time to *“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain”* (Revelation 3:2).

The Bible has much to say about setting up a standard. A standard in the Word of God refers to a flag or banner of a larger kind, serving God's people marching together. It is used in Scripture concerning a home being united around the things of God and it is used in a military sense when God's people set up a banner to let people know where they stood.

#### **Jeremiah 50:2.**

*“Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not.”*

B. Kirkland

## **The Prelude To Revival**

*“And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do.”*

(Nehemiah 2:12)

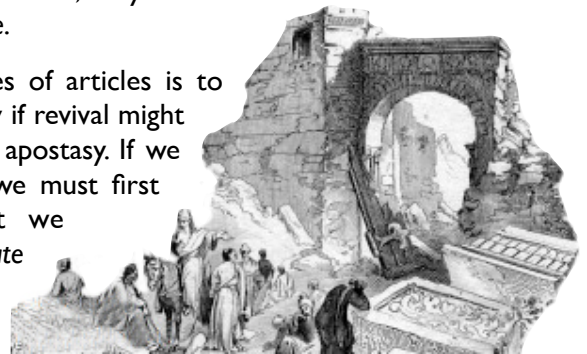
### **Willing To Change Their Lifestyle**

In our last article we found Nehemiah was concerned enough about the seriousness of the hour to be willing to change his lifestyle. The first thing Nehemiah did was repent before God, taking responsibility for the mess God's people were in at the time. He found a *“few men”* who were also willing to change their lifestyle for the cause of the Lord.

### **Three Gates - Nehemiah 2:13-15**

Upon arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah and the few men that were with him examined three gates, which included *the gate of the valley, the dung gate, and the fountain gate*. Then, they took one more look at *the valley gate*.

The purpose of this series of articles is to consider what is necessary if revival might be a reality in our age of apostasy. If we are going to see revival we must first seriously consider what we must do concerning *the gate of the valley*, which represents humility.



**Prelude** - Continued on page two

Prelude - Continued from page one

## **The First Gateway To Revival Is Humility** **Second Chronicles 7:14,**

*“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

### **Getting Rid of The Garbage**

The dung gate was where the garbage was carried out of the city and burned in the valley of Hinnom. The Hinnom Valley was the city dump where garbage and anything deemed unclean was incinerated. For that purpose, a fire was kept constantly burning there. If revival will be a reality we will need to humble ourselves and we will need to get rid of the garbage that hinders the Lord working.

### **Inviting The Holy Spirit To Take Control**

The gate of the fountain represents the Holy Spirit. Once the garbage is out, the Holy Spirit will empower us if we will allow Him to take control. When the Bible refers to being filled with the Spirit it compares to the sails of a ship being filled with wind so as to determine the direction of the vessel. The Holy Spirit is the one who makes the Word of God alive and gives us the direction He wants us to take.

### **Another Look At The Gate of The Valley**

Nehemiah “turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley.” Revival begins here and so we need to take a second look at this gate. Are we willing to humble ourselves?

### **No Repairs On The Water Gate**

In our upcoming articles we will consider the work that was done in these ten areas before revival became a reality. It is interesting to note that there was much building and repairs on nine of the gates; however, the one gate that needed no repairs was the water gate which represents the Word of God.

### **The Sheep Gate**

**Once the work got underway, the first gate to be rebuilt was the sheep gate.** It was called the sheep gate because it led to the sheep market where lambs were sold for the sacrifice in the Temple. This gate also led out to Golgotha and was the gate Jesus went through when He was crucified.

Whenever Jesus entered into the city it was through the Sheep gate signifying, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Prelude - Continued on page three

# **Nehemiah’s Gates**



#### **Sheep Gate**

*Relationship With Christ*

#### **Fish Gate**

*Becoming Fishers of Men*

#### **Old Gate**

*“Ask for the old paths”*

#### **Valley Gate**

*“If my people...shall  
humble themselves.”*

#### **Dung Gate**

*Getting Out The Garbage*

#### **Water Gate**

*Back To The Word of God*

#### **Fountain Gate**

*Holy Spirit Control*

#### **Horse Gate**

*Back Into The Battle*

#### **East Gate**

*Focus On The Return of Christ.*

#### **Gate Miphkad**

*Place of Military Strategy*

*“And they said, Let us  
rise up and build. So they  
strengthened their hands  
for this good work.”  
(Nehemiah 2:18)*

**Prelude** - Continued from page two

Unless we begin where God begins the other gates will crumble. Jesus said *"without me ye can do nothing"* (John 15:5). Jesus said, *"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture"* (John 10:9).

**The sheep gate represents our relationship with Christ.** To have a relationship we must be *"born again"* (John 3:3). To be born again is to be born into the family of God; however, we must walk humbly under the authority of Christ if our relationship is to be honouring to God.

**John 10:7-9,**

*"Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."*

**Opposition From Within**

As the work was progressing we find the opposition from without could not hurt the cause, in fact it strengthened it; however, opposition from within brought the work to a standstill.

**Nehemiah 4:10,**

*"And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall."*

There will always be someone in our midst that the devil will use to discourage the leaders and faithful followers in the work of the Lord.

In Deuteronomy 1:28 as God's people were about to gain the victory we read,

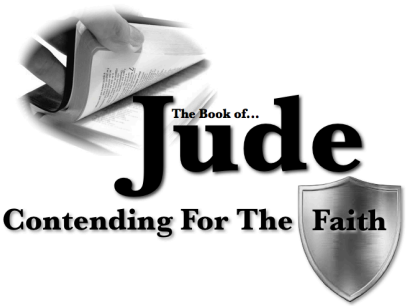
*"Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there."*

In Nehemiah chapter five we find some of the wealthy Jews were mortgaging the poor Jews into what we would call bankruptcy. In verses six through seven Nehemiah said,

*"And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them."*

1. He was very angry.
2. He thought it through.
3. He rebuked those who were guilty.
4. He rebuked them publicly in a great assembly.

**Prelude** - Continued on page four



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## Meanwhile The Opposition From Without Increases

### **Nehemiah 4:11,12,**

“And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we **come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.** And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you.”

## Nehemiah's Response

### **Nehemiah 4:13,14,**

“**Therefore** set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set **the people after their families** with their **swords**, their **spears**, and their **bows**.

14 And **I looked**, and rose up, **and said** unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, **Be not ye afraid of them: remember the LORD, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.**”

## The Result

### **Nehemiah 4:15-23,**

15 And it came to pass, when **our enemies heard** that it was known unto us, and **God had brought their counsel to nought**, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

16 And it came to pass **from that time forth**, that the **half of my servants wrought in the work**, and **the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons;** and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.

17 **They** which **builded** on the wall, and they that **bare burdens**, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the **work**, and with the other hand held a **weapon**.

18 For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

19 And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

20 In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

21 So **we laboured in the work:** and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

22 Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant **lodge within Jerusalem**, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

23 **So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.**

## Conclusion

We are looking at Nehemiah's prelude to revival. We can be sure that we will not see revival if all we are willing to do is go to church three times a week. Are we willing to change our lifestyle?



David Cloud

Way of Life Literature

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