



**THE GREAT  
UNFOLDING  
PART 4**

**Review:**

NEHEMIAH'S

CONCERN

UNFOLDED AS

HIS VISION

# Every Unfolding Reveals a Gap

- (between what is and what could be)
- Nehemiah knew the Israelites were God's chosen people and that God could bring His people back home to Jerusalem...it could happen
- Through prayer and fasting...the *could* be changed into a *should* be

# The Gap

- A gap is the difference between what something could be and what it currently is
- There can be gaps in any area of our lives or in others around us
- A gap closes when we see something that *could* be and become convinced that it *should* be

# Categories of Life

- 1. Spiritual Life**—Bible, worship, prayer, time with God, service to God, union with Christ
- 2. Marriage**—Pre-marital, Marriage enrichment
- 3. Family Life**—Parenting, Spiritual Parenting, Grand Parenting, Siblings
- 4. Relationships**—ministry to others, friends, co-workers, missions, the lost
- 5. Stewardship**—health, finances, resources
- 6. Career/Calling**—growth in skills & knowledge, job, individual and corporate calling, spiritual gifts

# **New Content**

## **Week 4:**

# **Nehemiah 2:10**

**10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.**

NEHEMIAH

IDENTIFIED HIS

ENEMIES IN THE

GAP

# **Enemies in The Gap**

- **Resist the work of those who are trying to close gaps**
- **Have access through these gaps**
- **Can orchestrate attacks through other people, thoughts, emotions, etc.**

# **Closing The Gap**

- **A Gap will not close in our life until we deal successfully with the enemies in that gap.**

# **Nehemiah 4:1**

**1 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed.**

# **Nehemiah 4:2**

**He ridiculed the Jews, 2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”**

# **Nehemiah 4:3**

**3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!”**

NEHEMIAH

PRAYED

AGAINST

DISCOURAGEMENT

# **Hebrews 10:32-39**

**32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated.**

# Hebrews 10:32-39

**34** You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

**35** So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

**36** You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

# **Nehemiah 4:4**

**4 Hear us, O our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity.**

# Nehemiah 4:5

5 Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. (NIV)

“they have demoralized the builders”  
(NASB).

“for they have provoked You to anger before the builders.” (NKJV)

# Nehemiah 4:6

6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for **the people worked with all their heart.**

NEHEMIAH

CLOSED THE

GAP

# Nehemiah 4:7-8

7 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the men of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that **the gaps were being closed**, they were very angry. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

# **Enemies in The Gap**

- **Try to destroy progress and keep the gap from being closed**
- **Bring discouragement, insults, sabotage, divide, demoralize, destroy**
- **Offer a better solution somewhere else, the Greener Grass Syndrome**

# **Nehemiah 4:9**

**9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.**

NEHEMIAH

PRAYED AND

MET THE

THREAT

# **Nehemiah 4:10-11**

**10** Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

**11** Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

# **Enemies in The Gap**

- **Attack when you are worn down or at a weak point: discouraged, tired, angry, or proud in self-confidence**
- **Make big boasts and spread threats to create fear**
- **Target very specific areas**

# **Nehemiah 4:12**

**12 Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”**

**FEAR = PANIC**

**FAITH = PEACE**

# **Nehemiah 4:13**

**13 Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.**

# **Nehemiah 4:14**

**14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people...**

# Nehemiah 4:14

“Don’t be **afraid** of them.

Remember **the Lord**,

who is **great** and **awesome**,

and **fight** for your **brothers**,

**sons, daughters, wives** and  
**homes.”**

# **Nehemiah 4:15**

**15 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work.**