

Bethany Bible Study: Brief Review of Nehemiah

November 5, 2025

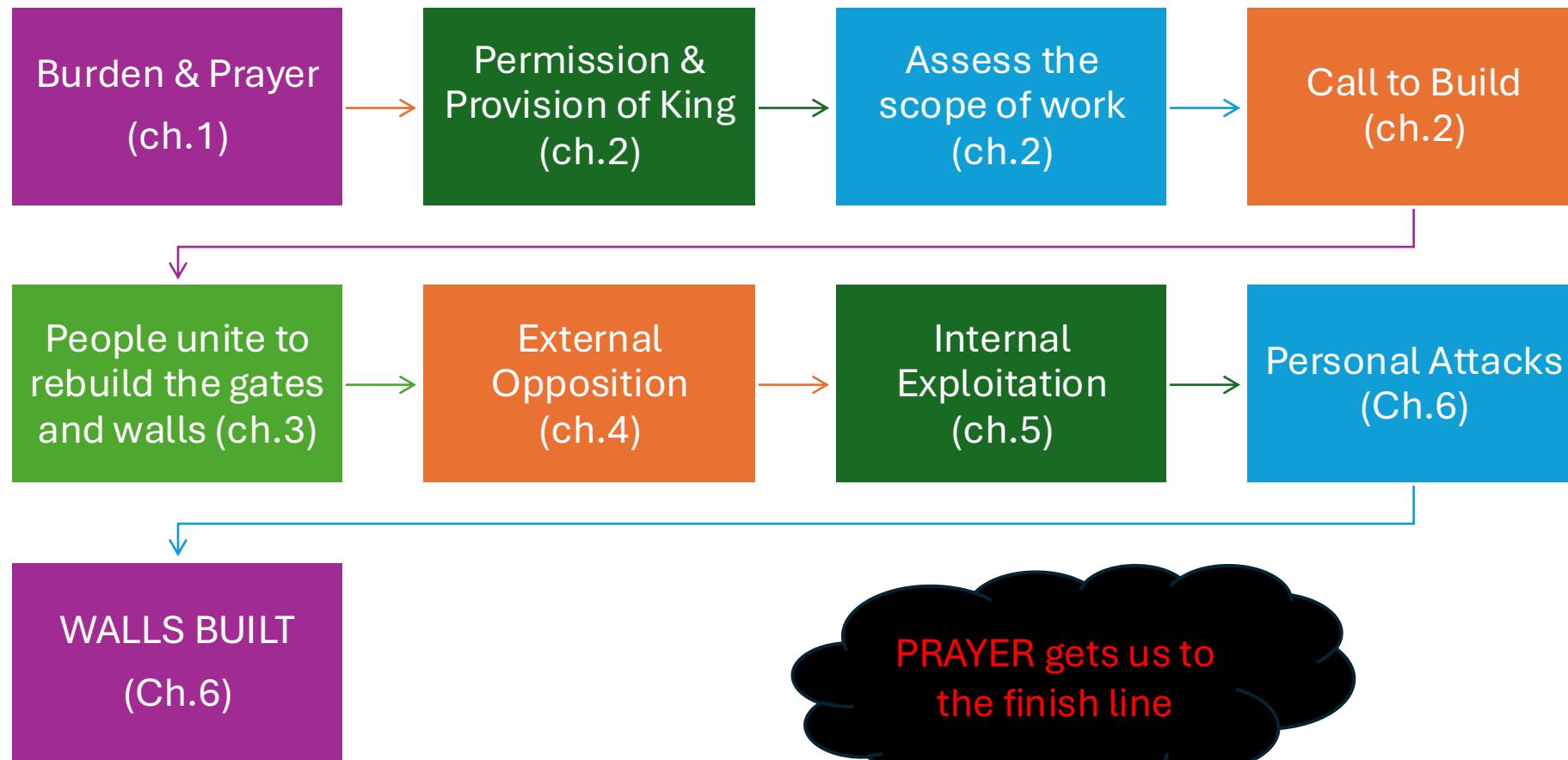
Nehemiah: Part-1

Rebuilding of Walls

CHAPTERS 1-6

The Call of Nehemiah:

Rebuild the broken Jerusalem walls



PRAYER gets us to
the finish line

Chapter 1

Nehemiah
ENQUIRIES

about the condition of
the Jews in Jerusalem

- Suffering due to famine,
Slavery & Oppression
- Walls are broken & Gates
burned with fire

Nehemiah
REACTS
with sorrow,
weeping, fasting
& prayer

Nehemiah
PRAYS



Nehemiah's (Unreasonable) request to the king (2:4-8)

GRANTED!

1. Send me to Judah
2. Release me from my duty as a cup bearer for unspecified time (went away for 12 years!)
3. Timber for building walls & residence
4. Security while traveling

Purpose: to rebuild the broken walls

- Not a reasonable request as it does not benefit the king. The request also goes against the previous ruling of the king to 'not build' 13 years back (Ezra 4:21)
- **Proverbs 21:1** The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.



Nehemiah's call to build (2:17-20)

LET US RISE & BUILD so that we will not be a reproach. Hand of God is upon me

RESPONSE of people They strengthened their hands for this good work

Tobiah & Sanballat opposed & discouraged

But Nehemiah not discouraged or distracted. He reinforces his confidence in God

**"The God of heaven, he will prosper us;
therefore, we his servants will arise and build"**

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Inspection of Gates (ch.3)

- GATES & WALLS need to be repaired. Security compromised even if one gate or portion of wall is broken.
- Nehemiah mentions 12 gates (10 in chapter 3)
- Nehemiah personally inspected the gates and walls to understand the scope of work (2:11-16).



ch.4

The POWER

OF PRAYER

to confront challenges

Progress on rebuilding efforts triggers opposition from outsiders:

- Sanballat & Tobiah (mockery)
- + Arabs and Ashdodites (conspiracy to launch surprise attack on jews)

Physical exhaustion threatens progress

All oppositions and challenges “overcome” through the **power of prayer + action**

Workers encouraged and equipped to fight the enemy. Enemies withdraw! Work continues.

Ch.5 (internal) Exploitation of poor

Money needed for food and taxes. Rich exploited through high interest rates.

Nehemiah angered by lack of unity and love among Jews.

Nehemiah confronts the rich. Rich agree to return and restore. Took an oath to confirm

FIRST WORSHIP in Nehemiah

- prompted by repentance, love & unity among people of God

Nehemiah's wise response to challenges

- **External Opposition:** Prayer + Action (ch.4)
- **Physical Exhaustion:** Encouragement (ch.4)
- **Internal Opposition:** Confront boldly based on truth (ch.5)

Ch. 6 Personal attacks on Nehemiah, and Nehemiah's wise response. Work not disrupted or delayed.

Deceptive invitation to pause work and meet (1-4)
(invitation rejected 4 times)



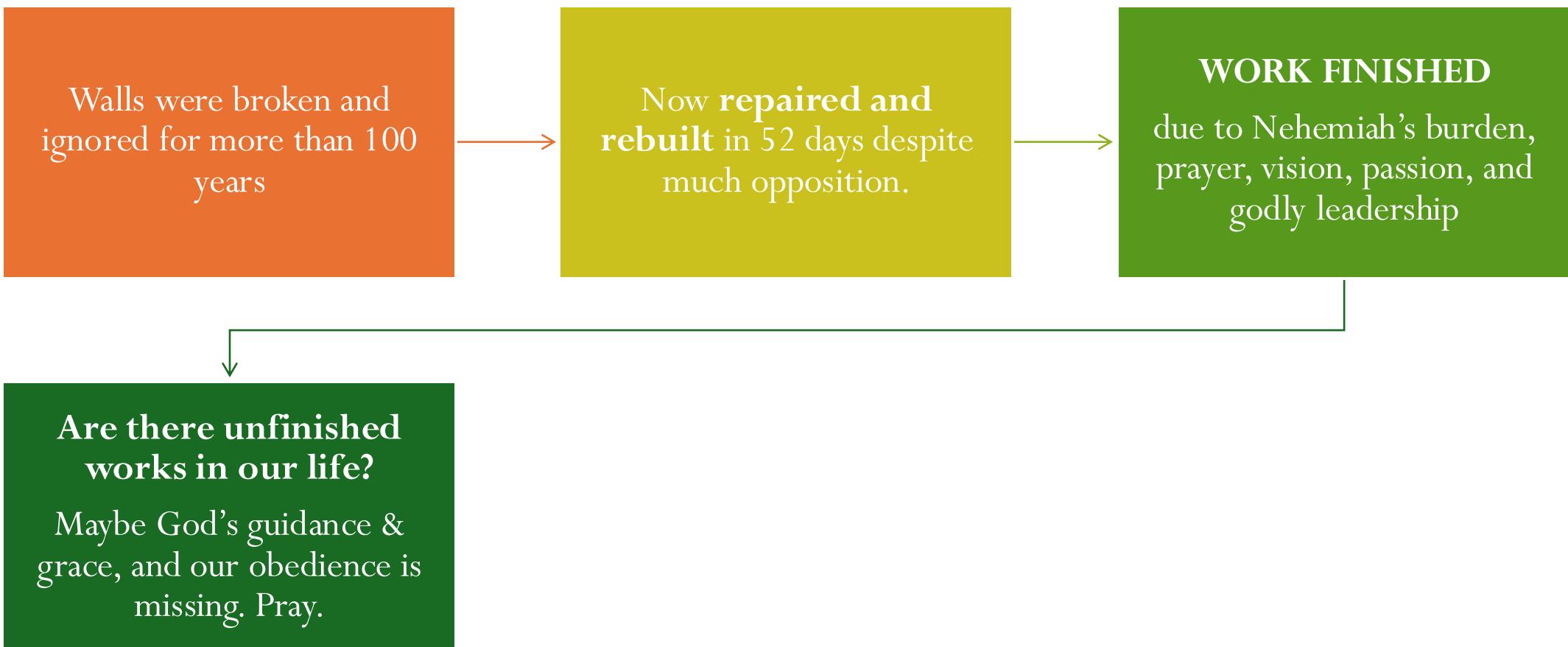
Slander & Lies (5-9)
(confronted the lies, and committed in prayer)



False prophesy to sin against God (10-14)
(commits in prayer and is not scared for his life)

Ch. 6

Wall Finished in 52 days (he prayed longer than 52 days!)



HOW DO WE RESPOND to broken walls in our personal life, and in the life of church?

DO WE PRAY WITH BURDEN
LIKE NEHEMIAH DID?

Or Do we complain and
criticize?

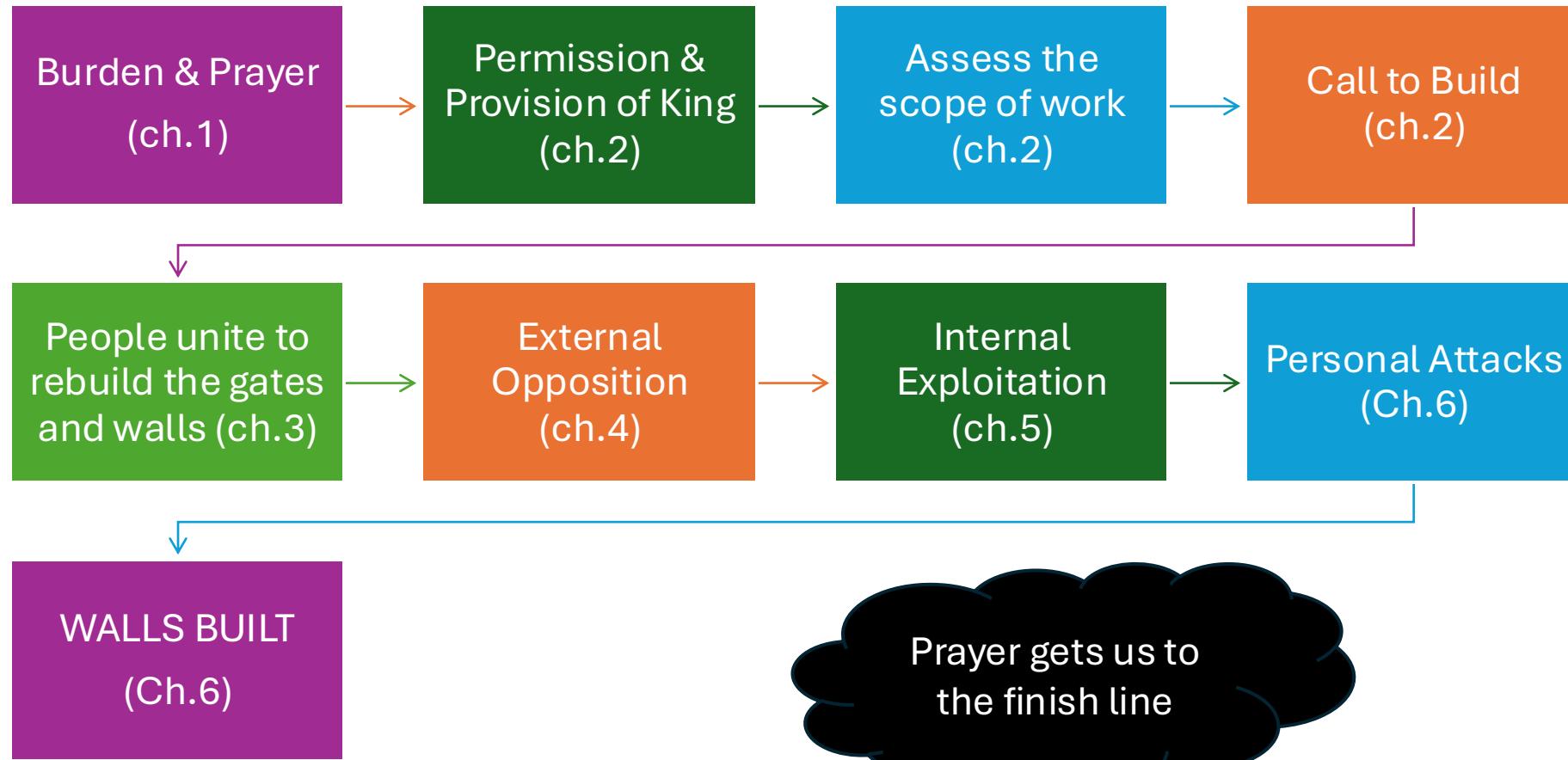
Or Do we indulge in self-pity
and bitterness?

Or Do we ignore?

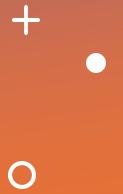
Or Do we lose hope and give up?

THE DIVINE Call of Nehemiah:

Rebuild the broken Jerusalem walls



FIRST STEPS after building the walls (ch.7)



SECURITY: Appointed gatekeepers with additional support provided by singers, and Levites (assistant to the priests).

GOVERNANCE: Two leaders appointed - faithful men that feared God
(authority delegated to Hanani and Hananaiah)

Populate the City
(census of around 50,000) (also ch.11)



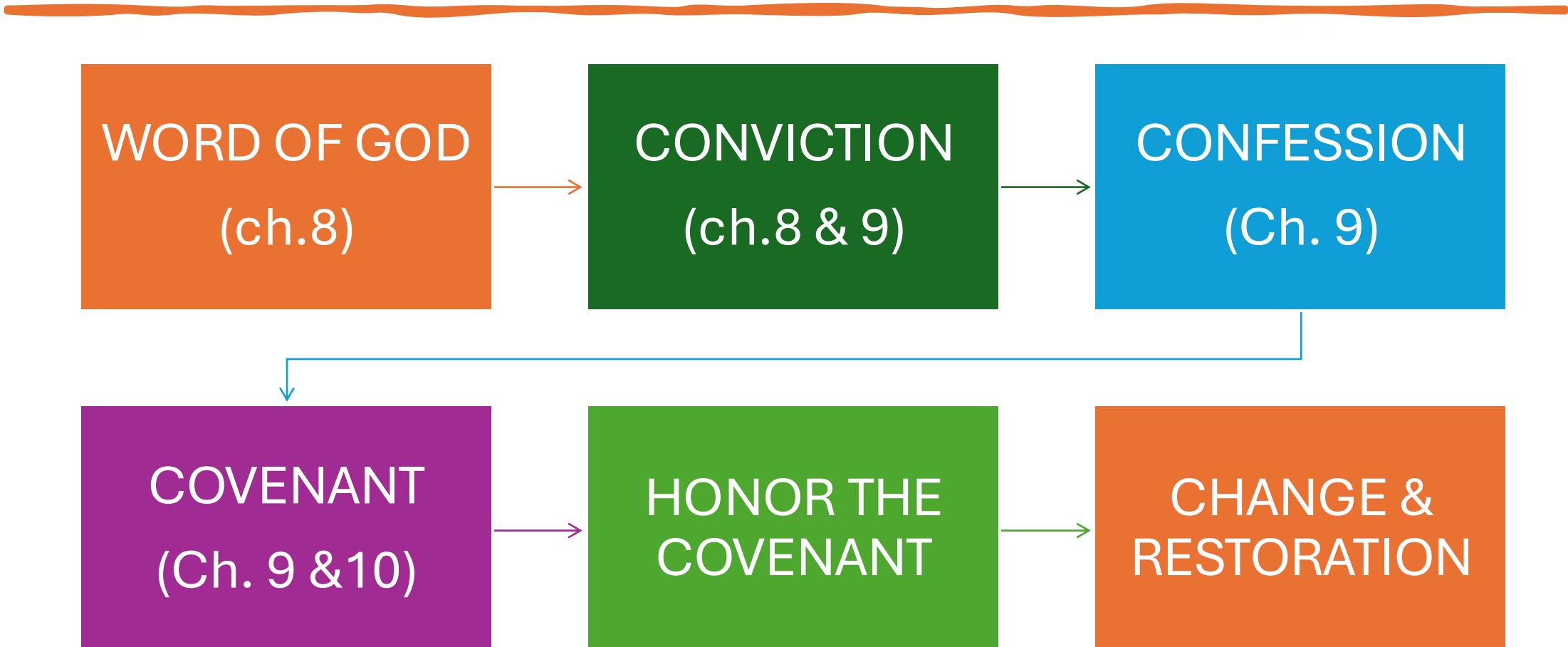
Nehemiah, Part-II

Spiritual Revival



Chapters 8-13

The proven path to spiritual restoration



Spiritual REVIVAL BEGINS with the Word of God (ch.8)



Longest prayer: Reasons to worship & Confess (ch.9)

Theme:

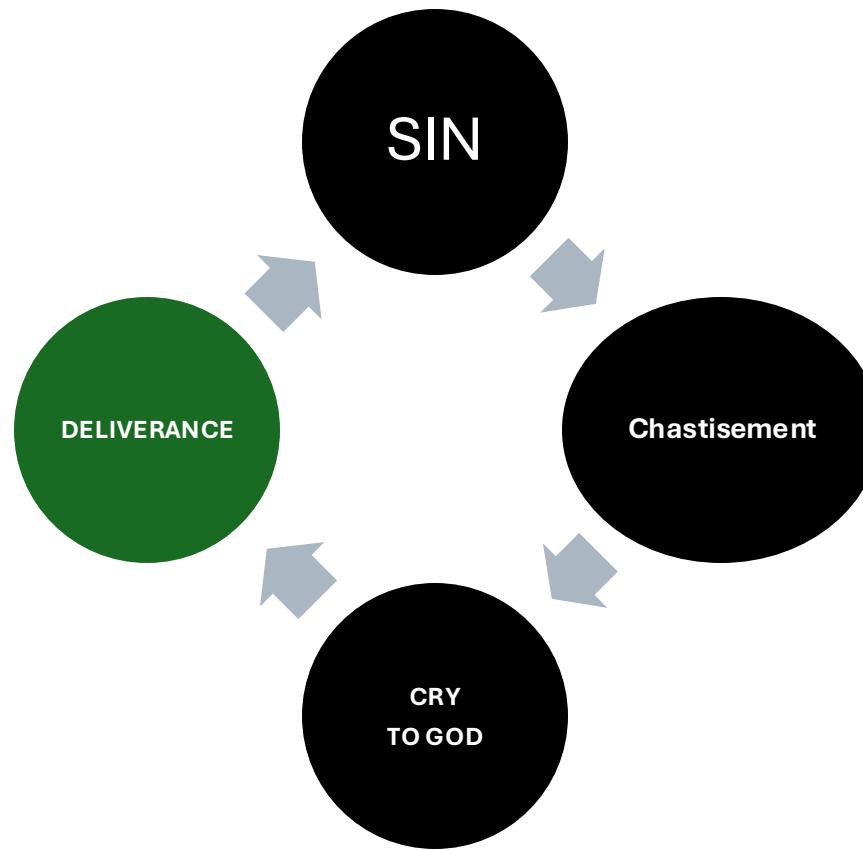
God's faithfulness & Man's unfaithfulness

Reasons to Praise (5-6) (eternal God, exalted God, creator, sustainer, worshipped by heavenly hosts)

Historical Perspective on God's faithfulness: Miraculous deliverance, provisions, guidance, victory, laws (7-15)

God's faithfulness despite man's rebellion and rejection (16-36)

THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF SIN



DECISION POINT



Confession must lead to Commitment

9:38 And because of all this we **make a sure covenant**, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it.

The Covenant Revived (ch.10)

1. NOT TO BE UNEQUALLY YOKED

2. HONOR SABBATH

3. SUPPORT GOD'S WORK

Jerusalem resettlement, 11:1-12:26



THE UNDESIRABLE
HOLY CITY



THE ROSTER OF
SETTLERS



THE LEVITES AND
PRIESTS

What made Jerusalem a Holy city

A place chosen by God

A place chosen by God
to build the Temple

God's glory seen in the
Temple

Populating the City with Priests, Levites, and people

(each person important to complete the Temple and the City of Jerusalem)

Elders and
Leaders

(1192 priests)

10% by Lots

Volunteers

Dedication service & Divine Order (ch.12)

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PURIFICATION
(of priests, place,
people)

WORSHIP
(corporate worship,
source of Joy: God,
joyful sounds heard afar)

Divine Order of God
+
Faithful people
= Blessed House of God



Jerusalem in spiritual ruins (again)!

Ch.13



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Covenant broken - Five Failures & Nehemiah's response to restore

Evil Associations
with Ammonites and
Moabites (separate)

Desecrated Temple
by abusing room
(emptied, cleansed,
returned to proper use)

Levites neglected
(renewed offerings)

Ignored Sabbath
(took steps to stop
commerce)

Unequally Yoked
and loss of Jewish
identity (warn and
renew covenant)

Summary & Reflections

Nehemiah

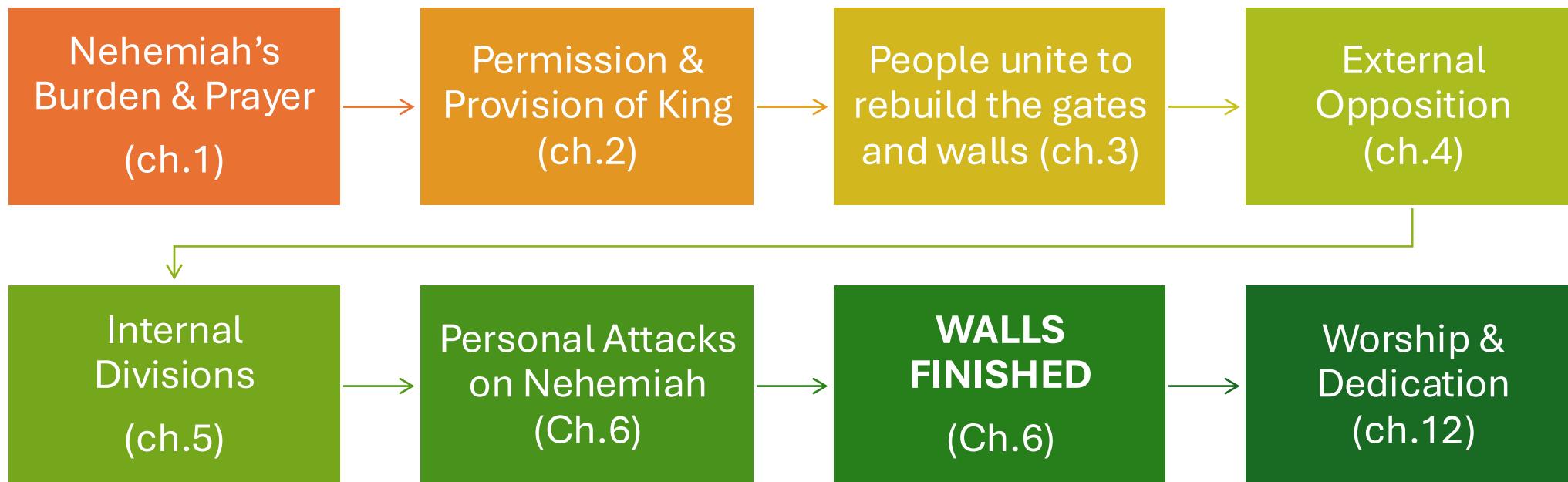
NEHEMIAH

NATURE OF GOD
&
NATURE OF MAN

LEADERSHIP OF
NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah's Vision + Passion + God's grace lead to

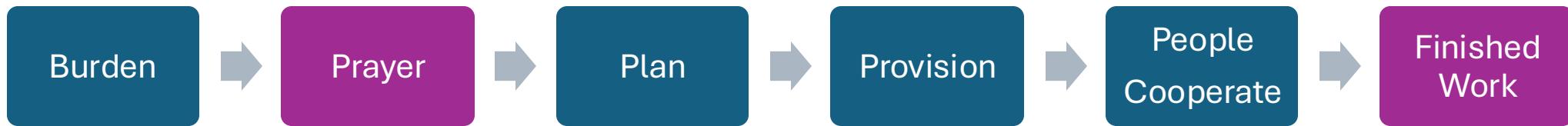
The Building of walls of Jerusalem & Restoration of Divine Order & Worship



1. We can be victorious overcomers!

Follow Nehemiah's **path to victory** ...

If we begin/continue with Prayer, we will also end with success!



2. Why was Nehemiah successful as a leader?

Had a godly vision

Secured required resources

Assessed the scope of the work

Delegated Effectively

Inspired cooperation of people

Fearless leader who depended on God

3. We can be restored if we follow the path to (spiritual) restoration



What should be OUR reaction to broken walls IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE?

- Broken walls (due to sin) should grieve our heart
- Broken walls can be rebuilt, losses can be restored
- **BROKEN WALLS**
 - CONFESSION
 - FORGIVENESS
 - RESTORATION

2025

**Behold, I (JESUS)
make all things new.**

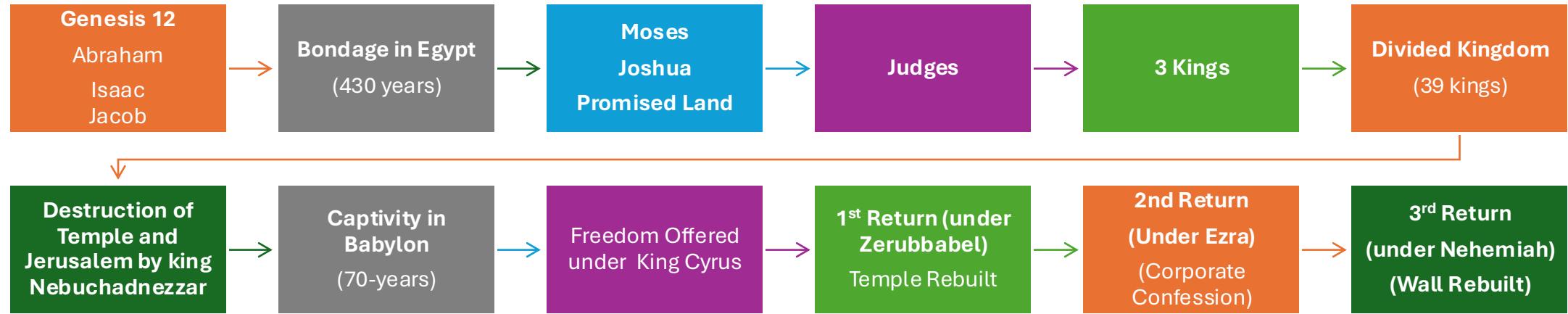
REVELATION 21:5

David Recovered all.

1 SAMUEL 30:19

**I will restore to you
the years that the
locust hath eaten.**

JOEL 2:25



Genesis 12 until Nehemiah

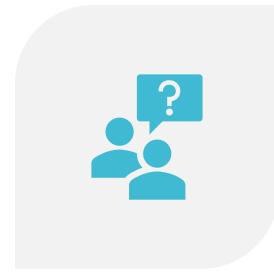
God's Promise & Plan of RESTORATION



**INFORMATION +
APPLICATION =
TRANSFORMATION**



**WHAT HAVE YOU
LEARNED?**



**WHAT HAVE YOU
APPLIED?**



**WHAT QUESTIONS
REMAIN
UNANSWERED?**

BETHANY BIBLE STUDY

Bethany Bible Study

God willing, next book: JUDE

ACTS| Philemon | Colossians | Ephesians |

Sermon on the mount | Daniel | James | I Timothy | II Timothy |

I Thessalonians | II Thessalonians | Deuteronomy | Malachi | Hebrews | Ezra | Nehemiah |