

Watchman
Part 5
(Nehemiah's Final Reforms)

1- Watch that everyone should be appointed to do certain responsibility in the body of Christ: Nehemiah as watchman continued to establish all the mandatory arrangement to make the people settle peacefully in and around Jerusalem with peace and with full understanding and clear responsibility given to all the people. To everyone of the priests and Levites he gave them responsibility and task to do.

At the time of the dedication of the walls of Jerusalem we can read part of Nehemiah good arrangement and administration: *“44 At that time men were appointed to be in charge of the storerooms for the contributions, firstfruits and tithes. From the fields around the towns they were to bring into the storerooms the portions required by the Law for the priests and the Levites, for Judah was pleased with the ministering priests and Levites. 45 They performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did also the singers and gatekeepers, according to the commands of David and his son Solomon. 46 For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there had been directors for the singers and for the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. 47 So in the days of Zerubbabel and of Nehemiah, all Israel contributed the daily portions for the singers and gatekeepers. They also set aside the portion for the other Levites, and the Levites set aside the portion for the descendants of Aaron.” (Nehemiah 12:44-47)* Watchmen were appointed to watch and care of what are stored in the storerooms. The priests and the Levites were doing their duties well and maintain holiness (Purification) and that motivated the people to continue to bring their contributions and offering to maintain God’s service. When you serve God and do your ministry well, and nurture the people well toward holiness, then they will be motivated and led by God to bring what is due from tithes and offerings to maintain God’s church and ministry. The ministry of the praise and worship were taken care and workers appointed and assigned to maintain songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

You will grasp further reform and what ordain for you as watchman from *Nehemiah 13*.

2- Watch that Certain people cannot be part and kept inside the church unless they are repented: *“1 On that day the Book of Moses was read aloud in the hearing of the people and there it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever be admitted into the assembly of God, 2 because they had not met the Israelites with food and water but had hired Balaam to call a curse down on them. (Our God, however, turned the curse into a blessing.) 3 When the people heard this law, they excluded from Israel all who were of foreign descent.” (Nehemiah 13:1-3)* The Ammonites and the Moabites are the descendents of Lot. They are the product of Incest. Incest as a definition is a sexual relations between relatives who are forbidden by law to marry; for example, between father and daughter or mother and son. The Ammonites and the Moabites are the product of the sexual relationship of Lot with his daughters under the influence of alcohol. People who are living in a similar way, and people who does not wish us good and their spirit against us or even curse us (*they had not met the Israelites with food and water but had hired Balaam to call a curse down on them,*) or who promote immoralities among us as Balaam taught the Moabites to entice the Israelites to commit sin against God as we can read here: *“1 While Israel was staying in*

Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, 2 who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods. 3 So Israel joined in worshipping the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them.” (Numbers 25:1-3) “Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.” (Revelation 2:14) Be watchful that such people shall not infiltrate the rank of the church and ensnare or push others to sin.

3- Watch that certain workers or leaders will not use their authority to abuse and use the resources of the church to support people who have destructive effect on the ministry: *“4 Before this, Eliashib the priest had been put in charge of the storerooms of the house of our God. He was closely associated with Tobiah, 5 and he had provided him with a large room formerly used to store the grain offerings and incense and temple articles, and also the tithes of grain, new wine and oil prescribed for the Levites, singers and gatekeepers, as well as the contributions for the priests. 6 But while all this was going on, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Some time later I asked his permission 7 and came back to Jerusalem. Here I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. 8 I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's household goods out of the room. 9 I gave orders to purify the rooms, and then I put back into them the equipment of the house of God, with the grain offerings and the incense.” (Nehemiah 13:4-9)* Even when we appoint people to do certain ministries, as here Aliashib the priest had been put in charge of the storerooms of the house of God, we still need to continue to watch over them, and check if they are keeping the instructions that we gave to them. Those whom we appointed certain times they are under pressure or tempted, so they may do mistakes, therefore we need to keep eye to deal with evil if it happening. Be watchful and take a correct measure to deal with evil doers and those who are enemies of God, who infiltrate the church, who are corruptive and manipulative and try to live in opportunistic way which would promote wickedness and work of the Devil among us. You should know and be ready that brave and bold decision for correction needed to be taken when things goes in wrong direction.

4- Watch that the tithes and offerings are collected carefully from all the church members and watch for the wise and fruitful use of the church income: *“10 I also learned that the portions assigned to the Levites had not been given to them, and that all the Levites and singers responsible for the service had gone back to their own fields. 11 So I rebuked the officials and asked them, "Why is the house of God neglected?" Then I called them together and stationed them at their posts. 12 All Judah brought the tithes of grain, new wine and oil into the storerooms. 13 I put Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and a Levite named Pedaiah in charge of the storerooms and made Hanan son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah, their assistant, because these men were considered trustworthy. They were made responsible for distributing the supplies to their brothers. 14 Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services.” (Nehemiah 13:10-14)* Keep clean record of the church income with proper labels for all the tithe givers and the amount given, as well as the rest of the offerings, and proper records of all expenses with full details. Also I admonish all the workers and the leaders and pastors to teach and admonish the people to bring their tithes and offerings into the store house of God so the spiritual food in the church will continue to be available for the lost and

for the people to be disciplined. The tithes and the offerings will be used to support the living of the workers and the pastors of the congregations who are doing the work of God.

5- Watch that the rule of the Sabbath is observed by all: *"15 In those days I saw men in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day. 16 Men from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise and selling them in Jerusalem on the Sabbath to the people of Judah. 17 I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, 'What is this wicked thing you are doing--desecrating the Sabbath day? 18 Didn't your forefathers do the same things, so that our God brought all this calamity upon us and upon this city? Now you are stirring up more wrath against Israel by desecrating the Sabbath.' 19 When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over. I stationed some of my own men at the gates so that no load could be brought in on the Sabbath day. 20 Once or twice the merchants and sellers of all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem. 21 But I warned them and said, 'Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you do this again, I will lay hands on you.' From that time on they no longer came on the Sabbath. 22 Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and go and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember me for this also, O my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love."* (Nehemiah 13:15-22) Every member should attend the church services on weekly bases and get involve in various prayer meetings and bible studies. Everyone should observe one day rest in a week, a rest for the physical body and refreshment for the weary soul. Also you should watch that people will not come to the church for a wrong purpose (looking for girls, finding job, getting business, finding customers, selling and buying, etc.) Such people if they will get inside the church their presence will invite troubles in the life of the church and the ministries. I pray and I call for discernment for all the workers to observe all these details so that our worship to God will be acceptable and our ministries will be fruitful in making disciples and raising up genuine people who love and fear God.

6- Watch and deal appropriately with the non ordained marriages: *"23 Moreover, in those days I saw men of Judah who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab. 24 Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or the language of one of the other peoples, and did not know how to speak the language of Judah. 25 I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair. I made them take an oath in God's name and said: 'You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves. 26 Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon king of Israel sinned? Among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, but even he was led into sin by foreign women. 27 Must we hear now that you too are doing all this terrible wickedness and are being unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women?' 28 One of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite. And I drove him away from me. 29 Remember them, O my God, because they defiled the priestly office and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites. 30 So I purified the priests and the Levites of everything foreign, and assigned them duties, each to his own task."* (Nehemiah 13:23-30) Certain marital situations that does not glorify God and brings disgrace to Him and set bad example to others needed to


be sorted out in a manner that glorify God and bring order and discipline inside the church. Key persons and workers who are put in charge of services they should be the first people to give good example and sound teaching about marriage. They should not approve marriages with non believers, divorce or remarriage. If they will do that then they will bring disorders and lead others to do wrong. If such things happen such co-workers needed to be admonished/disciplined and if it is needed the ministry should be taken away from them so order will be reinstated and others will take heed and not to do wrong.

7- Watch and maintain the flow of the people first fruit and various contributions to maintain the service at God's church: *"31 I also made provision for contributions of wood at designated times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me with favor, O my God."* (Nehemiah 13:31) When the workers needs are secured temptation is minimised and discipline will be well maintained. God will reward you and will reward everyone who will work to maintain the system and the arrangement that God had ordained for his church to pass through.

My dear and Beloved: *"17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."* (1Timothy 5:17) Apply the message in your life and be a faithful watchman who watch and care for God's church and the ministry under your care. Commit yourself that you will do your best to support God's service in His church as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to abide with your word in doing your will and whatever you had planned for me. Lord I put in your service everything that you had given to me in order that your ministry and your church will go forward in reaching the loss. Lord give me discernment and watchfulness to observe and to take timely and precise decision to glorify your name and bring honour to you, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*

Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life

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"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry." (2Timothy 4:5)

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