**538 BC** 1st exiles return with Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple of God.

**516 BC** Many setbacks came along the way but after 20 years the temple was completed.

**458 BC** Ezra brings more exiles home to Jerusalem, begins a spiritual reform.

**445 BC** Nehemiah comes to Jerusalem and leads in the rebuilding of the wall and hanging the gates, completed in 52 days.

**Nehemiah 9**, the people write a covenant and affix their seals to it.

**Nehemiah 10**, the people make some serious promises.

**Nehemiah 11**, time to repopulate Jerusalem.

**Proverbs 16:33** *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD*.

**“Sometimes the most heroic task is not the one others are incapable of doing, but the one others are unwilling to do.”**  Moody Bible Commentary pg. 675

**Nehemiah 12** Two celebration choirs led the people in praise and worship.

 One choir led in praise and thanks to God to the right. Led by Ezra.

One choir marched in the opposite direction. Nehemiah joined this choir.

The people divided and followed the choirs in joyful praise and worship.

**Nehemiah 13** Nehemiah is back in Babylon. He asked King Artaxerxes for permission to return to Jerusalem. The king grants permission.

 When he returns things were not as good as when he left.

For us to lead others well we must be sure our heart is right with God.

To go from where we are, to where we want to be, we must grow from who we are, to who we ought to be.

**1 Corinthians 15:33** *Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”*

Are we willing to be used by God to lead others in faithful, uncompromising obedience?

If we are, we will see God move in the hearts and lives of those around us.

Let’s make a promise, the rest of my life, will be the best of my life, to the glory of God!!!