

**“Every kingdom divided
against itself is brought
to desolation”**

Matthew 12:25

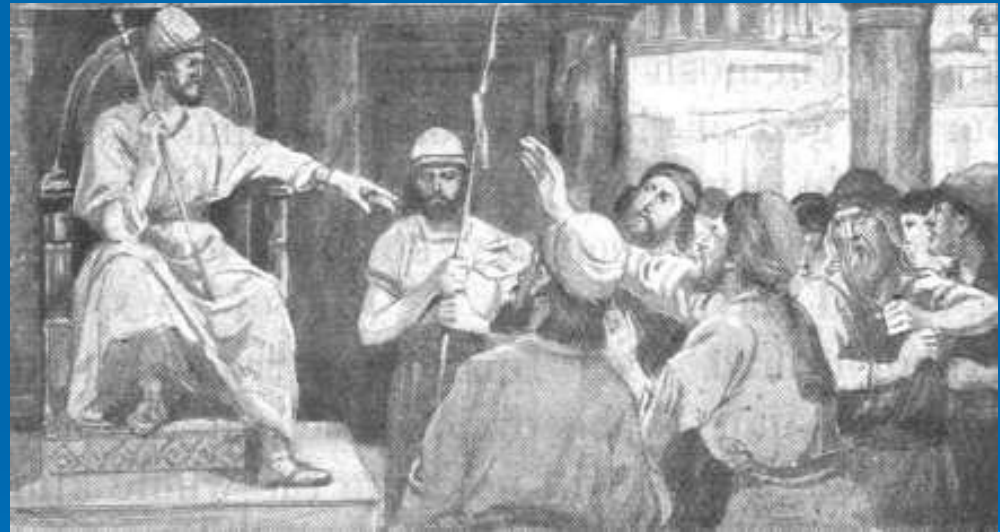


**The kingdom of Israel:
between the foolishness of
Rehoboam and the prudence of
Nehemiah**



❑ The foolishness of Rehoboam ⁽¹⁾

1. His goal was himself and how to impose his authority over the people of Israel. “Then the king answered the people roughly” *1 Kings 12:13*



❑ The foolishness of Rehoboam (2)

2. He rejected the council of the elders and listened instead to that of his friends.
- “Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men” *1 Kings 12:13-14*



❑ The foolishness of Rehoboam ⁽³⁾

3. He did not listen to the people, but rather answered them with arrogance.

➤ “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!”

1 Kings 12:13-14

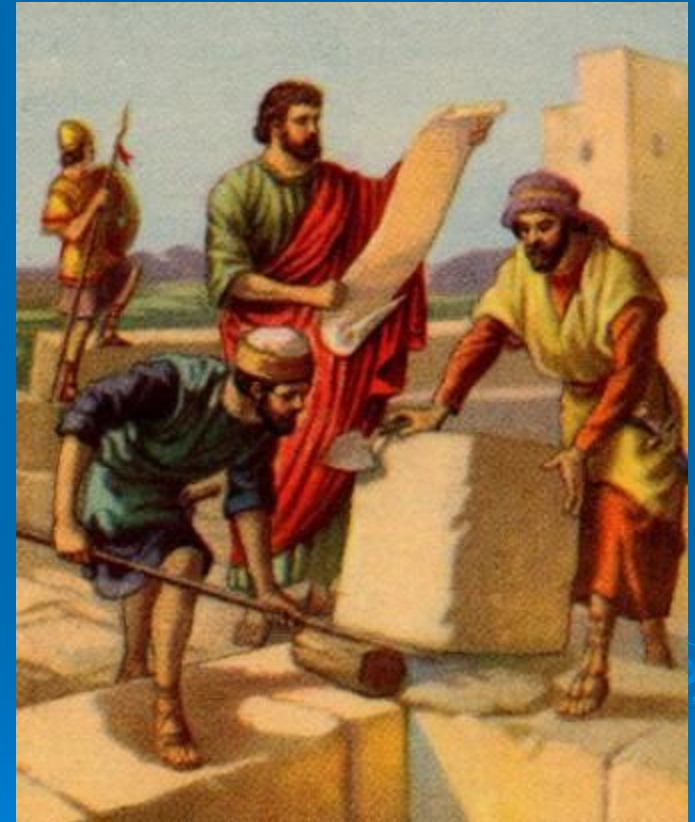


❑ The prudence of Nehemiah (1)

1. He gave the people a noble goal to live for.

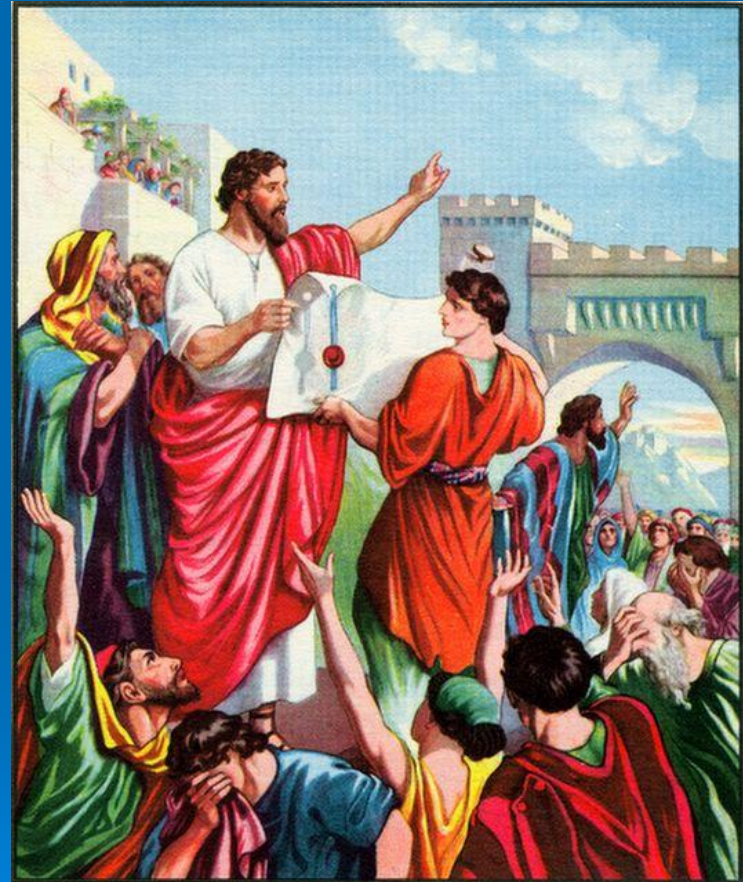
➤ “Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach”

Nehemiah 2:17



❑ The prudence of Nehemiah (2)

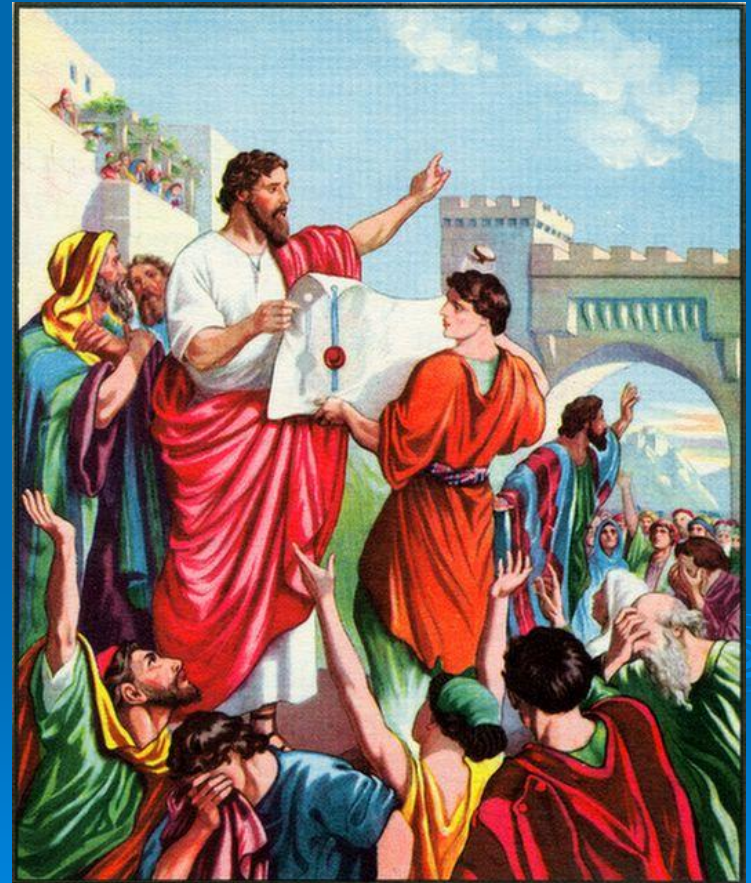
2. He led the people as their governor, yet Ezra was the priest who interpreted for them the Scripture.
- “And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, ‘This day *is* holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep.’” *Nehemiah 8:9*



❑ The prudence of Nehemiah (3)

3. He taught the people to seek the word of God in order to learn what God wants them to do.
- “...they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel ”

Nehemiah 8:1

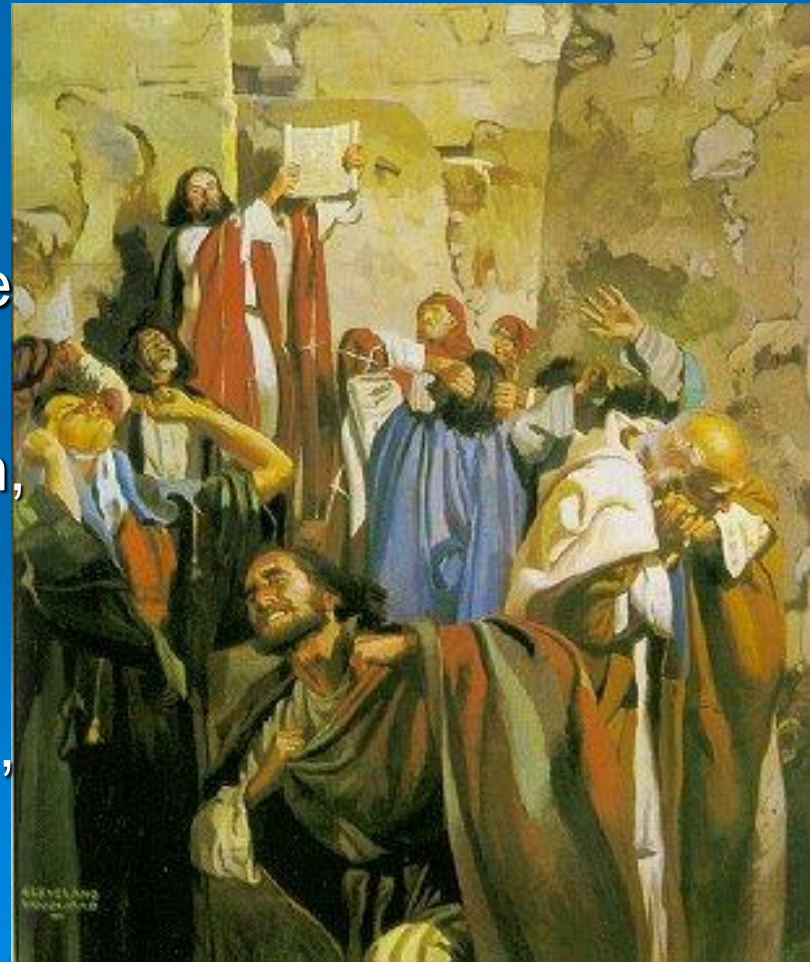


□ The prudence of Nehemiah (4)

4. He was supported by the elders of the people of Israel.

➤ “So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam. ”

Nehemiah 8:4



□ The prudence of Nehemiah (5)

5. In humility, he served as one of the people.
- “So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes, except that everyone took them off for washing.” *Nehemiah 4:23*

