



Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall

Nehemiah 1-6

“Hey, Scripture Guy!” Kasey greeted the superhero as he landed next to her park bench. “I got the message that you wanted to meet me.”

“Yes, Kasey. As you know, the Obliterator has caused extreme damage to King City. Kingdom Crusader and I need your help to carry out our plan to rebuild our fair city.”

“What plan?” Kasey asked. She pretended not to know, even though she was secretly the Kingdom Crusader.

“We believe the Obliterator is building up an army of criminals to attack King City,” he continued. “The Philistine has told us where the Obliterator’s secret hideaway is located. It’s dangerously close to King City. We want to build a wall around our fair city to protect her from his attack.”

Kasey wrote on her notepad. “Okay, one of our advertisers at the King City Herald is a building supplier. I’ll get in touch with them and see if they can donate some lumber, bricks, and cement.”

“Good,” Scripture Guy responded. “Scoop is organizing some volunteer teams to share the work.”

“Great! Is there anything else?” she asked.

Scripture Guy nodded again. “Yes, we also want to share God’s Word with the entire community. If we give our hearts to the Lord, the Obliterator can never harm us.”

“I got it.” Kasey scribbled another note. “I’ll run an article in the paper asking people to donate Bibles. Great plan, Scripture Guy! You’re a regular Nehemiah!” She stood up and waved as she crossed the street to the newspaper office.

Still sitting on the bench, Scripture Guy began to think, “Nehemiah? I hadn’t thought about that, but Nehemiah did rebuild the city wall around Jerusalem.”

He unclipped his Bible from his superhero tool belt and opened it to the book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king. He must have been very brave because the cup bearer makes sure no one has put poison in the king’s drink by taking the first drink.

As Scripture Guy began walking around the block to his secret lab, he continued to read about how the enemies of God's people had burned down Jerusalem's gates and broken down the wall which once protected the city. When Nehemiah found out, he was so sad that he cried and did not eat. He prayed God would help him talk to the king. Nehemiah asked the king to let him lead a team to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. The king showed favor on him and wrote letters telling everyone that he had the king's permission to rebuild the wall. While the people were working on the wall, they were being attacked by their enemies. A group of men led by two angry fellows named Sanballat and Tobiah would not leave them alone. So, Nehemiah placed guards behind the workers to protect them.

Scripture Guy looked up and noticed he had arrived at his lab. He clipped the Bible back onto his belt and opened the lab door. "Wow! Now that's what I call teamwork!"

"What did you say about teamwork?" Kingdom Crusader asked, looking up from her work at the city monitoring desk.

"I was just reading the story about Nehemiah," he explained.

Kingdom Crusader nibbled on the end of her pencil. "The guy that rebuilt Jerusalem's city wall?"

"That's the one," Scripture Guy confirmed. "He lined up the families side-by-side; each with their own part of the wall to repair. They carried building supplies in one hand and their weapons in the other!"

"Wow, talk about multi-tasking!" Kingdom Crusader exclaimed. "Nehemiah sure knew how to build a team, didn't he?"

"Exactly!" Scripture Guy agreed. "I loved his plan!"

"Then you are gonna' love this!" Kingdom Crusader opened a large, cloth bag and lifted out a strange looking contraption. "Look what the Philistine invented."

Scripture Guy took the long, narrow object and flipped it over and over in his hands, carefully avoiding the sharp edges. "That is the strangest thing I've ever seen. What is that?"

"It's a Hammer Sword," she explained. "You see, the sword side is for defending King City but once the bad guys run away, you flip it over, slide this thick rubber safety gripper over the sharp blade and ..." she paused and pushed the grip into place.

"Hey look! It's a hammer!" Scripture Guy grasped the rubber grip and tested the hammer on a nail sticking out of the doorpost. The nail quickly sunk back into the wood. "I think this plan could work if we all work together!"

The phone on the desk jangled loudly. Kingdom Crusader jumped up and answered it. "Kingdom Crusader here! Yeah, he loved it. I'll tell him. Good-bye." She hung up the phone and turned to Scripture Guy. "That was the Philistine. He said he could have a hundred Hammer Swords ready by tomorrow."

"Wow! That's quick service!" Scripture Guy said enthusiastically. "His inventions have really been a great help." The phone rang again. "I'll get it this time." He answered the phone, "Scripture Guy here. ... Hi, Pepper Rooney!"

"Oh, it's my ... I mean, it's Kasey's editor!" Kingdom Crusader exclaimed, catching herself before she gave away her secret identity.

Scripture Guy put his hand over the mouthpiece, "Yes, he says he loves Kasey's article asking for Bible donations and is going to run it!" He moved his hand and talked into the phone, "What's that? You say you also have a supplier to donate enough supplies to complete the wall? That's great! Thanks, Pepper!" He hung up and sat down at his work table to draw up more plans.

Moments later, the phone rang again. Kingdom Crusader picked it up. "Hello! Well, if it isn't Sarah Snodgrass with King City Construction! What's that? You heard about the wall project? You have a hundred workers ready to work tomorrow?"

"Great!" Scripture Guy called out. "Tell her we've got a hundred Hammer Swords."

"We've got a hundred Hammer Swords," Kingdom Crusader told Sarah. "It's a new invention. We'll show you tomorrow." She paused. "Great! Tell them to meet us in front of the King City Herald at 8 a.m. Thank you for your help. Bye!"

Scripture Guy smiled. "Well, it looks like we're building quite a team. We've got the King City Herald on our side."

"And the Philistine," Kingdom Crusader added, "and building suppliers and King City Construction and a hundred volunteers. We should call this the 'Nehemiah Project!' If we all work together like Nehemiah did with the families of Jerusalem, there's no way we can lose!"

"We only need one more person on our side," Scripture Guy said. He reopened his Bible to Nehemiah. "I'll let Nehemiah tell you. Look what the Bible says, 'So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.'"

"Of course! With God's help that old Obliterator can never defeat us," Kingdom Crusader agreed.

"We should pray and ask God for his help," Scripture Guy suggested.

"I know exactly what I'm going to ask God to help me do," Kingdom Crusader said with a big grin. "Lord, help me give everything to honor our King!"