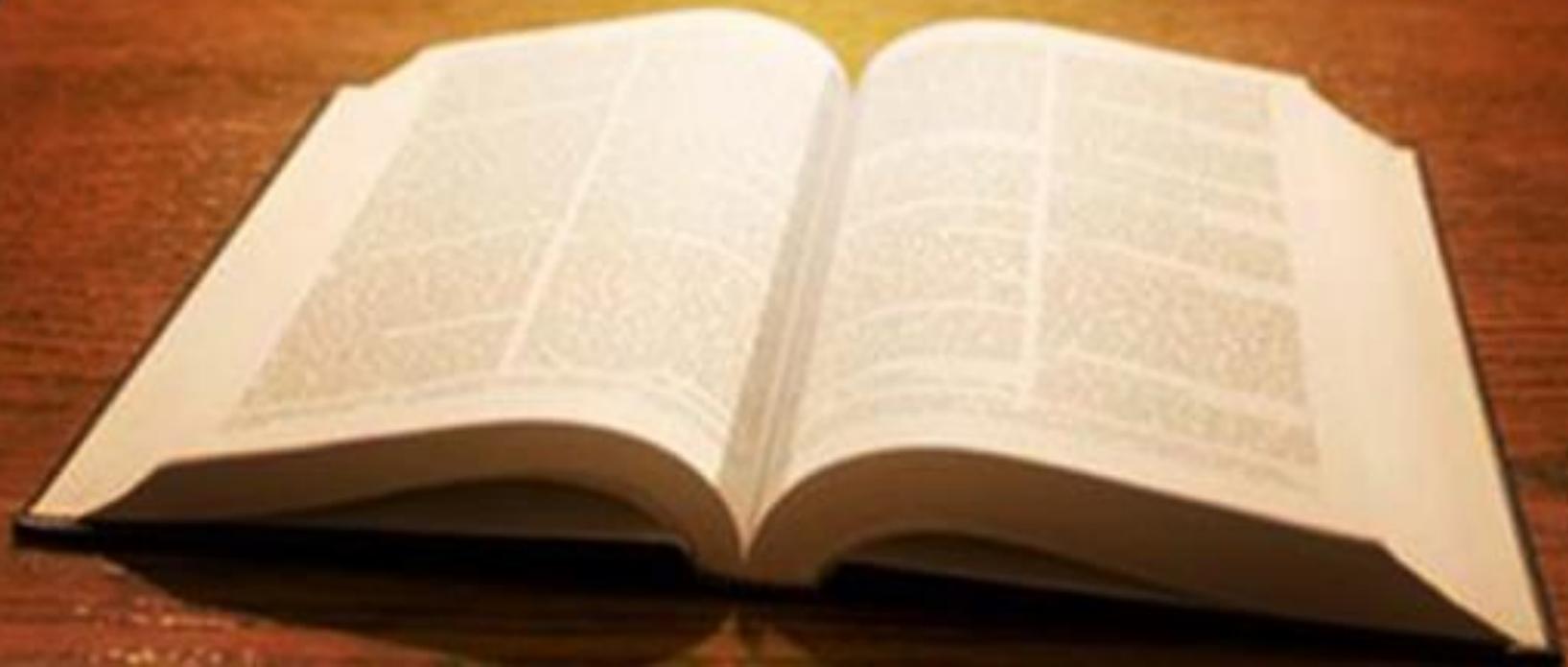


THE SERMON

“Faith to Finish”



The Faith to Finish



Adrienne Haslet-Davis (c), dancer, survivor who lost her left leg in 2013 Boston Marathon, *cheers* as she crosses the finish line of this year's (2015) race.

Building a Better Tomorrow

TIME FOR

REVIEW

Need for *Revival* (Neh 1:1-4)

Power of *Prayer* (Neh 1:5-11)

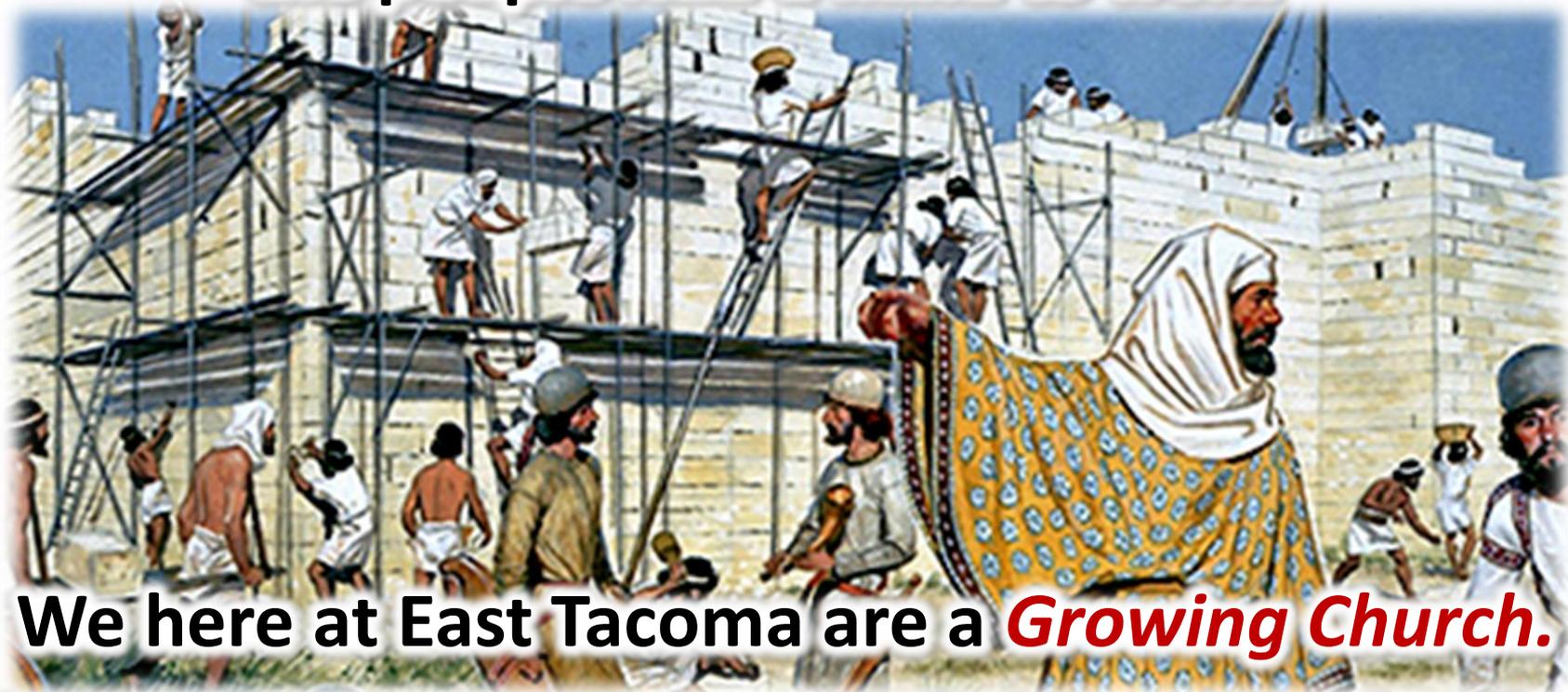
God's *Timing* (Neh 1-2)

Power of *Unity* (Neh 3-4:6)

Faith fo *Finish* (Neh 4:6 - 6:15)

Stay Focused 'Till Task is Complete

Neh 4:6 "We built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to *half its height*, for the people *Had a mind to work.*"

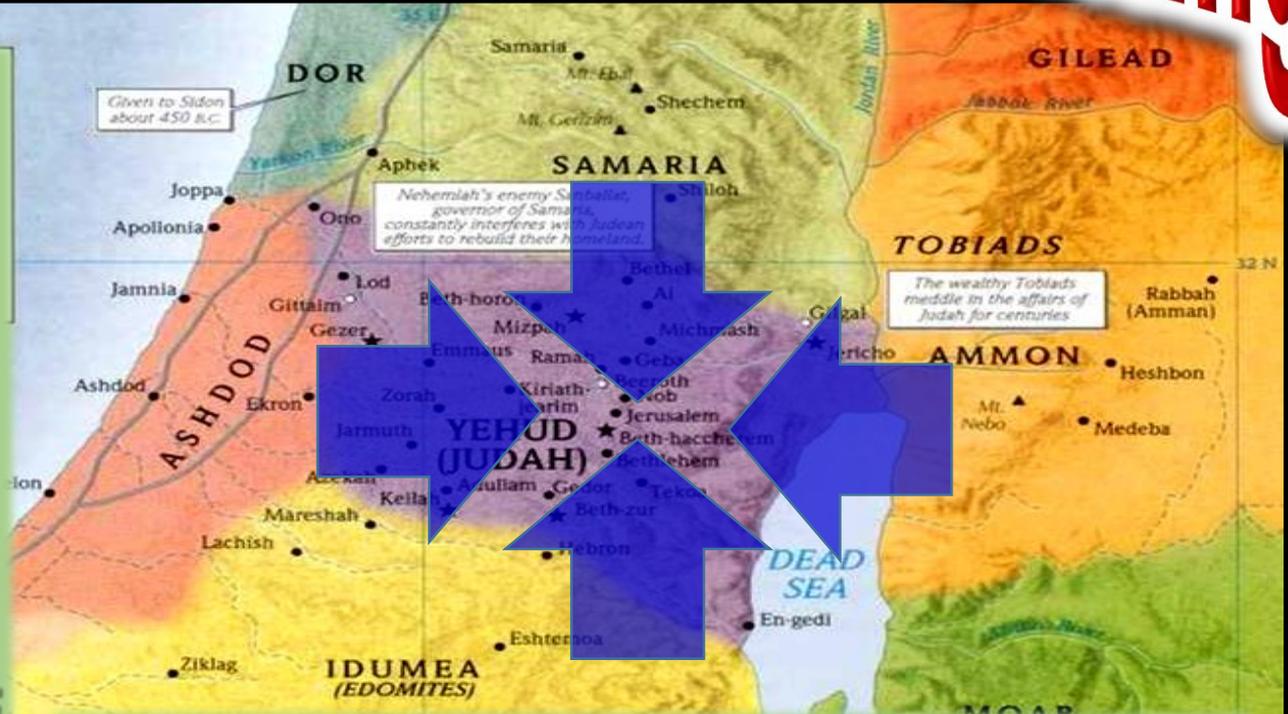


We here at East Tacoma are a *Growing Church.*

It's Exciting. We were *born to belong* to each other.

Face Obstacles Without Quitting

Neh 4:7
When *Sanballat, Arabs, the Ammonites, Ashdodites* heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on..



and that the breaches began to be closed, they were *very angry*.
Neh 4:8 All of them conspired together to *come and fight...*

Face Obstacles Without Quitting

Neh 4:9 “But we *prayed* to our God, and because of them we set *up a guard* against them day & night.

Why Challenged?

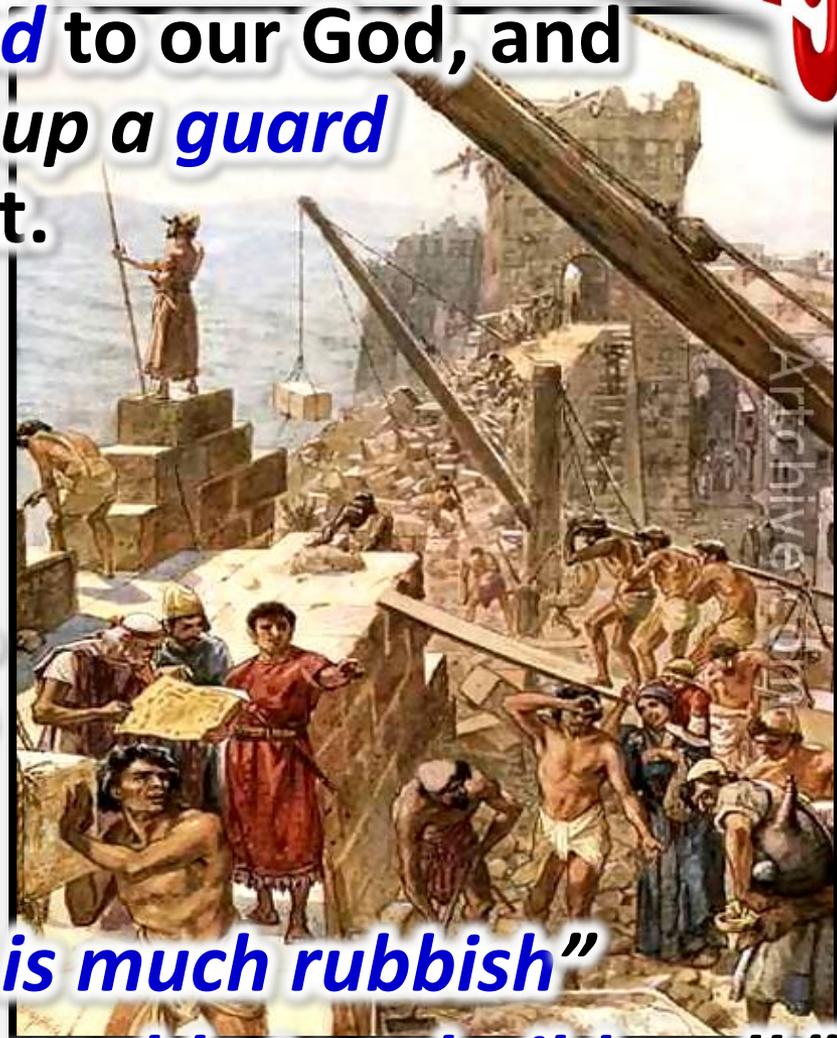
v.6 *Only HALF done !*

v.7 *Threatened with attack.*

v.10 *Tired: “Strength of the burden bearers is failing.”*

v.10 *More to do: “Yet there is much rubbish”*

v.10 *Discouraged: “We are unable to rebuild wall.”*



10 Reasons to Choose **Optimism** Today

- 1. Optimists feel better and are healthier. (Prov 17:22)**
- 2. Optimists don't sweat the small stuff. (1 Cor 4:3)**
- 3. Optimists have happier relationships. (Eccles 9:9)**
- 4. They enjoy their work more. (Eccles 2:24; 3:13)**
- 5. Optimists are more persistent. (Phil 3:14)**
- 6. Optimists are less suicide prone. (Eccles 3:12)**
- 7. Optimists are less anxious & depressed. (Phil 4:6f)**
- 8. Optimists live longer. (Ps 91:16 & 18)**
- 9. Optimists are more resilient. (Phil 4:13)**
- 10. Optimists are happier. (Rom 8:28; Prov 9:15; 15:15)**

A knight in full plate armor stands in a battlefield, holding a sword. The knight is wearing a helmet with a visor, a breastplate, and gauntlets. The background is a dark, smoky battlefield with other soldiers visible in the distance.

Make No Mistake

I will defend the weak.

I will defend freedom.

I will sacrifice so that
others may live free.

I will defend my
family to the death.

I love peace, but I am
a fierce enemy.

I live by a special code.

I was born to be the...

WARRIOR!

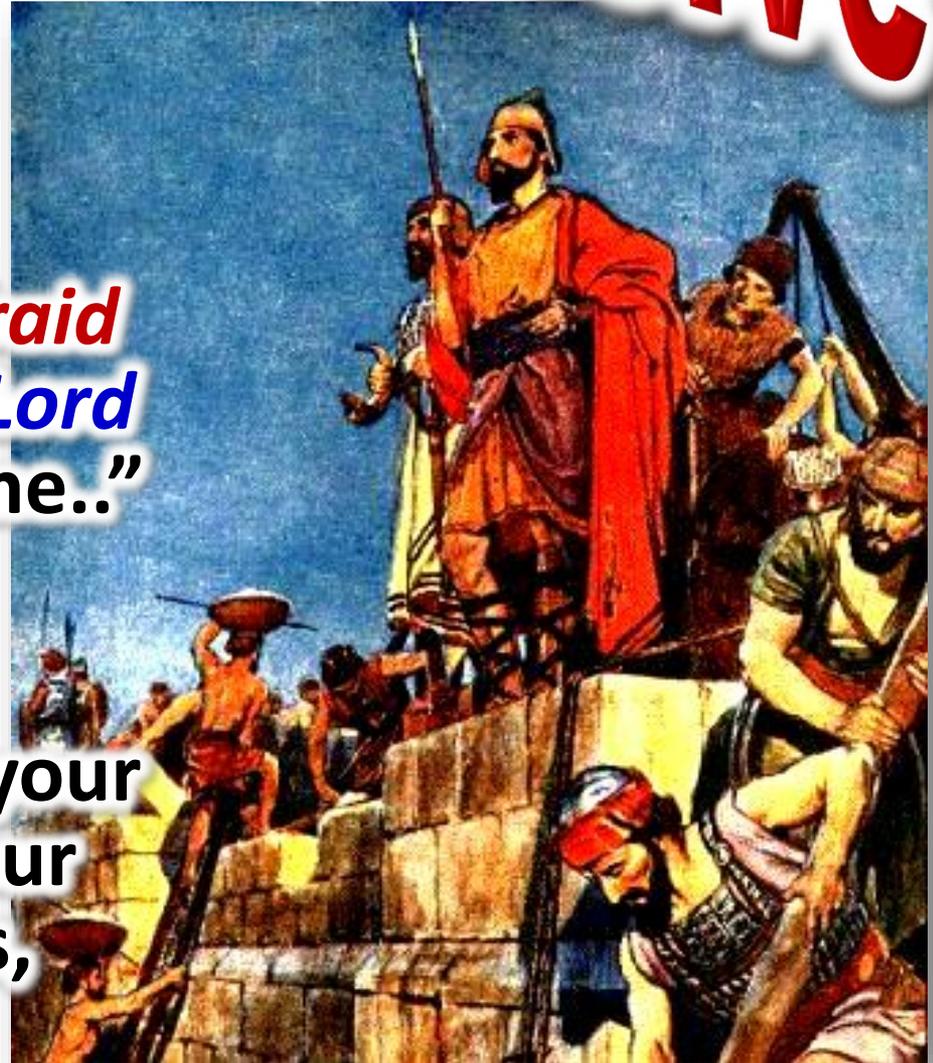
Go on the Offensive

Focus on Power of God

Neh 4:14 *“Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome..”*

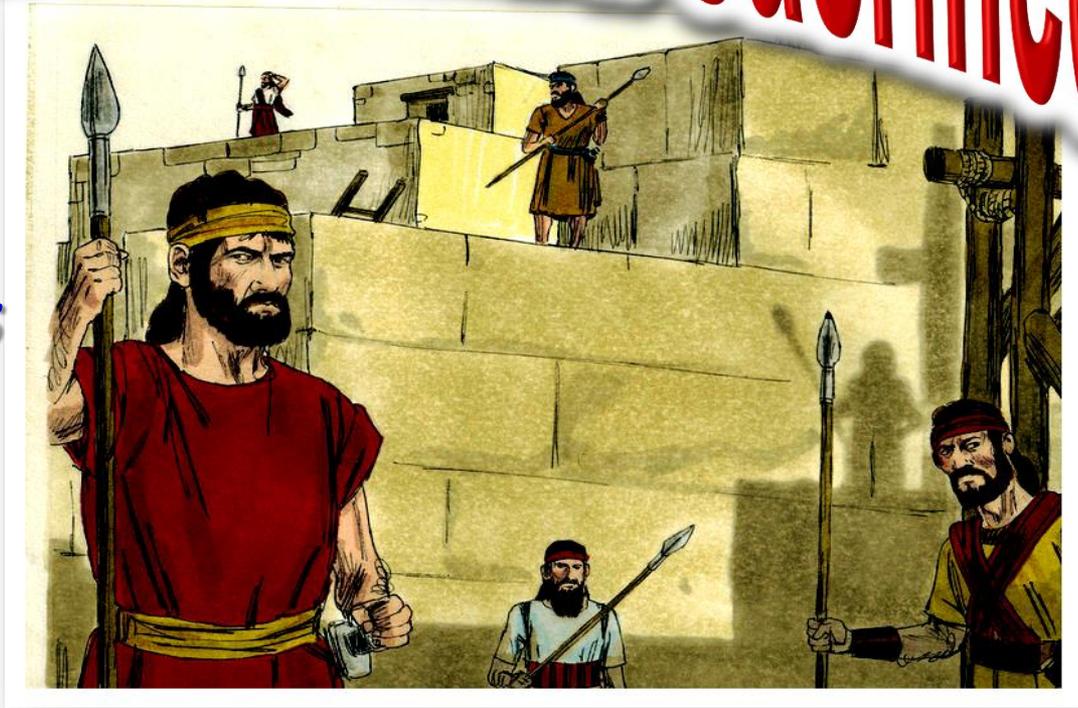
Take Action Dan 11:32

Neh 4:14 *“And fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.”*



Dedication Involves Extra Sacrifice

Neh 4:16 “From that day on, that *half of my servants carried on the work* while half of them held *the spears..*”



- v.17 Now even the *workmen* carried weapons.
- v.20 Reminded them that *God* will fight for them.
- v.21 Carried on the work *dawn till dark*. 12 hrs+
- v.23 Took no time even to *change* dirty clothes.

There's Always Rubble to Clear

Neh 4:10

Solving *financial* irregularities (Neh 5:1-13)

Some deeply in debt—others took advantage

Set great *example* in generosity & effort (Neh 5:16f)

Didn't take *permissible allowances*

Provided *financially* for others

Personally *worked* on Wall

Dismissing *unjust criticism* (Neh 6:5-7)

Don't spend any more effort defending yourself than they put in accusing you.

Having A Great Vision



(Neh 6:3) I sent messengers to them, saying, "*I am doing a great work* & I cannot come down."

I see this church's focus on *Christ's Love* John 13:34
I see a congregation intent on *Evangelism* Mat 28:19
I see a desire to train new church *Leaders* 2 Tim 2:2
And the hunger to reach next *Generations* Ps 78:6f 12

FOREVER FRIENDSHIP

Neh 8:2 Ezra the priest brought *the law* before the assembly of men and women..

Neh 8:9 “All the people were *weeping* when they heard the words of the law.”

Neh 8:10 “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. *Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.*”

