

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 2 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #10



CREATION CORNER

Mutations

Evolution requires that changes be made which make brand new species that never existed before. According to evolutionists, natural selection and mutations are the only two ways that new species have ever been made.

We learned last week that so-called “natural selection” is totally unable to produce new species. Now we shall learn that mutations cannot do it either.

What are mutations?

We see lots of fantasy on TV and movies that show mutations or ‘mutants’ as something very hardy and powerful and super, but is this true?

Mutations are damage caused to the body’s DNA blueprint, primarily by radiation. Why cannot mutations produce new species? It would take millions of helpful, beneficial mutations; working together all at one time to produce a new species. But-

1 - In nature, mutations are too rare. They only occur once in billions of times.

2 - They only have random effects. Mutations

are totally haphazard. They are never purposive or planned.

3 - They are never helpful. They weaken the body and never improve it.

4 - They are usually deadly. Most mutations kill the organism outright. A mutation is a random, wild event. It is something like an automobile crash: It comes suddenly, when least expected, and no one can predict the outcome. But one thing you can be sure of: It will produce damage.

Here are several more reasons why mutations could never produce new plants or animals:

1 - Creatures which have mutations tend to die out and the few that live, produce young which tend to die out.

2 - If there were more mutations, the human race—as well as all the plants and animals—would be destroyed. We can be thankful there are so few of them.

3 - Evolutionists say that, given enough time, a few mutations here and there, can produce new species. That is not true, for millions of positive, helpful, interrelated mutations would have to occur in one instant in order for one species to come into existence. The entire DNA code would have to be instantly changed to a different, useful arrangement

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(and the chances of that happening are impossible).

4 - The next instant, a mate for that creature would have to be brought into existence nearby.

5 - Evolutionists say that, given enough time, a few mutations, here and there, can produce new species. Each one changes one species a little more toward another. But that is not true, for we find no halfway species anywhere! All are distinct and different.

6 - Everything in a species has to work right or it becomes weak and eventually dies out. Mutations do not strengthen; they only weaken. They do not produce new, stronger species; they only injure the ones that already exist.

7 - In 1928, it was discovered that X-rays could increase the number of mutations by a million-fold. This enabled scientists to try to produce new species with test animals. But all they learned was that mutations always injure or kill, and never produce new species. Only God can make plants and animals. No one else can, and senseless, random, harmful mutations cannot do it either.

But it can all be stated in a few words: It would take millions of helpful, beneficial mutations, working together all at one time to produce a new species. But in nature, mutations are too rare. They only occur once in billions of times. They only have random effects. Mutations are totally haphazard. They are never purposive or planned. They are never helpful. They only weaken the body and never improve it. They are usually deadly. Most mutations kill the organism outright.

Give God your life, believe and obey what He has told us in the Bible, and He will give you a happier life than you could otherwise have.

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HISTORY

The History of Mohammed: 8 AD 624-630 Jihad: More 'holy' wars!

By a special revelation from the angel, Mohammed claimed the fifth part of all the captured camels, horses, and supplies. He now had come into an immense supply of wealth.

More raids followed. At one, the same year, Mohammed suffered a severe defeat at Ohud, six miles from Medina, where he himself was wounded. This disaster imperiled his reputation, as some of his followers began questioning whether he was a genuine messenger from God. So the prophet was provided with another revelation. He told his followers the defeat was due to their sins, and assured them that the seventy martyrs who died in that battle were already enjoying the pleasures of Paradise.

For some reason, Mohammed's defeat at Ohud intensified his harsh feelings. A Jewish lady, Asma, wrote a poem in which she said something negative about the prophet. For this deed she was murdered by a Muslim. Immediately afterward in the public mosque, the prophet praised the murderer for what he had done.

When some Jews quarreled with some Muslims over a matter, Mohammed ordered his men to attack the entire Jewish tribe. The tribe surrendered after a 15-day siege of their village. Mohammed ordered all the prisoners, including women and children, to be killed. But at the urgent request of a powerful chief in Medina, the prophet cursed them and let them flee to another town.

All of these facts are derived from Muslim historians. They do not try to hide what happened, but glorify the prophet for what he did.

On another occasion, seven hundred Jewish prisoners had surrendered, trusting in Mohammed's mercies. He ordered all the men killed, and the women and children sold into slavery. One woman who was especially beautiful, Mohammed selected for his personal harem.

Ironically, if Mohammed had died in Mecca in 619 when his wife did, he would go down in history as a good man who preached peace and simple living. But it is impossible to tell the story of Mohammed's life without telling it all. Muslim historians carefully wrote it all down, so later generations could know what happened. People today should know it as well.

About this time, the prophet began multiplying wives. Each time he did so, he publicly announced

to his followers that he had received a special revelation permitting it.

In 626, Mohammed led 3,000 men against the Banu-Kuraiza Jews. Capturing them, 600 fighting men among the Jews were put to death and buried in a mass grave. Their women and children were sold into slavery.

From January 624, onward, the violence continued year after year. Battles were fought against the Syrians, Quraish of Mecca, and the Jews. During his ten years in Medina, the prophet planned sixty-five campaigns and raids, and personally led twenty-seven of them.

The men of Mecca had suffered immensely by the years of pillage, and wished that it could somehow stop. The raids led by Mohammed were drying up their commerce. Then, on behalf of his followers who were anxious to visit relatives in Mecca and once again go to the Kaaba, in 628 Mohammed sent the Quraish an offer of peace, pledging the safety of their caravans in return for permission to fulfill the rites of the annual pilgrimage. The Quraish replied that a period of peace must precede this consent. A ten-year truce was signed, both sides solemnly agreed not to attack the other.

Mohammed consoled his disappointed raiders, who had been enjoying all the spoils they collected in battle, by ordering them to attack the Khaibar Jews in their settlement six days' journey northeast of Medina. The horrors of another conquest followed.

By agreement with the Quraish, in 629, the Medina Muslims, numbering about 2,000, entered Mecca peacefully, made seven circuits of the Kaaba, reverently touched the Black Stone, and then shouted "There is no god but Allah alone!"

Impressed by their orderly behavior, several influential Quraish, including the future generals Khalid and Amr, adopted the new faith. In addition, some neighboring desert tribes offered Mohammed the pledge of their belief if he would defend them with his arms.

By the time the prophet had returned to Medina, he decided he was now strong enough to capture Mecca. Of course, he was bound by a ten-year truce not to attack the city, and only two years had elapsed. But, claiming that a tribe allied with the Quraish had attacked a Muslim tribe, Mohammed broke the truce in 630.

Gathering 10,000 men, he marched to Mecca. Fear fell on all the inhabitants. Abu Sufyan the Quraish leader, who earlier had opposed him, recognized the situation to be hopeless and let the army enter the city.

Mohammed grandly announced a general amnesty, and only slew two or three of his enemies. He destroyed the idols in and around the Kaaba, but spared the Black Stone and approved the kissing of it. Then he publicly proclaimed Mecca as the Holy City of Islam and the point toward which Muslims should turn when they pray. He decreed that no unbeliever should ever be permitted to set foot on its sacred soil. All opposition by the Quraish ended, and Mohammed was now master of the city and everyone in it. He was sixty years old. = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Only a Quarter

Several years ago a preacher moved to Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, you better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it. Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway the bus company already gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking lately about going to worship somewhere. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change."

When he stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, and held on, and said, "OH God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

“The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.” Proverbs 20:12

God has given us five senses—hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, and feeling. These are called special senses because they are very different from each other. They also differ from our sense of feeling pain when any part is hurt.

Each of the special senses has a set of nerves and also particular cells in the brain that have charge of them. We say that we see with our eyes, hear with our ears, feel with our fingers, but, really, we see, hear, taste, and smell in the brain, just as we feel in the brain. The eyes, ears, nose, and other organs of the special senses are the instruments by which the brain sees, hears, smells, et cetera.

All sounds are made by vibrations of objects. Sounds cause objects to vibrate or tremble. A loud sound sometimes jars a whole house, while other sounds are so gentle and soft that we cannot feel them like we feel loud sounds. But our Creator has made for us a nifty organ, with which we can feel these very fine vibrations, as well as loud ones. We call it the ear.

The part of the ear that we can see is shaped somewhat like a trumpet and is called the outer ear. The small opening near the middle of the ear leads into a canal, or tube, which extends into the head about an inch. At the inner end there is a little chamber called the middle ear. At the end of the canal of the ear there is stretched a thin membrane like the head on a drum, and, in fact, it is called the eardrum. The middle ear is behind this drum.

Within the middle ear there are three very interesting little bones, which are joined together so as to make a chain reaching from the eardrum to the other side of the middle ear. The last bone fits into a little hole that leads into another chamber, called the inner ear and is filled with a fluid. It is here that sound comes to the nerves and is transmitted to the brain. A part of the Inner ear looks very much like a snail shell.

How We Hear. Take a long wooden pole or good sized stick, and scratch it with a spoon or some other hard object. Have someone listen with the ear placed close against the other end of the stick. He will hear the scratching sound very plainly. This is because the scratching sound goes through the pole to the ear. The sound travels down the ear canal and vibrates the eardrum. When the eardrum

vibrates it moves the bones of the middle ear, and these carry the vibration to the nerves in the inner ear. The nerves communicate the sound to the brain, where we understand it to be a scratching sound. Amazing, isn't it! We hear all sounds in the same way, only most sounds come to the ear through the air instead of through a stick.

The ears are very delicate organs and must be carefully treated. The following things about the care of the ears should never be forgotten:

(1.) Never use a pin, toothpick, or any other sharp instrument to clean out the ear. There is great danger that the eardrum will be punctured, and thus the hearing will be injured.

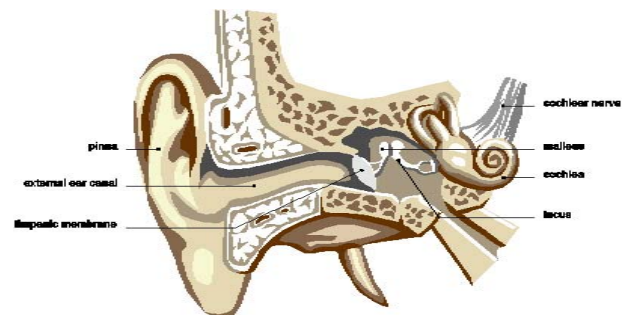
(2.) Do not allow cold wind to blow directly into the ear.

(3.) If anything accidentally gets into the ear, do not work at it, but hold the head over to one side while water is made to run in from a syringe. If an insect has gone into the ear, pour in a little alcohol or mineral oil. This will kill the insect or make it come out.

(4.) Never shout into someone's ear or slap him over his ear. The ear may be greatly injured in this way. Try your best to avoid loud sounds and if you must work around noisy equipment, wear earplugs to keep your ears from being damaged.

Loud music can also damage your ears. Have you seen people with music systems so loud in their cars that the vehicle seems to jump with the sound? Well, they will soon become deaf if they keep listening to something so loud. I saw a picture once of eggs which had been 'cooked' by being placed in front of the huge speakers at a Rock Concert—imagine what this noise does to your ears and brain!

Hearing is one of the most precious gifts that God has given us, and we should do all that we can to protect it. = ^ .. ^ =



MISSION STORY

Ratu Ambrose 2

On the way back home John and Calvin talked things over. Why shouldn't they go and hold a three-week evangelistic effort there? So three weeks later the missionaries boarded the little boat again, and sailed across Suva Bay to Suva Vou.

For three weeks the meetings continued. Ratu Ambrose attended the meetings faithfully, but every time John saw him, into his mind there flashed the warning words, "Look out for old Ratu Ambrose."

Finally they came to the consecration service on the last Sabbath morning of their effort, and Ratu Ambrose was there. After an earnest appeal for those who were willing to obey God at all costs to "come out and be separate," in order to get ready to meet the Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming, John called for a season of prayer. One who prayed was Metui, an old fisherman, whose body still bore the scars of the terrible wounds from when Ratu Ambrose had made him lie on the beach when he launched his canoe, and used his body as a roller. He prayed that God would take all the hard feelings from his heart. Then he prayed for his chief, that God would give him a new heart and make him a great light among his people.

After Metui had prayed, to everyone's surprise Ratu Ambrose prayed! "Look out!" the warning words began to flash into John Fulton's mind, but they vanished at the old man's earnest prayer. He prayed that God would forgive him for his past wicked life and his harsh treatment of the village folk. Then his voice choked up. The tears rolled down his cheeks. He sobbed like a child, "And, O God, forgive me for being so cruel to my dear wife. I've been such a wicked man. But, God, I want a new heart. I want to be kind and good. O God, help me to be ready when Jesus comes."

When the season of prayer was over, the old chief stood up, and with the tears still running down his face, confessed his sins. He assured the people that he was finished with his old dishonest ways, that he was through with whisky, and unclean foods, and that from now on he was going to be a real Christian. Suddenly, as he spoke John knew that this was not the old Ratu Ambrose anymore, but it was a new Ratu Ambrose—a new man in Christ Jesus.

The next morning before they left, Ratu Ambrose and a group of the village elders

approached our two missionaries and said, "Look, Misi Fulitoni, you are looking for a place to build a mission station for Misi Parker. Why not build here in Suva Vou? We want you to live here always."

"Well, we were thinking of someplace farther away from Suva."

"But we want you here!" declared Ratu Ambrose, "do you know what I am going to do?" interrupted the chief seriously. "I'm going to hope that a great cyclone blows your houses to pieces, carries the pieces over and casts them down in Suva Vou, and puts them together right here in our midst."

Regularly each week John Fulton and Calvin Parker made the trip to worship with the new believers and to get them ready for baptism. On each occasion Ratu Ambrose was there to greet them.

"Well, how is the battle against liquor and unclean foods going?" inquired John seriously. "God has taken away my desire for them all," the chief reported.

"Then what's that tobacco pipe doing in your pocket?"

"Oh, must that go too?" he asked as if it had never occurred to him before.

"Can you imagine the Lord Jesus smoking a pipe?" asked John.

"No! No! and I can't imagine you smoking a pipe, either. But some of our old missionaries smoked, and all the government men smoke."

"But Ratu, ours is the Lotu Savasava, (Clean Church) and none of our members smoke."

"All right then," replied Ratu Ambrose, "away it goes." And he took his pipe and his tobacco out of his pocket and threw them away as far as he could, and he never touched them again.

A few weeks later at one of the meetings, Ratu Ambrose's wife, Clara stood up and said, "I want to say something. I haven't been interested in the Lotu Savasava and I haven't come to many of the meetings, but it is different now, and I want to get ready for baptism too. It's all because of him!" and she cast a loving look at Ratu Ambrose.

"He used to be such a monster. He used to get drunk and beat me. He made me do all the work in the garden. But it has all changed since he decided to join the Lotu Savasava. He never drinks now. He never gets angry with me or beats me anymore. He works in the garden with me and he is kind and true to me. He brings home all his money. He loves his Bible, and when I hear him

praying for me, it makes me cry for joy. So I told him the other day, 'Your God will be my God too. Your Lotu will be my Lotu. We will be baptized together and go to the Lotu Savasava together, and go to heaven together.'"

There is no need to say that this heartfelt testimony brought great joy to everyone.

"Do you know, John," said Calvin as they were returning from one of those meetings, "I am impressed that perhaps we should locate our mission station at Suva Vou."

"I feel the same way, Calvin," replied John.

When they told Ratu Ambrose of their decision, he wept for joy. "God has sent the cyclone at last," he exclaimed. "And now you will live in our midst."

Through the chief's influence many willing workers came to help, and in a little more than a month the Parkers were living in the rebuilt mission home in Suva Vou. = ^ .. ^ =



Year 2: 2nd Quarter:
"FAVOURITE BIBLE STORIES"
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 10:
"EZRA AND NEHEMIAH"

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days. There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

MEMORY VERSE: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Sunday

Text: Ezra 7:6-8 "This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king."

About 70 years after the first Jews returned to Jerusalem, a king called Artaxerxes Longimanus ruled Medo-Persia. It was during his reign that Ezra and Nehemiah lived. He is the one who in 457 B.C. issued the third and final decree for the restoration of Jerusalem. This is the decree that is the starting place to figure out the time prophecies of Daniel. His reign saw the return of a company of Jews under Ezra, the completion of the walls of Jerusalem by Nehemiah and his associates. During his long rule he often showed favor to God's people, and in his trusted and well-beloved Jewish friends, Ezra and Nehemiah, he saw men that God had raised up for a special work.

Ezra was born and trained as a priest, but he wanted to know more and to serve God with all his heart. So while still in Babylon he studied history and scriptures to know why God had allowed the captivity of his people. He learned how important God's law was, and so he obeyed it and taught it carefully to others. The king knew about Ezra and helped him to go to Jerusalem to oversee the rebuilding of the temple. He gave him treasures to take to the temple.

Ezra also gathered up all the scripture scrolls he could find and spent much labor carefully copying them. By studying and teaching and copying the sacred Word of God, he became a noble and wise man, blessed by God in his work for the people. When we work to help and teach others, God helps us to know more and understand more as we study.

Thought - The more we can read and study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy books the more noble and wise we will become also.

Monday

Text: Ezra 8:21-23 “Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.”

Ezra had talked with the king and made many arrangements for help to all who wanted to return with him to Jerusalem, God had blessed and the way was made so easy; but when the call was given for all who wanted to come to meet at a certain place, Ezra was disappointed at how few showed up. Too many of them were comfortable where they were and didn't want to bother.

Also when Ezra looked over the ones who had come, he saw there were no Levites there. So Ezra sent leading men with letters to invite the people again, especially do we need ministers for the house of God, he told them. The letters worked and many who had been not quite sure, made up their mind to come.

Soon they were ready to leave, but it was a long and dangerous journey that would take months and they also had much treasure with them. There were many robbers that could steal all that treasure and kill the people. Now Ezra could have asked for armed soldiers from the king to go with them as bodyguards, but he said that he felt ashamed after telling the king all about his wonderful God, to turn around and ask for human protection. So they fasted and prayed that God would watch over them, and then they left with confidence knowing they were safe under the care of angels.

Ezra and his band made the trip safely and it wasn't long before the temple was built and the services restored.

Thought - When we claim to belong to God and tell people about Him, what do they think if they see us always upset and afraid at everything that happens?

Tuesday

Text: Nehemiah 1:3,4 “And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.”

Now the other man in our story, who God sent to help rebuild Jerusalem, was Nehemiah. He had an important job as the king's own cupbearer. Now this was a special job, and a king would try to have someone he was sure he could trust to do it. In those days it was common for people who were jealous of the king or were his enemies to try and get a chance to poison him. So the cupbearer was the one who would protect the king's drinks and taste them to make sure they were not poisoned.

One day a relative of Nehemiah's came from Jerusalem and visited him and he told him about the mess the city was in because the walls were all broken and the gates burned up. The city had no protection from enemies and it was hard to travel around and get things done with all the heaps of rubble in the streets.

Nehemiah was so upset about this that he began to weep and pray to God that something be done to help the situation. God was placing in his heart this strong desire to do something to fix the problems. When God presses upon our hearts concern about something, we say we have a burden for this thing. Well Nehemiah had a burden to do something about those broken walls.

Now there is a rule about king's palaces that nobody who works there with the king is allowed to look sad or worried. If they do, they might even be executed! (That would worry me, wouldn't it worry you?)

Well Nehemiah was doing his best to stay cheerful when he was waiting on the king, but one day the king noticed and said, “Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart.”

Now Nehemiah was afraid, but he decided to tell the whole truth about what was worrying him. In his heart he prayed to God to help him. The king did not get angry; instead he asked Nehemiah what he could do to help him.

Nehemiah asked for time off to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls.

Thought - Always remember where ever you are, you can always dart a prayer to God for help and He will hear you.

Wednesday

Text: Nehemiah 2:11-13 “So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon. And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.”

Nehemiah asked the king for letters to the governors so he could get help and trees and things needed to do the work. He also was given captains and soldiers to go with him, as he was a special servant of the king. But Nehemiah knew that if he just showed up in Jerusalem and said, “Hey, the king has sent me and you have to do what I say” that the people would not want to do it. So he went by night and took a careful look at the situation all by himself, then the next day he called a meeting.

Verse 17 “Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.”

First he got them interested and excited about doing the job and then he told them about all the letters and help that the King had sent for them. So the people all got together and made a plan and began to work on the walls. What they did was, each family worked on the area of wall that was nearest to his home, and the women and children all helped by taking baskets and carrying away the rubbish and rubble.

Soon things began to shape up. But when the enemies of Israel saw that the Jews were building up the walls, they started to make fun of them and say that the people were rebelling against the king. Little did they know that it was the king's own special servant they were talking to.

Thought - It would have been fun to be back there and help with that job, wouldn't it?

Thursday

Text: Nehemiah 4:1-3 “But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.”

Now the enemies of Israel came and offered to help in the project but Nehemiah knew that it was not what God wanted, for these enemies to be doing the work, and it would just give them a chance to cause trouble and stop the work, so he told them, “NO! You have no part with us in this work.”

So then they started making fun and trying to discourage the people. When that didn't work they began to threaten to come and attack them. They said that with all the rubbish still lying around, they could easily sneak up and kill the workers.

So Nehemiah set people to watch every so far around the walls, and told the people to have their weapons ready to fight, if anyone should attack, and the work kept on as the people had a mind to work. In other words they wanted to see the job done.

Nehemiah had half of the workers stand and hold the spears and swords while the other half worked. From early in the morning they worked, until it was too dark to see. Then they lay down to sleep and didn't even take off their cloths at night. Everybody watched and worked and was ready to fight if the enemies dared attack, and the walls went up and up.

Then the enemies tried a new trick, they tried to get Nehemiah to come to a meeting with them, and of course they planed to kill him. But he was wise in the Lord and told them, “NO! I am doing a good work here and why should the work stop while I come and talk to you?”

Then the enemies sent a letter and said, ‘It is reported by the heathen and Gashmu has said it, that you are planning to rebel against the King.’ Nehemiah just told them, ‘that's not true, you are making it up.’

Thought - Notice all these tricks that the enemies of God tried to get God's people to give up and stop working—these are the same tricks that Satan and his helpers try against us today.

Friday

Text: Nehemiah 6:10,11 "Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee. And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in."

The next thing they tried was to hire a 'friend' of Nehemiah to talk to him and tell him to come and hide in the temple, because his enemies were going to kill him. Nehemiah knew that God had not sent this man, and that if he went and hid like that, all the people would be afraid and want to hide too; so he said the words in our text and the enemy was defeated again.

Soon the walls were finished and the great gates were put in place and were shut at night and only opened in the main part of the day. Now at last the people of Jerusalem began to have some peace and were able to get busy and build up their houses and worship God in the temple.

Nehemiah did some other interesting things. He told the merchants they were not to come and sell things on the Sabbath, and if he caught them hanging around just outside the walls he would arrest them. He taught the people to honour God's Sabbath.

One time he found out that many of the people and even the priests had married wives from the heathen and because of this, their children spoke half in the heathen language and half in Hebrew, and didn't understand the Hebrew language. When he found out about this, you'll never guess what he says he did! "And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves." Nehemiah 13:25

Then he and Ezra made arrangements for all the people that had married heathen wives to send those wives away, back to their heathen families. If they would not do this, they were sent away themselves. It was a terrible mistake to make, for a follower of God to marry someone who does not believe the same. It is still a terrible mistake and we should never let Satan fool us into making it!

Nehemiah found that one of the heathen men was actually living in a room in the temple, and he went there and threw the man out, and all his furniture as well. Then he had the rooms scrubbed and the temple things put back in there.

Thought - We really need some brave people today who will be like Nehemiah and do right, and not let anyone stop him from doing what God wants done. = ^ .. ^ =

