

City of God Notes

Overview

Shawn preached on Nehemiah 2:1-10, emphasizing Nehemiah's role as a cupbearer to the king and the broader cosmic significance of his mission. He recounted the historical context of the Israelites returning from exile, the rebuilding of the temple, and the need to restore the city walls. Shawn highlighted the spiritual battle between good and evil, referencing the fall of angels and their influence over nations. He drew parallels between Nehemiah's actions and Jesus' role as the Comforter, urging the congregation to hold their influence for God's kingdom and to pray and act boldly when opportunities arise.

Outline

Setting the Scene with Nehemiah

- Nehemiah's position as a cupbearer to the king.
- Reviews the historical context of the Israelites returning from exile and the rebuilding of the temple.
- The focus shifts to the broader implications of Nehemiah's story, including the rebuilding of the city walls and the larger spiritual battle.

Historical Context: The Flood and Babel

- This story has a greater context. It goes all the way back to the story of the flood and the Tower of Babel, explaining God's disinheritance of the nations.
- The table of nations in Genesis 10 is mentioned, leading to the confusion of languages at Babel.
- God disinherited the nations and kept the Israelites as His people, referencing Deuteronomy 32 and Psalm 82
- Israel didn't begin as a nation until Genesis 12 when God promised Abraham a nation.

The Spiritual Realm at work in the Nations

- The role of angels in ruling over nations and the eventual fall of these angels.
- The story of Daniel and the vision of the angel being withheld by the prince of Persia is discussed.
- The context of God's people in exile and the spiritual battle they faced is highlighted.
- Romans 1 to explain the consequences of worshiping false gods and the wrath of God.

Nehemiah's Prayer and Plan

- Nehemiah's role as a cupbearer and the trust required in that position is emphasized.
- Nehemiah's conversation with the king and his request to return to Judah.
- Nehemiah's preparation and planning, including his prayers and the support of the king, are highlighted.

Resistance and the Broader Implications

- Focus on the resistance from Sanballat and Tobiah, highlighting the broader implications of Nehemiah's mission.
- The historical context of the Samaritans and the Ammonites is provided, explaining their opposition to Nehemiah.
- The discussion touches on the broader spiritual battle and the resistance that comes with standing for God.
- The importance of holding the cup of influence and praying for God's kingdom to break in.

Nehemiah as a Type of Christ

- Parallels between Nehemiah and Jesus, explaining that Nehemiah is a type of Christ.
- The discussion highlights the cosmic significance of Nehemiah's mission and its foreshadowing of Jesus' mission.
- The importance of obedience and long-term impact in God's story is emphasized.
- Challenge to hold the cup of influence and pray for God's kingdom to break in their lives and communities.
- The focus is on glorifying God and seeing His kingdom break in through small acts of obedience.