

## THE PLAINS OF ONO

### INTRODUCTION.

Thesis: To urge God's people to be steadfast in faith and not compromise.

- A. Scripture text: Nehemiah 6:1-3. From Roy H. Enoch (05-07-1995).
- B. OT Scriptures are for our learning (Rom. 15:4).
- C. The adage, "Those who do not know the past are destined to repeat it's mistakes."
  - 1. Satan still uses some of the same ploys that were successful in the past.
  - 2. He also continues on others those temptations that may not have been successful at times.
- D. Nehemiah was the man who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.
  - 1. We want to look at some of the opposition he had in the task.
  - 2. We still have similar opposition today in the Lord's work.
- E. We will divide this lesson into three parts:
  - 1. We will review this OT incident.
  - 2. The world still challenges us this way today.
  - 3. The religious world still offers the same hindrances.

### I. LET US REVIEW THIS OT INCIDENT.

- A. The setting was in Jerusalem after Judah had returned from Babylon.
  - 1. In Jer. 29; God assured the Jews that after 70 years they would return to their land.
  - 2. Several leaders brought groups back to be restored in their land and cities.
    - a. Zerubabel led the first group of about 50,000 to restore the city and temple worship in 538BC. The temple was completed 22 years later in 516BC.
    - b. Ezra led a second group of about 1,750 men w/the gold utensils for the temple and money to restore the worship, in about 458BC (80 yrs later) Ezra was a priest/scribe.
    - c. Nehemiah came to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and restore the security and dignity of the city in 444BC (14 yrs later)
- B. The leaders of the nations around them did not want Jerusalem restored.
  - 1. They were disturbed when they heard that someone came to try to help the Jews (Neh. 2:10).
  - 2. They tried several common techniques to discourage the work.
    - a. They **ridiculed** when they heard that they planned to build (Neh. 2:19).
    - b. When they started to build, the opposition became **angry** (Neh. 4:1-3).
    - c. When mockery and ridicule were ineffective, they began to **threaten** them (Neh. 4:11).
    - d. The work continued and all of the gaps in the walls were filled, then the enemies suggested that they have a **meeting** in the plains of Ono (Neh. 6:1-3).
    - e. When the **meeting** was rejected, they repeated the request with **false rumors**, and **threats** (Neh. 6:4-8).
  - 3. These same methods are use today to discourage those who would just teach God's word and try to restore pure NT Xianity.

### II. THE WORLD STILL CHALLENGES US THIS WAY TODAY.

- A. God has warned us not to be conformed to the world (Rom. 12:1,2; Jas. 4:4).
- B. The world calls for compromise on all areas of moral commitment.
  - 1. The worldly call for compromise on alcohol.
    - a. In the Bible, the word "wine" is used in a broad sense to include the produce of the vine in every form.
    - b. In the OT, the KJV uses "wine" to translates 11 different Hebrew words.
    - c. It speaks of wine "in the clusters" Isa. 65:8
    - d. It is "wine" when it is squeezed out of the clusters.
    - e. It is "wine" when it sours into vinegar.

- f. It is "wine" when it is cooked into half its volume as syrup that will not ferment.
  - g. It is "wine" when fermented into the "strong drink" that is described as evil and produces drunkenness.
2. Some want to make every reference translated "wine" mean fermented drink.
    - a. That is like using the modern definition of baptism as "a religious rite, by sprinkling, pouring or immersion."
    - b. That is what the modern world means by baptism and the modern meaning of wine is an alcoholic drink.
    - c. We must use Bible meanings rather than evolved modern ones.
  3. Some call for compromise on the Bible standards for sexual purity.
    - a. The Bible calls for men and women to remain virgins until they marry and then only have sex with their spouse.
    - b. The word "fornication" in the KJV means any kind of sin: sex between those not married; sex between partners, one of whom is married to another, sex with someone of the same sex, sex with an animal.
    - c. Those guilty of such sins will not inherit the kingdom of heaven. Eph. 5:19-21
  4. Some call for compromise on lying, saying that some lies are not very bad.
    - a. They think the lies they tell are all right.
    - b. Rev. 21:8 ends with the expression "and **all** liars shall have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
    - c. A lie is:
      - 1) "to make an untrue statement with the intent to deceive.
      - 2) "to create a false or misleading impression."

*Merriam Webster's COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, 10th ed.*
  5. Some reject God's designation of man as the head of the family and over the wife.

### III. THE RELIGIOUS WORLD STILL OFFERS THE SAME CALL FOR A MEETING.

- A. Many want to "meet on the plains of Ono" today for religious compromise.
  1. The ecumenical movement urges that we meet together for union w/o unity, and accept contradicting doctrines.
  2. Some say that we can be joined together in union if we agree to disagree.
  3. Others suggest that we should not even disagree, but ignore our differences and just say that we all love God.
    - a. But the Lord defines "love" as doing what He says (Jn. 14:15; 15:14; 1Jn. 5:3).
    - b. We don't love God if we are practicing the commandments of men (Mt. 15:9).
  4. Jesus did not call for a union of conflicting doctrines of men, but that we all be "one" as He and the Father are one (Jn. 17:20-21).
- B. How can we agree to disagree on matters of FAITH?
  1. God's people are to contend for one faith (Jude v3).
  2. We are warned that some will depart from THE FAITH (1Tim. 4:1-3).
- C. We have specific Bible charges in some of these matters.
  1. When Peter and John healed the lame man and preached that it was in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the Jewish leaders told them to not preach any more in the name of Jesus, but Peter said, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Ac. 5:29).
  2. Paul preached "Jesus and the resurrection" to the Greek philosophers who did not believe it (Ac. 17:18). We should preach the NT whether it is popular or not.
  3. Paul charged Timothy to preach the truth rather than fables (2Tim. 2:16-19).

- D. When we compromise on the doctrine or teaching of X, we are open to compromise on moral and other spiritual matters. We leave God, when we leave the doctrine of X (2Jn. v9).

**CONCLUSION.**

- A. Nehemiah was doing a great work--he had no time for compromise.
- B. We should be so busy today doing what God says that we will not care to try to please men.
- C. God's people should continue to say No! to Ono!
- D. We cannot become involved in "summits on the plains of Ono" that will cause God's work to stop while we discuss compromise with those who want God's work to stop.