

Finishing a Wall, Restoring a People

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Introduction: Hollywood vs. Nehemiah's history... projects vs. people

Text: Nehemiah 6 & 7 (excerpted sections)

The background of continued unrest – [6:17-19]

[a] the Complication of the family ties at the expense of call of God

[b] the Confusion of the Public and the Personal

Main Idea: Nehemiah “re-peoples” the city by dealing with four issues:

- I. Safety – the posting of the guards – minimizing attack –
 - A. Guards at the Gates – the need for public safety
 - B. Guards at the Houses – the need for private safety
- II. Spaces – the provision of housing – maximizing inhabitants –
 - A. the Listing of “first returnees” – “first exodus” = “first inhabitants”
 - B. the Lesson for the “first redeemed” – “first exodus” = “first

Apply – What’s the huge point? - the problem of “the pioneers” vs. “the settlers”

- History/Hardships
- Hierarchies/Honor
- Enthusiasm/Expertise
- Resources/Risk

- III. The Sacred – the promoting of worship
 - reinforcing the mandate of God’s will via the list of returned exiles –
 - Priests are “born” not made...

- IV. Stewardship – the procuring of financing
 - A. Everyone called has value
 - B. Everything listed creates trust

Conclusion