

# NEHEMIAH



## “The Integrated Leader”

Integrating faith into every area of our lives

# INTRODUCTION- DR. PETER AMERMAN



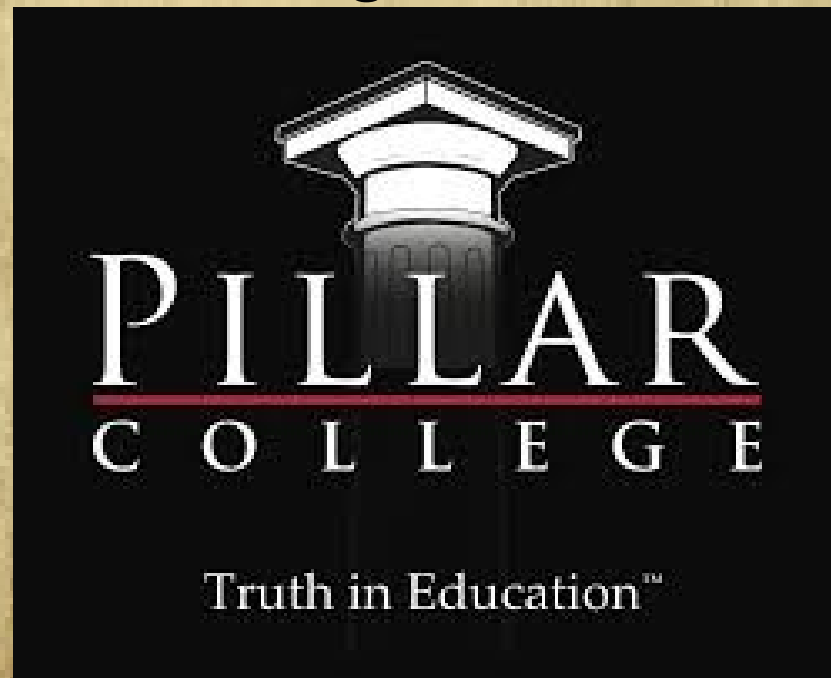
# DR. PETER AMERMAN

× Family



**PROFESSOR & CHAIR  
BIBLICAL STUDIES**

**Pillar College, Newark, NJ**



# “PASTOR PETE” AMERMAN

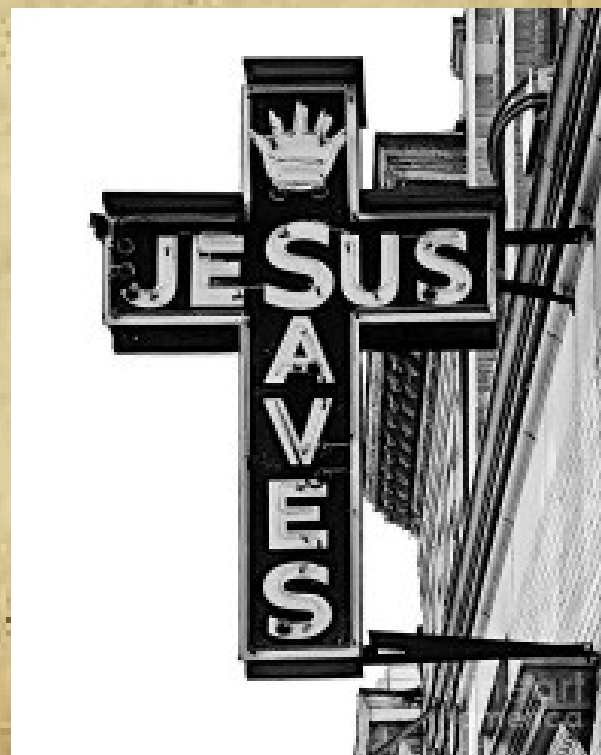
- ✘ Ordained pastor for 42 years
- ✘ 4 congregations in New Jersey
- ✘ 2 church plants
- ✘ “Masterworks”:
  - + With Dr. David Schroeder
  - + Evangelism
  - + Discipleship
  - + Church Leadership
  - + <https://masterworksinc.org>



 **MasterWorks**

# INSTRUCTOR- CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Market Street Mission, Morristown



# DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECT NEHEMIAH: LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

DMin.- Alliance Theological Seminary  
NYC, NY



# THE POWER OF STORY



The place where they intersect is a **VERY POWERFUL PLACE!**

# HOW IS YOUR “FORM”?

**F**- **E**rom- Where are you from? How long?

**F**amily-Who is in your family?(Spouse, Children, Parents, Brothers and Sisters?)

**O**- **O**ccupation- Where? How long? What is it like? Your passion, your heart? Education- Where? Degree(s)?

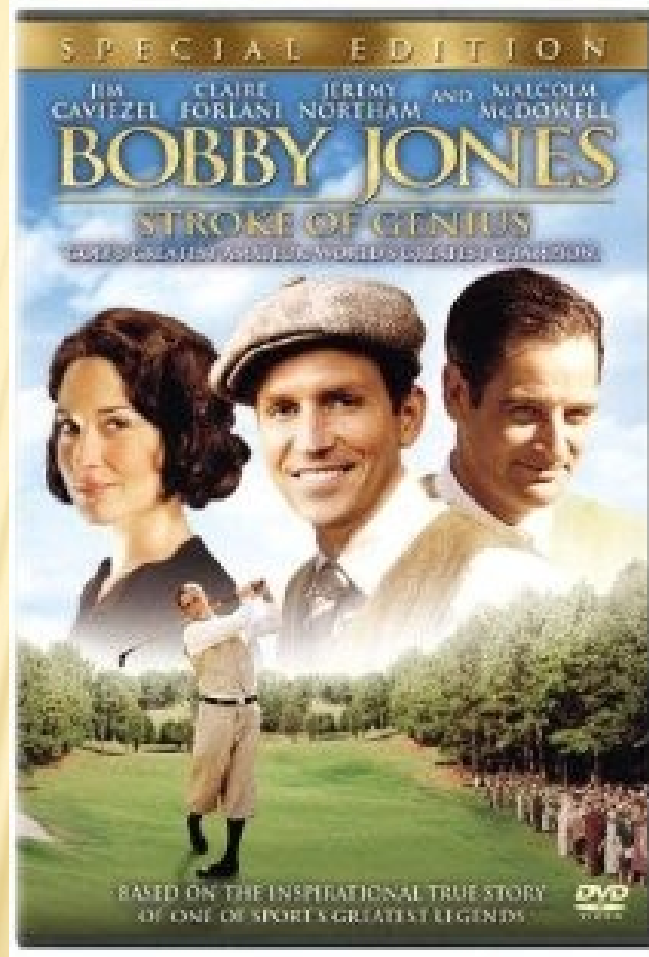
OR (if a student) School? Interests? (courses of study, extracurricular activities, sports, music)

**R**- **R**ecreation- Hobbies, sports, music, art ?

**R**eligion- Religious upbringing? Most influential person? Why?  
Where are you in your spiritual journey today?

**M**- **M**essage- (“Where have you been? Where are you? Where are you going?”) Thoughts about God...about Jesus Christ?

# INTEGRITY- BOBBY JONES



# Dad

The Business Man



# GRAMPA THE PASTOR



## DEFINITION OF“INTEGRITY”

- × Root word- the same root word as **“integrated.”**
- × In mathematics, it is also the same root word for “integer”  
*a whole number.*
- × A believer with integrity is **a “whole person”**.
- × A leader with integrity is someone who has  
**“integrated” all the parts of his life into the whole**: his *mind* agrees with his *heart*, agrees with his *belief system*, agrees with his *values*, agrees with his *behavior*, agrees with his *work*, agrees with *life*.

# DEFINITION OF "SHALOM"

- ✘ Hebrew word, "SHALOM"- "completeness, wholeness, soundness, perfection, the absence of agitation or discord."
- ✘ Individual "shalom"- a person who experiences the peace and harmony of having a completely "integrated" personality.
- ✘ Two people or two parties living in "shalom" have a relationship that is "whole and complete".
- ✘ A culture that is established on the principle of "shalom" is one that has "integrated" all parts- different races, nationalities, cultures, practices, customs, belief systems- into one great "whole".

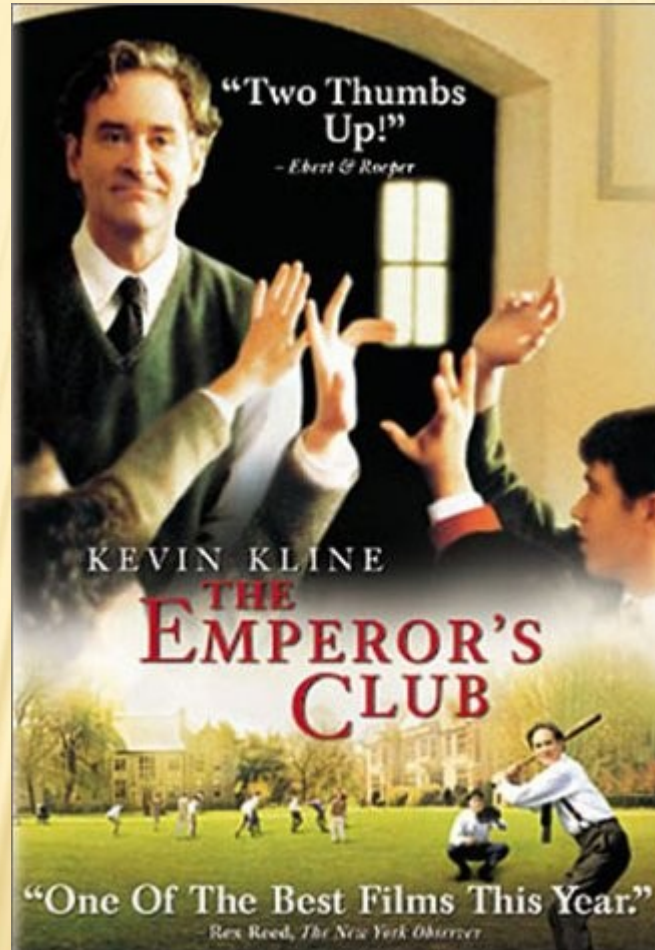
## OPPOSITE OF INTEGRITY?

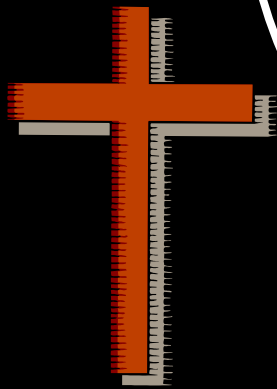
- × **“Compartmentalization, fragmentation”**
- × **Compartmentalized Christian faith into “secular” and “sacred”** compartments
- × “What I do in church is ‘sacred’, but what I do at work is ‘secular’”
- × “Education of children in church is ‘sacred’, but education in their day to day school experience should be ‘secular’”
- × “What I believe and practice in the church is ‘sacred’, but what I believe or practice in the public realm should remain ‘secular’”

## OPPOSITE OF INTEGRITY?

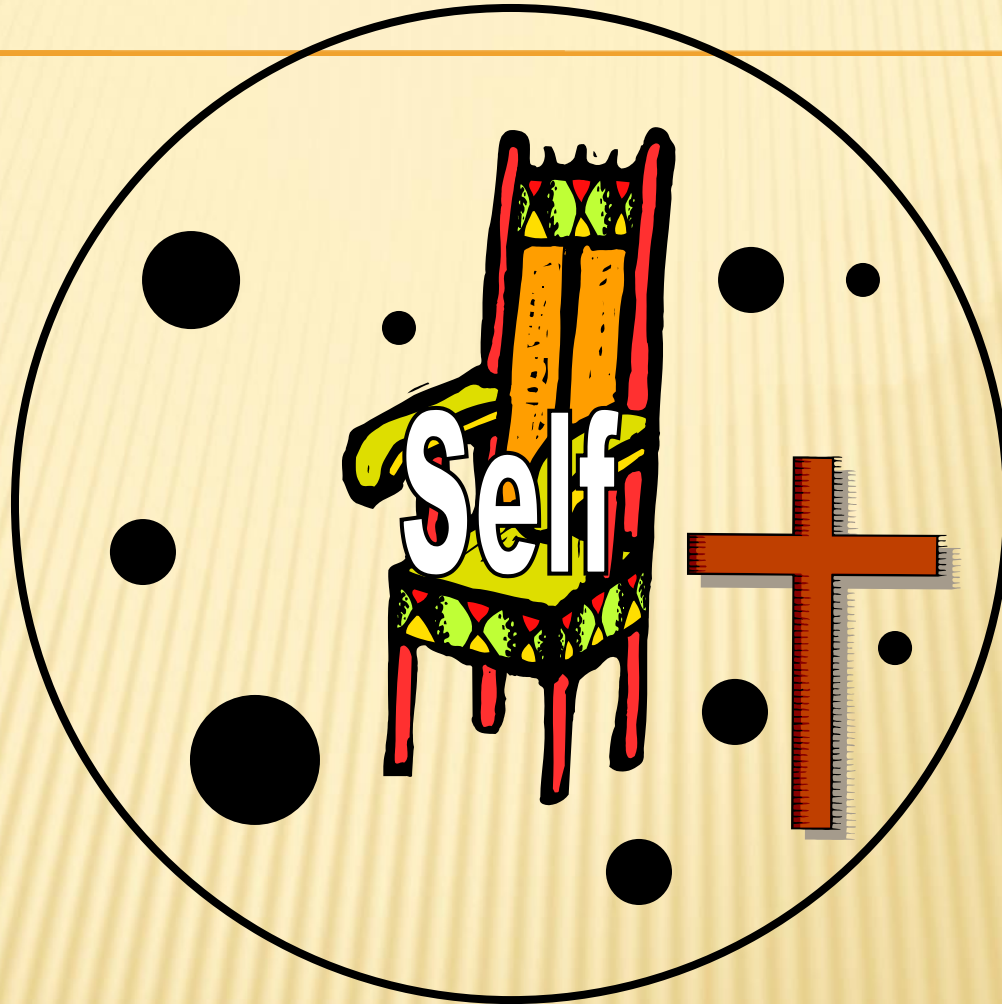
- ✘ Bible has another, stronger word for this type of thinking- **hypocrisy**.
- ✘ Another word- **double-minded**. *James 1:7*- "...he is double-minded, unstable in all he does."

# EMPEROR'S CLUB





NuaNah



Carnal Man



Spirit-Filled Man

**“Theology of Work”** (from *“Theology That Works”* by Dr. Greg Forster ) [www.oikonomianetwork.com](http://www.oikonomianetwork.com)

**“Oikonomia”= “Stewardship**

**“Whole-Life” Discipleship**

**Biblical View of “work”:**

**Incarnational-** a rejection of the dualism that separates the “spiritual” realm from the “material” realm. View of history

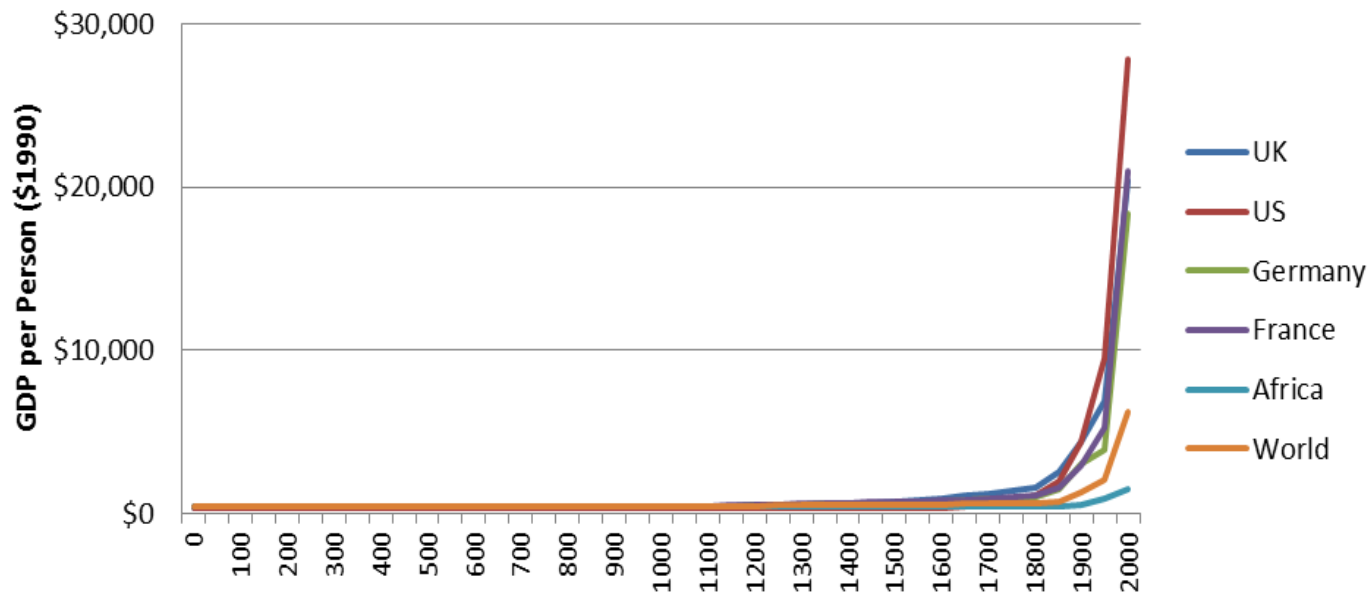
**“Oikonomia”-** our stewardship- not just to *alleviate curse*, but to *produce blessing* (to “add value”; to “produce more than we consume”)

**The Protestant Work Ethic** (“The Puritan Work Ethic”)- “incarnational” ministry. We represent (“RE-present) Jesus Christ in our work.

# RESULT- UNPRECEDENTED ECONOMIC GROWTH

## The Modern Economy

*Stewardship Mindset Creates Growth - New Challenges & Opportunities*



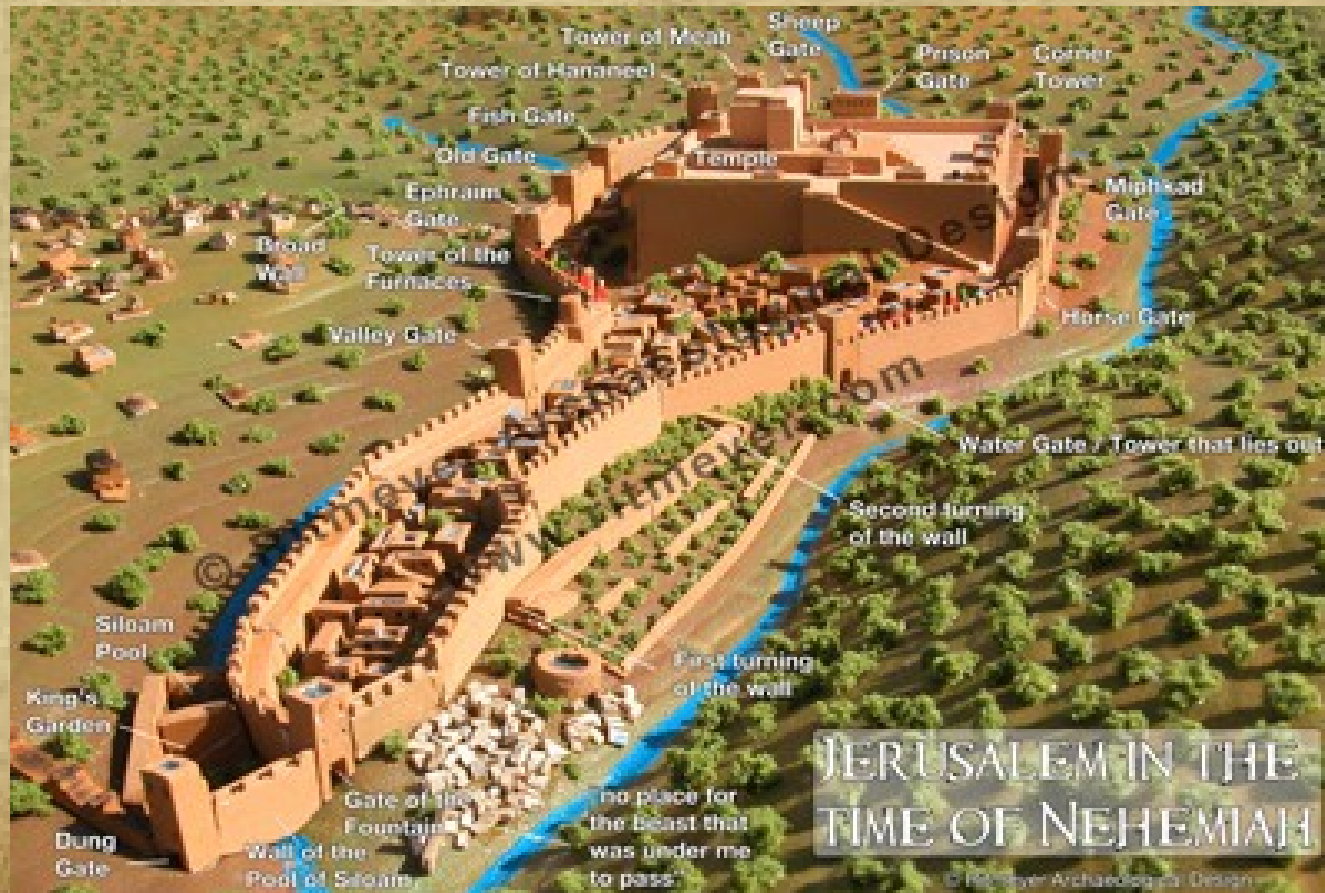
Unp

# NEHEMIAH

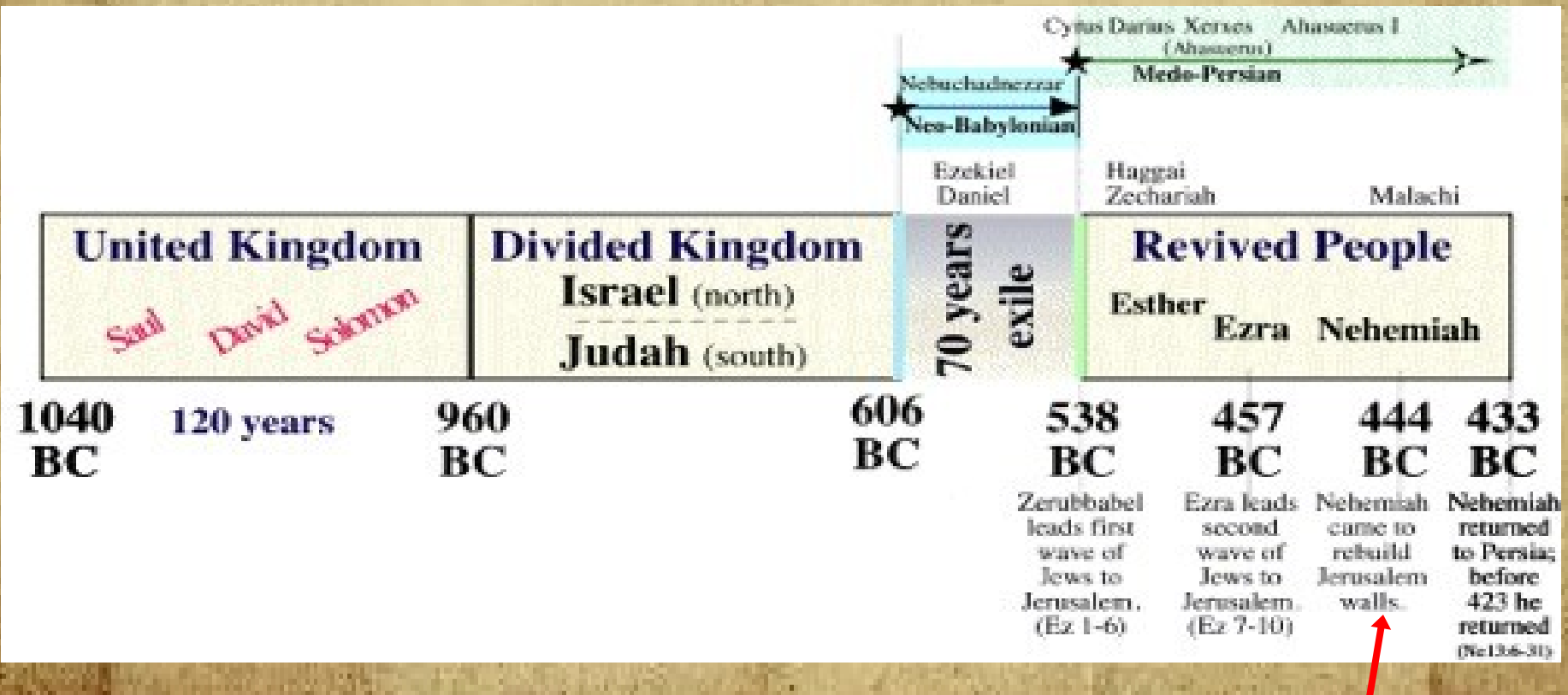
- ❖ An “integrated” leader.
- ❖ A clear, step by step process by which Nehemiah, a great man of faith, “integrated” his belief system with his work, and thus, accomplished an enormous amount for the Kingdom of God.
- ❖ Nehemiah is also a clear depiction of a step by step “business plan” to accomplish his vision of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.
- ❖ Nehemiah was an “immigrant”- a foreigner who was welcomed into the counsel and trust of the king of a foreign land, King Artaxerxes of Persia!



# NEHEMIAH- REBUILDING THE WALLS



# TIMELINE



**Nehemiah 1-6**

# OUR POTENTIAL

**Ephesians 3:20-21-** *“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...”*



# OUR PROBLEM

- ✘ **Terminal thinking** is a short term approach which *does not* relate activities to a “kingdom agenda” (a clearly defined ultimate mission and vision); rather activities become ends in themselves (fragmented, compartmentalized)
- ✘ **Integrated thinking** is a long term approach which relates activities to “kingdom agenda”- a clearly defined mission and vision; activities are consistent with our vision and make a positive contribution toward accomplishing that mission.



# “TERMINAL THINKING”

If we are not driven by **Purpose** and **Vision**, we may be driven by:

- × **Tradition**- I will continue to do what has always been done before.
- × **Personalities**- Other people will determine for me what I will do with my life.
- × **The Crowd**- I will be driven to do what the crowd is doing.
- × **Finances**- Money will be seen as an *end in itself*, not a *means to an end*, and it will control me.
- × **Events**- Circumstances will dictate what I do and how I will react.
- × **Activity**- My life will have lots of activity, but little *productivity* that has any lasting purpose and meaning.
- × **Feelings**- I will do what I feel like doing at the moment. (but, feelings change)

# NEHEMIAH'S "INTEGRATED THINKING"

Nehemiah combined

**"PRAYER POWER"**

With the

**"PLANNING PROCESS"**





## **STEP 1- CONCERN**

**Nehemiah 1:1-3** – Nehemiah asked questions about his people and the land, particularly, the city of Jerusalem.

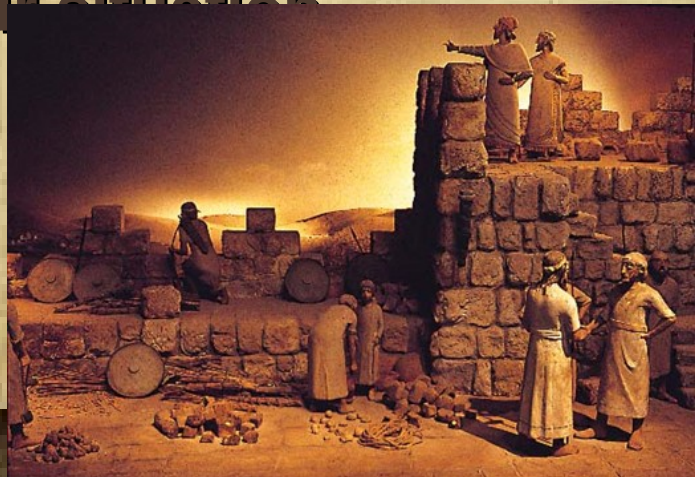
**The process of integration occurs when we begin to ask penetrating questions about our situation, our calling, our surroundings, our opportunities.**



## **STEP 2- COMMUNION WITH GOD**

**Nehemiah 1:4-11-** Nehemiah prayed fervently about the need as he saw it.

**The process of integration occurs when we pray specifically about our situation, and understand God's purposes in our situation.**



# NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

**Note- we will spend the most time  
(3 sessions!) in this step- Prayer!**



# SPECIFIC PRAYERS:

✦ Nehemiah's **COMPULSION** (vs. 4) He prayed with passion; he felt strongly about the situation; he developed a passion for what he was about to do.

✦ The process of integration occurs when we explore our true passions and intense desires.

✦ Nehemiah's **CONSECRATION** (vs. 4) He *fasted* and prayed, and he dedicated himself completely to the task.

✦ The process of integration occurs when we fast and pray about our situation, and when we begin to assess the cost and the sacrifices we are willing to make to accomplish what we desire.



## SPECIFIC PRAYERS:

✦ Nehemiah's **CREDIT TO GOD** (vs. 5) He recognized who God was, and he thanked Him and praised Him for what He had already done in his life.

✦ The process of integration occurs when we take a look at our past, and thank God for the blessings He has already given us.

✦ Nehemiah's **CONFESSSION** (vs. 6-7) He confessed the sins of Israel as *his own* (even though he was probably one of the most righteous men in Israel).

✦ The process of integration also occurs when we are honest about our own sins (of commission *and* omission) that have prevented us from achieving our goals in life.



## SPECIFIC PRAYERS:

- ✘ Nehemiah's **CONVICTION** (vs. 8-11) He recalled that they were "*The People of God*"!
  - ✘ The process of integration occurs when we develop a deep conviction about our identity, and who we are as men & women of God.
- ✘ Nehemiah's **CONCLUSION** (vs. 11) He concluded, "I am the man ... give your servant success."
  - ✘ The process of integration occurs when we declare before God and others what we believe to be our calling.



## STEP 3- COMMITMENT

**Nehemiah 2:4-5-** Nehemiah took four months to listen and pray, before committing. (vs. 1)

Nehemiah's statement of his mission- "Send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I may rebuild it!" (vs. 5)

The process of integration occurs when we make a *commitment* to do what God has called us to do.



## STEP 4- CALENDAR AND CLOCK

**Nehemiah 2:6- *He showed that he was serious about accomplishing his mission when he said “So I set a time...”***

**The process of integration occurs when we set aside the *time* and *focus* necessary to accomplish what God has called us to do.**



## STEP 5- CAPITAL

**Nehemiah 2:7-8-** He gathered the resources for his project:  
“[M]ay I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?”

The process of integration occurs when we set aside the *finances* and other *resources* necessary to accomplish what God has called



## **STEP 6- COORDINATING OTHERS**

**Nehemiah 2:12-13; 17-18-Nehemiah invited others to see the need with him. He was trying to determine: “Where is their passion? Does their heart also go out to meet this need?”**

**The process of integration occurs when we invite others who have a similar sense of calling to join us in fulfilling God’s calling upon ourselves.**



## STEP 7- COMMENCE!

**Nehemiah 2:18; 3:1, 10, 21, 23, 28-** He began the work with his team! Notice: The priests set the example; the leaders led, and the people followed (vs. 1); also—

The people built *in front of their own house* (a good work incentive).

The process of integration occurs when we use good motivating principles in the work that God has called us to do.



## STEP 8- **CRISES, COMPLICATIONS**

**Nehemiah 4-6-** Crises arise in every great venture, whether as part of a coordinated attack from our enemy, Satan, or just as a part of life. Whenever Nehemiah faced crises, he did three *things* to overcome these obstacles and continue to accomplish his task:

- 1) He prayed
- 2) He dealt with the problem.
- 3) He continued the work.



## **STEP 8- CRISES, COMPLICATIONS**

**CRISIS #1- CRITICISM (Nehemiah 4:1-3)-** The people are weak, the wall is weak

***An integrated leader must be prepared to be an object of criticism from those who think terminally.***

**CRISIS #2- CONFLICT- EXTERNAL (Nehemiah 4:7-8; 10-12)** The kings of the surrounding nations threatened an attack.

***An integrated leader must be prepared for external conflict with those who think terminally.***

## **STEP 8- CRISES, COMPLICATIONS**

**CRISIS #3- CONFLICTS- INTERNAL (Nehemiah 5:1-5)-** High interest, usury, and greed among his people

***An integrated leader must be prepared for internal conflict from those among his ranks who think terminally.***

**CRISIS #4- CORRUPTION (Nehemiah 6: 2, 5-6)-** Enemies wanted to meet with Nehemiah, but Nehemiah refused; so, they sent a letter to the king: “Nehemiah is building this wall so that he can proclaim himself as king, and attack the surrounding nations”

***An integrated leader must be prepared to be misunderstood, misquoted, and questioned about his motives from those who think terminally.***

## **STEP 8- CRISES, COMPLICATIONS**

**CRISIS #5- COUNTERFEIT FRIENDS (Nehemiah 6:10-14)** *A false prophet said to Nehemiah, “Come into the temple with me, and protect yourself.” (incite to leave the project when it was nearly complete; in violation of God’s law regarding the temple)*

***An integrated leader must be prepared for distractions from false teachers and false teachings attempting to distract him from his focus.***



## **STEP 9- COMPLETION**

**Nehemiah 6:15-16-** “The wall was completed *in 52 days!*” **AND** “When our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self- confidence, *because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.*”

Nehemiah didn't merely answer his critics with arguments, logic, or debate. Instead he answered them by living for his purpose, overcoming obstacles and completing his mission.

The process of integration occurs when we live for our purpose, overcome obstacles, complete our task **AND** God is glorified because of it!

## **STEP 10: CELEBRATION (NEHEMIAH 7-10)**

- ✦ *Nehemiah 7:1: "After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed."*
- ✦ *Nehemiah 8:5-6: "Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, 'Amen! Amen!' Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground."*

**The process of integration occurs when we celebrate what the Lord has done through us!**

# OUR CORNERSTONE- CHRIST!

**I Peter 2:4-6-** *“As you come to Him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him-- you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.’”*

**Psalms 118:22-** *“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone...”*



# ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

- ✘ **Read Chap. 1 & 2- Swindoll**
- ✘ **Read Chap. 1 & 2- Amerman (p. 9-36)**
- ✘ **In your journal, prayerfully think through and answer application questions- p. 25-26 (“Mentors”), p. 28-29 (“My Prayer Plan”), p. 32-33- (“My Passions & Interests”), p. 35-36 (“Fasting & Prayer”)**
- ✘ **Swindoll- Write 2 brief paragraphs (100 words each) summaries of Chapters 1-2**

# NEHEMIAH



## The Integrated Leader

Integrating faith into every area of our lives