

The Great Wall of Nehemiah
A story from God's Word, the Bible,
is found in
Nehemiah

"The entrance of Your Words gives light."
Psalm 119:130

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Story 35 of 60

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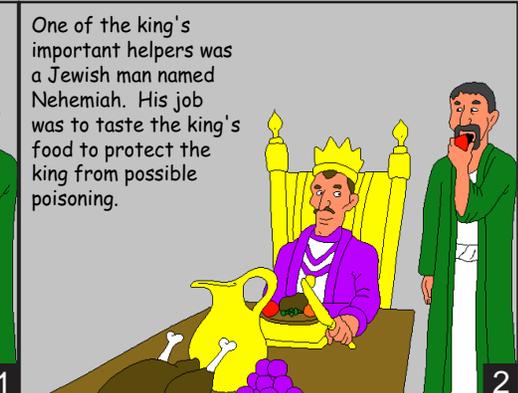
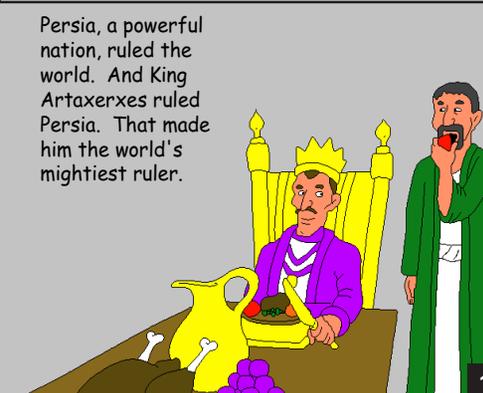
God knows we have done bad things, which He calls sin. The penalty for sin is death.

God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and pay our penalty. **Jesus came alive** and went back to Heaven! Now God can forgive our sins.

If you want to turn from your sins, say this to God:
Dear God, I believe Jesus died for me and now lives again. Please come into my life and forgive my sins, so I can have new life now, and then be with You forever. Help me live for You as Your child. Amen. John 3:16

Read the Bible and talk to God every day!

English



One day, Nehemiah came before the king with a very sad face. The king wanted to know what was wrong. "O king, may you live forever," Nehemiah said. "I'm sad because the city where my fathers are buried is in ruins and the gates have been burned."



3

Nehemiah was talking about Jerusalem, which had been destroyed by war many years before.



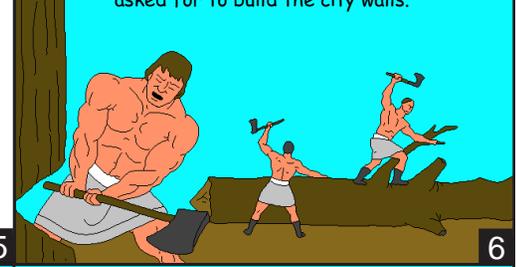
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King Artaxerxes asked, "What is it you would like?" "Let me go to Jerusalem so I can rebuild it," Nehemiah pleaded. King Artaxerxes kindly agreed. He also gave Nehemiah official letters to protect him as he traveled.



5

The king helped even more. He gave Nehemiah a letter for Asaph, the keeper of the king's forests. Asaph was ordered to provide as much timber as Nehemiah asked for to build the city walls.



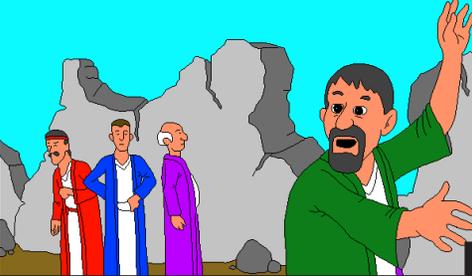
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When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he gathered the city officials and said, "We're in trouble here. The city is in ruins and the gates are burned. Let's start rebuilding."



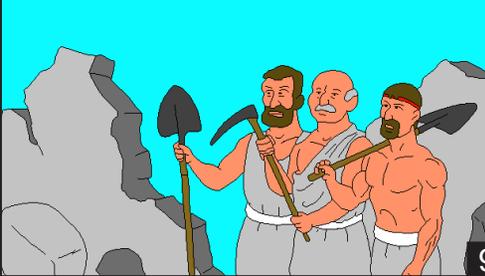
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He told them that King Artaxerxes approved and, most important of all, God was on their side.



8

Nehemiah's faith and enthusiasm must have inspired the people. They agreed, saying, "Let's rebuild." Nehemiah told each family which piece of the wall they should fix.



9

But, not everybody agreed to rebuild the wall. A man named Sanballat, and his two friends Tobiah and Geshem, were not Jewish and they didn't want the wall rebuilt or the gates fixed.



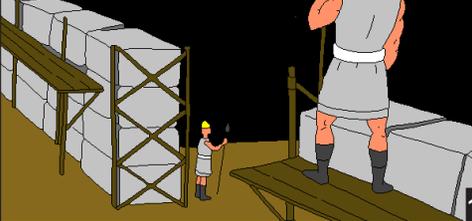
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As the work went on, Sanballat became very angry. He and his friends mocked the Jews. Tobiah said, "When they're finished building that puny wall, one little fox will make it crumble." Nehemiah didn't answer. Instead, he prayed that God would deal with them.



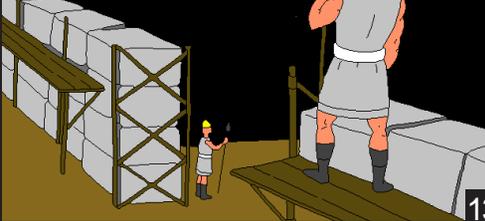
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When their mocking insults didn't have any effect, they plotted together to fight against Jerusalem and cause as much trouble as they could.



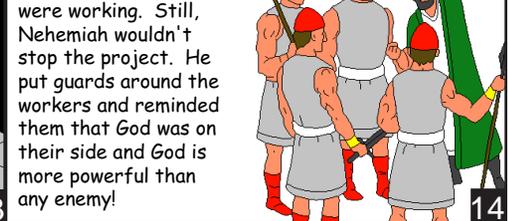
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Again, Nehemiah prayed for God's help. He also placed a guard day and night so they wouldn't be taken by surprise.



13

The Jews worked so hard, they were getting weary. Some became afraid that the enemy would come and kill them while they were working. Still, Nehemiah wouldn't stop the project. He put guards around the workers and reminded them that God was on their side and God is more powerful than any enemy!



14

Nehemiah tried to be a good example. King Artaxerxes had made him governor of Jerusalem with the right to demand food and money from the people, but he didn't do it.



15

He just worked hard alongside the people as they rebuilt the wall. He used his own money to buy food.



16

Finally, the people finished the wall, and only the doors had to be put into the main gates. When Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem heard that there wasn't a gap in the walls anymore, they planned to harm Nehemiah.



17

They sent messages for Nehemiah to meet them at a place called Ono. But Nehemiah knew they were trying to trick him out of the city so they could harm him. He wrote back telling them that he would not leave the work to go visit with them.



18