

Recap of 8/1119 (Nehemiah 13:1-12):

1. Nehemiah returns to Judah after a two plus year absence to find that numerous disorders have crept in while he was gone. Not the least of which was that Eliashib, the high priest, had provided Tobiah the Ammonite with a room in the Temple; a room that had previously been used to store the grain, wine, and oil of the people's tithes and offerings for the support of the Levites and Priests. To make matters worse Ammonites were not to be admitted to the assembly of God's people (Deuteronomy 23:3-6). In addition, Tobiah had been an opponent of the rebuilding of the wall and of the welfare of the Jews (1:10,19; 4:1-3,7; 6:1,12,17,19). Thus Tobiah the enemy of God was given a base of operations in the very Temple itself.
2. Paul warns the Corinthian church about Satanic influence and false teachers. Satan and his followers often insert themselves into the church. He and his followers disguise themselves as angels of light (2 Corinthians 11:14,15). Jude (Jude 4) similarly warns of these enemies of God which infect the church itself. "Jude's warning that ungodly men would creep in unawares to corrupt the fellowship of God's people is exemplified by this Old Testament character, Tobiah." (Foster)
3. Nehemiah deals decisively with the problem by throwing Tobiah and his household goods out of the Temple, reminiscent of Jesus driving the money changers out of the Temple.
4. -"The Lord holds in high esteem a man or woman who is loyal to Him and such people are instrumental for the work of God to go forward." (Goldberg)
5. "How desperately we need men like Nehemiah in today's church. For too long we have courted the favor of God's enemies. There are people who need rebuking and trends that need challenging." (Hughes)