



2020 VISION BECAUSE I'M HAPPY!



Key verse: Nehemiah 12:43 (NIV)

'And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.'

BECAUSE I'M HAPPY!

When I'm really happy, I'll sing. I can't help it. It just comes out. I think I'm pretty good too, the only trouble is, no one else agrees. Sometimes I'll start singing at home and Xenia will say 'oops, you went off key there' or, 'Don't you know the rest of the song?'

We've just got to a part in the story of Nehemiah where there's a lot of singing. Our boy from Babylon had led his people to rebuild the walls of his hometown Jerusalem. The people had dedicated their lives back to God and now they were dedicating their work to Him as well. Musicians were sent for and two great choirs were formed to walk up and down the walls in a great party, celebrating what God had done. It was so noisy people could hear it from miles away! Like me, they were singing because they were filled with joy!

They'd finished their good work, but the best thing was, God had finished his good work in them too. While they had been building up the walls of the city, God had been busy building up the walls of their lives.

SOMETHING TO DO

There's this great game called 'The Humming Game'. The idea is that one person hums a tune and everyone else has to guess what the song is. If you get it right it's your turn. Why don't you play it together.

One of the main enemies to the building of the walls was a man called Sanballat. He was the governor of Samaria and wanted to add Jerusalem to his property portfolio. He tried taking the mick out of the people to get them to stop. He said "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall?... Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?" (Nehemiah 4:1-2, NIV). This is often the Devil's method of stopping God's work in our lives. He wants to make God's people think they're weak. He wants you to think that there's no way God can complete his work in you or your families' lives. But God can, and will, complete the work he's started in you. Peter spoke about this once when he said 'you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood...' (1 Peter 2:5, NIV). Before we know Jesus, the walls of our lives are broken down. We've been burnt by the bad things that we or other people have done. But God will bring us, like those stones, back to life. And one day when God completes his building project in us, we'll all sing for joy!

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- What can you praise God for today?
- Are there areas in your life that you've thought God can't re-build? If so, why not give them to him today.

PRAYER

Thank you God that you're busy building up the walls of our lives. Today I put my trust in you, to complete the work you've started in me, and my family. Amen.