I. Once again, some chronology is needed for our theology.

 A. 586 B.C. Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylonians

 B. 538 B.C. (48 years later) First exiles return to Jerusalem

 C. 516 B.C. (70 years after its destruction) Temple is completed under Zerubbabel

 D. 458 B.C. (58 years after temple was completed) Ezra comes to Jerusalem

 E. 445 B.C. Nehemiah comes to Jerusalem to rebuild its wall

II. The New Testament corollary to the books of Ezra and Nehemiah is 1 Corinthians 12.

 A. The concept of Spiritual Gifts is evident in the men, Ezra and Nehemiah.

 1. Nehemiah was able to accomplish in 52 days what was taking Ezra years.

 a. Nehemiah 6:15

 2. Even the detractors of Israel knew such an accomplishment was God’s doing.

 a. Nehemiah 6:16

III. The comparison and contrast of Ezra and Nehemiah yield timeless principles.

 A. The path to effective service is strikingly similar.

 1. Spiritually speaking, the 18 inches from their heads and their hearts connect.

 a. The emotional responses of Ezra and Nehemiah equate.

 (1) Compare Ezra 9 and10 and Nehemiah 1:4

 B. These men were men who were acquainted with the scriptures and with spiritual

 warfare. They both used the spiritual weapon of prayer.

 1. Note the weaponry of Ephesians 6 in light of Ezra and Nehemiah’s records.

 C. The opposition these men faced is ere the same as ours today

 1. The source of opposition, as well, is ere the same.

 a. Our battles are from without and from within.

 (1) The decry of “the World, the Flesh, and the Devil” stand.

**Next week:** The details of Nehemiah’s strategies reveal a prudence and common sense which couple with his spiritual knowledge. How he approached a challenge is a lesson for us all.