

FIVE WELLS MINISTRIES

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# TIME TO RISE

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*Church, It's Time to Take Our Place in History*

A wake-up call for the comfortable.  
A blueprint for the called.

**Protestant First — Jesus as Lord and Savior**

*Revised Edition — Ezra Standard*

A Second Act Starter by Kalan Paul

[TheSecondActMinistry.com](http://TheSecondActMinistry.com)

**We've settled for comfort over calling.**  
**We've chosen performance over obedience.**  
**We've pursued applause over assignment.**  
**We've accepted compromise over conviction.**  
**We've consumed content instead of carrying crosses.**  
**We've been more disciplined by culture than by Christ.**  
**We've measured faith by attendance, not action.**  
**We've prayed for revival while resisting repentance.**

**But not anymore.**

**We will love radically.**  
**We will live sent.**  
**We will rise and rebuild.**  
**We will take our place in history.**

## **A Note on How This Book Handles Scripture**

Every scripture reference in these pages has been studied in the original Hebrew, Greek, or Aramaic and interpreted in its own literary, cultural, and historical context. That's a standard I call the Ezra Standard, after Ezra 7:10.

At the end of every chapter, you'll find a Berean Challenge — named for the believers in Acts 17:11 who examined the scriptures daily to verify what they were taught. If an apostle's teaching was subject to the text, so is mine.

I am not your source. The text is your source.

## **Introduction: A Call to Rise**

Church, it's time.

We weren't saved to play it safe. We were born to shape history. Something is stirring. A holy discomfort. A whisper from heaven saying, "There has to be more than this."

This is that "more."

This book is both a wake-up call and a roadmap. It's a mirror for the heart and a blueprint for the hands. Part 1 is a call to rise — to confront the comfortable, lukewarm version of Christianity we've settled for. Part 2 is the path forward — a Kingdom Blueprint that shows us how to walk out the life Jesus actually calls us to.

You won't find fluff here. This isn't about self-help or spiritual performance. It's about a radical return to obedience, discipleship, and mission. It's about being fully known, fully loved, and fully sent.

My life has been a living testimony of God's relentless grace. From broken beginnings and repeated setbacks to unexpected breakthroughs and global Kingdom connections, I've learned that no detour disqualifies your design — unless you stay parked.

So here's the truth: if you're still breathing, you're still called.

If you've grown tired of shallow inspiration and feel the Spirit urging you to something deeper, this message is for you. If you've been living on the sidelines, thinking you're too late, too broken, or too busy — this message is for you. If you've felt a stirring but didn't know where to start — this message is for you.

Part 1 will shake you. Part 2 will guide you.

Because the world doesn't need more passive believers.

It needs awakened ones.

Let's rise. Let's rebuild. Let's walk this out.

— Kalan

# Chapter 1: Born With a Blueprint

## The Text

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." — Jeremiah 1:5*

The Hebrew *yada* (knew) means intimate, experiential knowledge — the same word used for the deepest human relationships. God didn't merely know about Jeremiah. He knew him. The word *hiqdashtika* (set apart/consecrated) shares the root *qadosh* — holy, separated for sacred use. And *nataati* (appointed/gave) is past tense: the assignment was completed before birth.

In Psalm 139:13-16, David writes that God knit him together in his mother's womb. The Hebrew *sakakh* means to weave, to intertwine. And in verse 16, David says "all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." The Hebrew *yatsar* (formed/ordained) is the potter's word — intentional shaping, not accidental assembly. Verse 16 uses *sepher* (book/scroll), suggesting a written design that preceded the life itself.

Paul reinforces this in Ephesians 2:10: "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand." The Greek *poiēma* (workmanship) means a crafted thing, a composed work. And *proetoimasen* (prepared beforehand) means the works were ready before you arrived at them.

Together, these texts establish something the Ezra Standard requires us to say clearly: your design is not a reaction to your circumstances. It precedes them.

## My Story

There's something powerful about being told you were known before you were born. It's not poetic — it's personal.

I spent most of my early life feeling out of place. I was a child of many divorces, moving 22 times before graduating high school and changing schools 12 times. At 16, I lived on my own — not by choice, but by survival. It was chaotic, unsteady, and lonely. Yet somehow, even then, God was writing.

There were no neon signs. No angelic visitations. Just this quiet ache that maybe — just maybe — I was made for more.

Jeremiah 1:5 became my anchor. It reminded me that my blueprint was written before the brokenness. God didn't wait for my life to become "put together" before designing it. He started before the pain, and He never stopped.

If you've ever felt like you're behind, like you missed it — hear this: You didn't miss your moment. You were formed for it. You may have wandered. You may have delayed. But the calling hasn't changed. The design still holds.

That's the beauty of God's sovereignty. Our chaos doesn't cancel His calling. In fact, it often clarifies it.

You weren't created for coincidence. You were crafted with care.

### **Kingdom Blueprint Reflection**

- What parts of your early life felt "off track" — and where can you now see God's yada, his intimate knowing, even then?
- If your works were proetoimasen — prepared before you arrived — what does that say about the detours you've taken?
- What does it mean to you that God's design for your life uses the potter's word (yatsar) — intentional shaping, not accidental assembly?

### **Berean Challenge**

Read Jeremiah 1:1-19, Psalm 139:13-16, and Ephesians 2:1-10. Notice that in all three, the design precedes the person's awareness of it. Ask: does my blueprint depend on my discovery of it, or does it exist whether I see it or not?

## Chapter 2: Known in Detail, Loved Completely

### The Text

*"Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." — Luke 12:7*

Jesus speaks this in the context of persecution, not comfort. In Luke 12:4-7, he tells his disciples not to fear those who can kill the body. The Greek *arithmeō* (numbered) means counted, catalogued — not approximately known, but precisely tracked. And the comparison to sparrows (verse 6) — two sold for a penny, yet "not one of them is forgotten before God" — uses the Greek *epilelēsmenton* (forgotten), meaning overlooked or neglected. God does not overlook what the market considers worthless.

Genesis 16:13 gives us the Old Testament anchor: Hagar, a foreign slave woman, names God *El Roi* — "the God who sees." The Hebrew *ha'El ha'ro'i*. She is the first person in scripture to give God a name. And she does it from the wilderness, not the temple.

In Psalm 139:1-4, David writes: "You have searched me, LORD, and you know me." The Hebrew *chaqqar* means to dig into, to investigate thoroughly. This isn't a casual glance. It's comprehensive, intimate examination. And David's response isn't fear — it's worship.

### My Story

When your life feels unstable, it's easy to believe your story doesn't matter. That you're just surviving, not significant. But Jesus says otherwise.

I spent years questioning my identity — not just who I was, but if I was seen at all. When your foundation is constantly shifting, it's easy to feel invisible. But God doesn't miss a detail — not your pain, not your passion, not your presence.

I used to believe I had to prove I was worth noticing. Now I realize I already am — because God said so. That shift didn't happen overnight. But when I started believing His Word more than my wounds, something changed. I began to live from acceptance, not for it.

You are fully seen. Fully known. Fully loved. And that truth will become your foundation as you begin to walk out your Kingdom assignment.

### Kingdom Blueprint Reflection

- Jesus said this about being known in the context of persecution, not comfort. Does that change how you receive it?
- Hagar named God from the wilderness. Where is your wilderness — and has God seen you there?
- What lies about your worth need to be replaced with the truth of *arithmeō* — that you are precisely counted?

## **Berean Challenge**

Read Luke 12:1-12 in full context — Jesus is speaking to disciples about persecution, not delivering a devotional on self-worth. Then read Genesis 16:1-16 and Psalm 139:1-6. Ask: does God's detailed knowledge of me exist to make me feel good, or to ground me in reality when everything else is shaking?

## Chapter 3: Plans for Good, Not Harm

### The Text

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." — Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)*

This verse must be taught in context or it violates the Ezra Standard. God speaks these words through Jeremiah to Jewish exiles in Babylon. Verse 10 says the exile will last seventy years. Verses 5–7 instruct: build houses, plant gardens, marry, have children — settle in, because you'll be here a long time.

The Hebrew *machshavah* (plans/purposes) in verse 11 is a promise that operates through the exile, not around it. God isn't promising immediate rescue. He's promising that the exile itself is within his purpose. The word *shalom* (welfare/peace) in this context means wholeness that comes through endurance, not escape.

What most people miss: verses 12–14 complete the thought. "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." The future and hope aren't passive gifts. They're connected to active seeking.

The whole counsel requires acknowledging: God's plan included seventy years of exile. His "good" included displacement, loss, and waiting that lasted longer than most lifetimes. If we reduce Jeremiah 29:11 to a promise of personal comfort, we strip it of its actual power — which is that God's purposes hold even when the circumstances are devastating.

### My Story

Life rarely unfolds the way we imagine. I thought I'd have a family, security, and clarity by the time I hit my 30s. But instead, we experienced 13 years of infertility, financial loss, and emotional exhaustion. Our plans unraveled — but God's didn't.

We lost almost everything: our income, our home, our sense of stability. And in that brokenness, Jeremiah 29:11 wasn't just a memory verse — it became a lifeline. God spoke it to exiles, not to people whose lives were neatly in place. That truth gave me hope: even in exile, God has a plan.

His plan isn't always pain-free, but it is purpose-filled.

I had to redefine what prosperity meant. It wasn't a house or a title or a bank account. It was becoming who God created me to be. It was knowing peace in the middle of chaos. It was trusting that the Author of my story hadn't stopped writing.

If you're walking through loss, don't confuse silence with absence. God is still present. And He is still working.

You may not feel it yet, but you are not off track. You're in process.

### Kingdom Blueprint Reflection

- Have you been reading Jeremiah 29:11 as a promise of comfort — or a promise of purpose inside exile?
- God told the exiles to build houses and plant gardens while they waited seventy years. What does "settling in" to a hard season look like for you?
- How does knowing the full context — machashavah operating through devastation — change the weight of this promise?

### **Berean Challenge**

Read Jeremiah 29:1-14, the full letter to the exiles. Notice who God is speaking to, what he tells them to do while they wait, how long the wait lasts, and what verses 12-14 require of them. Ask: does knowing the full context make this promise weaker or stronger?

# Chapter 4: Passion Points to Purpose

## The Text

*"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." — Romans 12:11*

The Greek *zēlos* (zeal) can mean either positive passion or destructive jealousy depending on context. Here Paul pairs it with *to pneumatī zeontes* — literally "boiling in the Spirit." The image is water brought to a boil, not lukewarm but heated from within. The source of the fervor is the Spirit, not personality.

Romans 12:11 sits inside a passage (12:9–21) that defines what Spirit-heated living actually looks like: genuine love, honoring others above yourself, patience in affliction, faithfulness in prayer, hospitality to strangers, blessing persecutors, mourning with those who mourn, living in harmony, refusing arrogance. Paul's picture of zeal isn't loud platform energy. It's consistent, others-centered, Spirit-sustained living.

In Philippians 3:4–8, Paul describes his former *zēlos* — his religious passion as a Pharisee, which led him to persecute the church. He calls everything he achieved through that zeal *skubala* — rubbish, waste. Passion misdirected is destructive. Paul's warning from his own biography: zeal without alignment produces harm, not purpose. The source and direction of your passion matters more than its intensity.

## My Story

God doesn't waste our passions. The things that stir your heart, the injustices that break it, the dreams you can't shake — they're not random. They're clues.

For years, I chased "safe" work because I thought that's what responsible people did. But I was drained. It took time (and a few holy disruptions) to realize that my enthusiasm for building relationships, creative ventures, and rallying others toward purpose wasn't a distraction — it was divine direction.

God wired you with unique fire for a reason. He embedded desires and burdens into your spirit that were meant to lead you closer to your Kingdom assignment.

Zeal isn't weakness. It's fuel.

You were meant to do something with passion. Something that wakes you up and keeps you up. Something that matters to you — and to God.

If you're passionate, it's because you're meant to pursue.

## Kingdom Blueprint Reflection

- Paul's former *zēlos* led him to persecute the church. How do you discern whether your passion is Spirit-sourced or self-sourced?
- Romans 12:11 defines zeal in the context of honoring others, patience, and hospitality. Does your passion produce those fruits — or different ones?
- When do you feel most alive — and is that feeling aligned with what the Spirit is actually heating?

## **Berean Challenge**

Read Romans 12:9-21 and notice what surrounds the zeal command — it's a list of specific, practical, others-centered behaviors. Then read Philippians 3:1-11 and notice what Paul's pre-conversion zeal produced. Ask: is my passion producing the fruit described in Romans 12, or am I calling my own energy "zeal"?

# Chapter 5: Detours Don't Cancel Design

## The Text

*"For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." — Romans 11:29*

The Greek *ametamelēta* (irrevocable) means not to be repented of, without change of mind. God does not regret giving his gifts or issuing his call. Paul writes this in the context of Romans 9-11 — a complex argument about God's faithfulness to Israel. The immediate subject is corporate: God's calling of Israel as a people. Paul is arguing that God hasn't abandoned his covenant people even though many have rejected Christ.

Applying this to individual calling requires honest nuance. The text's primary context is corporate — God's faithfulness to his covenant. The principle that God doesn't revoke his gifts is drawn from his character, not from a specific promise about personal vocational calling. That said, the principle holds: a God who doesn't change his mind about an entire people is not likely to change his mind about you. But the Ezra Standard requires we note the primary context is larger than personal application.

Jonah 3:1 provides a narrative picture: "The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time." The Hebrew *shenit* — a second time, again. God reissues the same calling after Jonah's rebellion. The mission didn't change because Jonah failed. God's response to the detour wasn't revocation. It was repetition.

## My Story

There's a lie many of us believe, even if we never say it out loud: "I missed it."

Maybe your detour was divorce. Maybe it was addiction. Maybe it was years of playing it safe in a job that dulled your soul. Mine was a season of failure, doubt, and survival. I thought I had forfeited the calling on my life. But then I read Romans 11:29.

Irrevocable. That word wrecked me — in the best way. It meant God hadn't changed His mind. Even when I had. Even when I'd fallen short. Even when I tried to disqualify myself.

God's gifts are not dependent on your performance. His calling is not revoked by your detour.

I thought I had to rebuild from scratch. But God showed me I was picking up where He left off.

You are not starting over. You're continuing.

Let go of the shame. It's not yours to carry. Receive grace. Step back onto the path. You haven't missed it — you're in the middle of it.

## Kingdom Blueprint Reflection

- Paul wrote *ametamelēta* about God's faithfulness to an entire people. What does that tell you about how seriously God takes his commitments?

- Jonah ran, and God repeated the calling — shenit. What calling has God been repeating in your life that you keep running from?
- What past decision or failure still feels like it disqualified you — and does the text support that conclusion?

### **Berean Challenge**

Read Romans 11:25-36 for the full context of "irrevocable." Then read Jonah 1-3 and trace the arc: rebellion, consequence, rescue, recommissioning. Ask: does God's irrevocable character apply to my story the way it applied to Israel and to Jonah?

# Chapter 6: What If Obedience Looked Like Adventure?

## The Text

*"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."  
— Hebrews 11:8*

The Greek *hupakoē* (obeyed) literally means to hear under — to listen from a posture of submission. Abraham's obedience wasn't compliance from strength. It was trust from underneath. And the text emphasizes: he did not know where he was going. The obedience preceded the information.

In Genesis 12:1, God's command is *lekh-lekha* — an intensified form meaning "go for yourself" or "go to yourself." Leave country, clan, father's house — everything that defined him — and step into an identity that doesn't exist yet.

The whole counsel: Abraham's obedience was real and his failures were significant. He lied about Sarah twice (Genesis 12:10-20, Genesis 20). He took Hagar rather than waiting on God's promise (Genesis 16). The text doesn't present flawless faith. It presents imperfect obedience that God honored anyway. If Abraham had to be perfect for God to use him, none of us qualify. The adventure includes stumbling.

## My Story

We often think of obedience as rigid and restrictive. But biblical obedience is anything but boring — it's the beginning of an adventure.

When God told Abraham to go, He gave no map. Just a promise. And Abraham said yes. That's what obedience often looks like: no guarantees, no control, just the invitation to trust. It's in the going that God reveals the destination.

I've said yes without knowing what was on the other side. Traveling to a country where I knew no one. Saying yes to adoption when it didn't make sense on paper. Starting over in business. Launching a ministry when it felt like a risk.

But every act of obedience unlocked something bigger than I could have imagined. Every step into the unknown was actually a step deeper into the Kingdom.

Obedience is not the end of your freedom — it's the start of your purpose.

And when you say yes, you don't walk alone. You walk with the One who goes before you.

## Kingdom Blueprint Reflection

- Abraham obeyed without knowing the destination. What is God asking you to step into before you have the full picture?
- Abraham also failed significantly along the way. Does knowing the adventure includes stumbling make obedience more or less accessible?
- What fears are holding you back from saying, "Let's go"?

## **Berean Challenge**

Read Genesis 12:1-9 for the obedience, then Genesis 12:10-20 for the failure that followed almost immediately. Ask: does God's faithfulness to the promise depend on Abraham's consistency, or on God's own character?

# Chapter 7: Helping Others Find Theirs

## The Text

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." — Ephesians 2:10*

Paul uses *poiēma* (handiwork/workmanship) — a crafted, composed work. But the multiplication model comes in 2 Timothy 2:2: "The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." That's four generations in one sentence: Paul → Timothy → reliable people → others. Discipleship in the text is never a one-generation event. It's designed to multiply.

In Acts 2:42-47, the early church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, *koinōnia* (shared life), breaking of bread, and prayer. The Greek *proskarterountes* (devoted) means persistently, steadfastly — this wasn't casual. And the result was daily addition (verse 47). The multiplication happened through shared life, not through programs.

Jesus' own model in Mark 3:14 was personal: "He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out." The order is deliberate. With him first. Sent out second. Presence before mission. Relationship before assignment.

## My Story

You were never meant to walk this journey alone — or keep it to yourself. The Kingdom was designed to multiply.

When you start living out your calling, it naturally overflows. Others begin to notice. They ask questions. They want what you've found. And suddenly, your life becomes a roadmap for someone else's breakthrough.

You don't have to be perfect to lead. You just have to be willing.

In my life, I've seen how one step of obedience in my journey opened doors for people I never even expected to meet. Family. Friends. Strangers. What started as my step became their invitation.

Discipleship isn't a church program. It's a lifestyle.

And the beautiful part? You don't need a title. You just need a testimony.

## Kingdom Blueprint Reflection

- Can you trace the 2 Timothy 2:2 chain in your own life — who taught you, who are you teaching, who will they teach?
- Jesus' model was "be with him" first, "send them out" second. Are you trying to send yourself out without enough time being with him?
- Who is watching your walk right now — and what are they seeing?

## Berean Challenge

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7, Acts 2:42-47, and Mark 3:13-19. Notice the pattern: investment in people, shared life, personal presence. Ask: am I trying to multiply what I haven't first received through relationship?

# Chapter 8: The Power of Saying "Yes"

## The Text

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" — Isaiah 6:8*

The Hebrew *hinneni* means total availability — the same word Abraham used at the binding of Isaac, Moses at the burning bush, Samuel in the temple. Every time *hinneni* appears in scripture, it signals a person placing themselves entirely at God's disposal before knowing the cost.

Isaiah 6 must be read in full to understand *hinneni*. In verses 1–4, Isaiah sees God on the throne. In verse 5, his response is terror: "Woe to me! I am ruined!" In verses 6–7, a seraph cleanses him with a coal from the altar. Only after vision, confession, and cleansing does he say *hinneni*. The boldness to say "send me" came from the humility of "I am ruined."

The assignment that follows is sobering: verses 9–10 say the people will hear but not understand. Isaiah asks "how long?" God's answer: until the cities lie desolate. *Hinneni* doesn't guarantee a receptive audience. It guarantees faithful obedience regardless of outcome.

## My Story

There's a defining moment in every believer's life when the call becomes personal. When you realize God isn't just asking "someone" to go — He's asking you.

Saying "yes" to God might not always come with clarity, but it always comes with calling. It won't always be convenient, but it will always be worth it.

I've learned that every "yes" to God invites breakthrough — for you and for others. It puts your faith into motion. It gives your life direction. And it lets heaven know you're available.

That's how legacies are built. Not with certainty, but with surrender.

So if you've been waiting for a sign, this is it. Don't wait for permission to live what God already planted in you.

Say yes.

## Kingdom Blueprint Reflection

- Isaiah's *hinneni* came after encounter and cleansing. Has your yes been shaped by encounter with God's holiness — or are you trying to skip to the sending?
- The assignment included faithful rejection. Would you still say *hinneni* if you knew the audience wouldn't respond?
- What is God asking you to say yes to right now?

## Berean Challenge

Read Isaiah 6:1-13 in full. Notice the sequence: vision, terror, cleansing, commission, hard assignment. Ask: which part of this sequence am I in — and am I trying to skip ahead?

# Chapter 9: From Comfortable to Called

## The Text

*"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." — Luke 9:23*

The Greek *aparneomai* (deny) means to utterly disown, to refuse association with. And *stauros* (cross) in the first century wasn't a symbol on a necklace — it was a Roman execution device. Jesus' audience knew exactly what he meant. Taking up your cross meant accepting the possibility of death for the sake of the mission. Luke adds "daily" (*kath' hēmeran*) — this isn't a one-time decision. It's a daily re-commitment to die to self.

In Revelation 3:15-16, Jesus addresses the church at Laodicea: "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth." The Greek *chliaros* (lukewarm) means tepid. And *emellon se emesai* (about to spit/vomit you out) is visceral language. This is apocalyptic letter genre — written to a specific church in a specific situation — but the principle Jesus draws is universal: spiritual indifference provokes divine rejection.

In Hebrews 5:12-14, the author rebukes believers who should be teachers but still need milk. The Greek *nōthroi* means sluggish, dull, lazy. The problem isn't ignorance. It's arrested development — people who consumed teaching for years without ever maturing into practitioners.

Together, these texts diagnose the same condition: a church that has access to everything and urgency for nothing.

## My Story

We were never called to comfort. Jesus didn't die so we could fit in. He called us to follow — and that means leaving behind everything that dulls our obedience.

Western Christianity has too often traded the radical, risky faith of Jesus for a lifestyle that is manageable, predictable, and passive. But now, a shift is coming. God is calling His Church back to the real thing.

## What Must Change

From Consumer to Contributor — We don't just attend church. We are the Church. Show up ready to give, not just receive.

From Safety to Sacrifice — Jesus didn't promise ease. He promised purpose. Obedience will stretch you.

From Knowing About Jesus to Becoming Like Him — It's not enough to believe the right things. We are called to live them.

From Lukewarm to Lit Up — The world doesn't need more polite Christians. It needs ones who are *pneumati zeontes* — boiling in the Spirit.

From Sunday-Only Faith to Everyday Discipleship — The mission doesn't stop when the service ends. It starts there.

This is how we move from being fans to followers. From spectators to soldiers. From saved to sent.

### **Kingdom Blueprint Reflection**

- Jesus said "daily" — kath' hēmeran. Is your cross-bearing a one-time decision or a daily practice?
- The Laodicean church had wealth and comfort and thought they needed nothing (Revelation 3:17). Where do you see that same condition in the church today — and in yourself?
- What "Western comfort" have you been clinging to that the text calls lukewarm?

### **Berean Challenge**

Read Luke 9:23-27, Revelation 3:14-22, and Hebrews 5:11—6:3. Ask yourself honestly: am I a disciple who takes up the stauros daily, or have I settled for nōthroi — spiritual sluggishness disguised as stability?

# Chapter 10: Rise and Rebuild

## The Text

*"They replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' So they began this good work." — Nehemiah 2:18*

Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and surveyed the broken walls at night before saying anything (Nehemiah 2:11-16). He saw the damage firsthand before calling others to action. When he spoke to the leaders, he told them two things: the condition of the rubble and the evidence of God's hand (verse 18). The response — "Let us start rebuilding" — uses the Hebrew *naqum* (let us rise/arise) and *banah* (build). Rise and build. That's the sequence.

The work faced opposition from Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem — mockery, threats, conspiracy. Nehemiah 4:17 records that builders worked with one hand and held a weapon in the other. The rebuilding was never comfortable. It was contested at every stage. But Nehemiah 6:15-16 records: the wall was completed in fifty-two days, and "all the surrounding nations... realized that this work had been done with the help of our God."

In Haggai 2:9, God says of the rebuilt temple: "'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty." The Hebrew *kavod* (glory/weight) of the rebuilt version surpasses the original. God doesn't just restore to baseline. He builds forward.

## My Story

There comes a time when vision turns into action. A time when conviction must be followed by construction. It's not enough to just believe — we must build.

That's what the remnant in Jerusalem faced. The walls had been down for years. The people had learned to live with the rubble. But Nehemiah didn't come just to point out the problem — he came to activate the rebuild.

That's what this book has been. Not just a call to wake up, but a call to rise up. To begin the work. To rebuild what's been lost — in your life, in your family, in the Church.

You may not feel ready. You may not have all the tools. But if God gave you the vision, He'll supply the materials.

The world is waiting on a Church that doesn't just gather — but goes. That doesn't just attend — but acts. That doesn't just believe — but builds.

It's time to rise. It's time to rebuild. And it starts with you.

## Kingdom Blueprint Reflection

- What "rubble" have you gotten used to living with — and what would it look like to *naqum* (rise) and *banah* (build)?

- Nehemiah surveyed the damage before he spoke. Have you honestly assessed what's broken before trying to rebuild?
- Haggai says the rebuilt version's kavod surpasses the original. Do you believe God can build forward, not just restore to baseline?

### **Berean Challenge**

Read Nehemiah 1-2 (the full arc from grief to vision to action) and Haggai 2:1-9. Notice that the rebuilders were discouraged because the new temple didn't match Solomon's. God's response: the future glory will exceed the past glory. Ask: am I measuring my rebuild against what was, or trusting God for what will be?

## **Epilogue: You Were Made for This**

Your story isn't over. In fact, the best chapters are still being written.

The whispers you've heard? The stirring you've felt? That wasn't random. It was God calling you higher. Deeper. Forward.

You were made for this moment. Not to survive it — but to shape it.

There is a holy disruption happening. And God is recruiting Kingdom builders, not by resume, but by readiness.

You don't need to be qualified. You just need to be willing.

So let this be your declaration:

**I will rise with boldness. I will walk with purpose. I will live sent.**

You are not too late. You are not too far gone. You are not disqualified.

You are chosen. You are called. And you were made — for this.

### **Rise. Rebuild. Repeat.**

Find others to walk this with you.

Help someone else hear the call.

Let's go Church. Let's take our place in history.

The world is waiting.

You have something no one else has: your story. There will be people only you can reach because they can relate to you and your story. Step UP and Step OUT.

### **A Final Berean Invitation**

This book was prepared under the Ezra Standard. But the final authority isn't me. It's the text. Go to the scriptures. Test everything. If it holds up, rise. If it doesn't, trust the text over me.

He sees you. He loves you. He hasn't forgotten you. He has a plan and a purpose.

Now go find it in the text for yourself.