

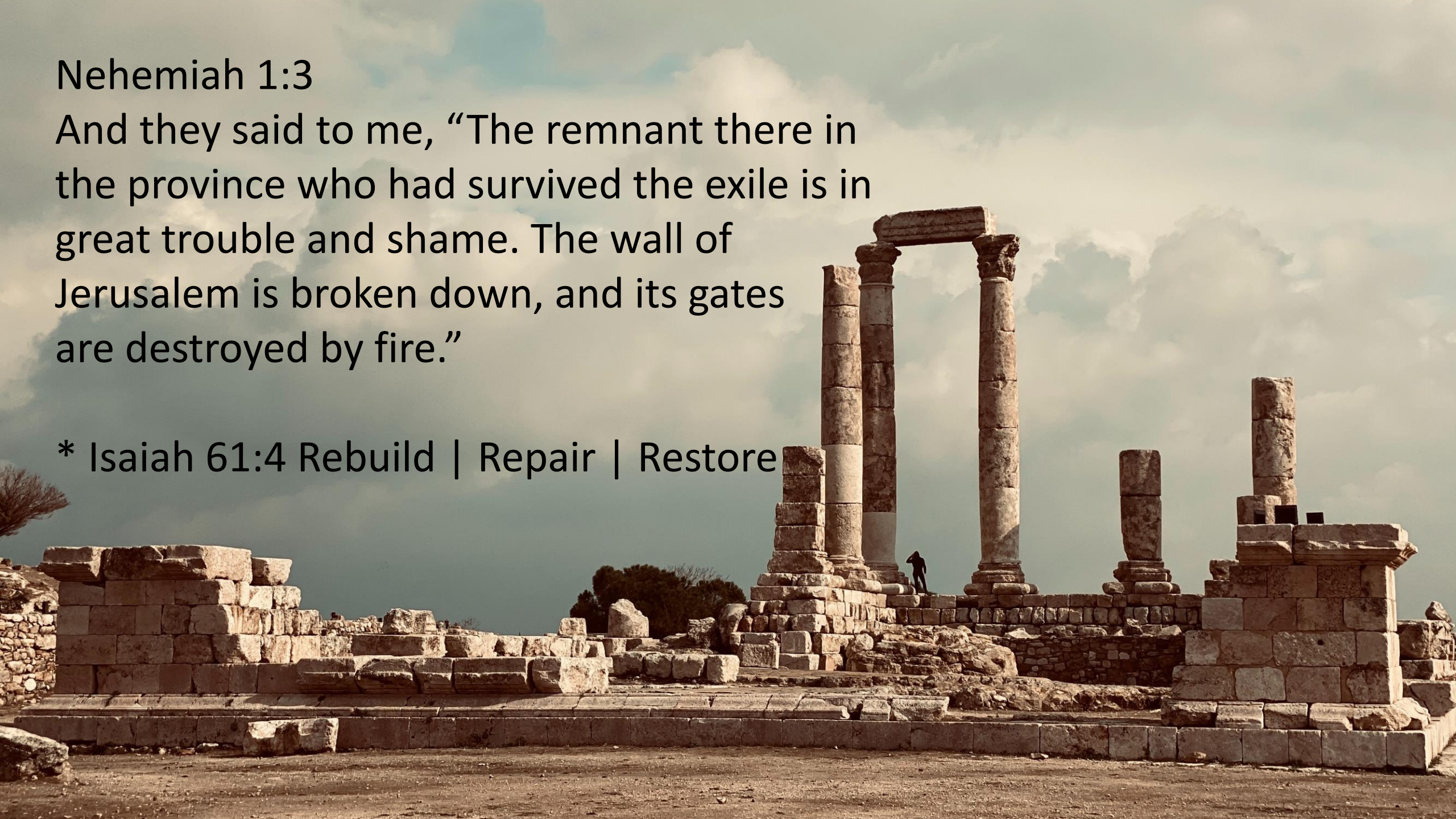
DO NOT LOSE HEART



Nehemiah 1:3

And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

* Isaiah 61:4 Rebuild | Repair | Restore



Samaritans
(Sanballat)

Ashdotites
(Rem. Philistines)

Amorites
(Tobiah)

Arabians
(Geshem)





Nehemiah 4:1-14

Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”



Nehemiah 4:1-14

⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. ⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.



Nehemiah 4:1-14

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.



Nehemiah 4:1-14

¹⁰ In Judah it was said, “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.” ¹¹ And our enemies said, “They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work.” ¹² At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, “You must return to us.”



Nehemiah 4:1-14

¹³ So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

¹⁴ And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”



a **mirror** to my humanity

Driven with a vision.

(Re)building against the odds.

Wave upon wave of...

Discouragement. Disillusionment. Despair.

Coincidence? I think not...



a **window** to God's Kingdom

Who is behind the discouragement?

Nehemiah 6:9

⁹ For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands!

2 Cor. 2:11 Be not ignorant of his **schemes**.



a **window** to God's Kingdom

1. Doubting voice (2:19)

Nehemiah 2:19

¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?”



a **window** to God's Kingdom

2. Mocking voice (4:1-2)

Nehemiah 4:1-2

² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves?^[b] Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?”



a **window** to God's Kingdom

3. Critical voice (4:3)

Nehemiah 4:3

³Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”



a **window** to God's Kingdom

4. Overwhelming resistance (4:7-8)

Nehemiah 4:7-8

...⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.



a **window** to God's Kingdom

5. Shame from past failure (4:10)

Nehemiah 4:10

¹⁰ In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall."



a **window** to God's Kingdom

Do you recognize your enemy?

- Doubting voice (2:19)
- Mocking voice (4:1-2)
- Critical voice (4:3)
- Overwhelming resistance (4:7-8)
- Shame from the past (4:10)



a **door** into God's Kingdom

1. Identify and resist the schemes of Satan

2 Corinthians 2:11

For we are not ignorant of his **schemes**.

Ephesians 6:18

...stand against the **schemes of the devil**.

James 4:7

So submit yourselves to God, and fight against the **devil** and his **schemes**.



a door into God's Kingdom

2. Agree with God, not the enemy

Nehemiah 2:20

²⁰ Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem."



a door into God's Kingdom

3. Pour out your heart to God

Nehemiah 4:4

⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

Ref: *imprecatory Psalms, eg 58, 109...*



a **door** into God's Kingdom

4. Build anyway

Nehemiah 4:6, 9

⁶ So we built the wall... for the people had a attitude to work.

⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

** Resistance should encourage us!*



a **door** into God's Kingdom

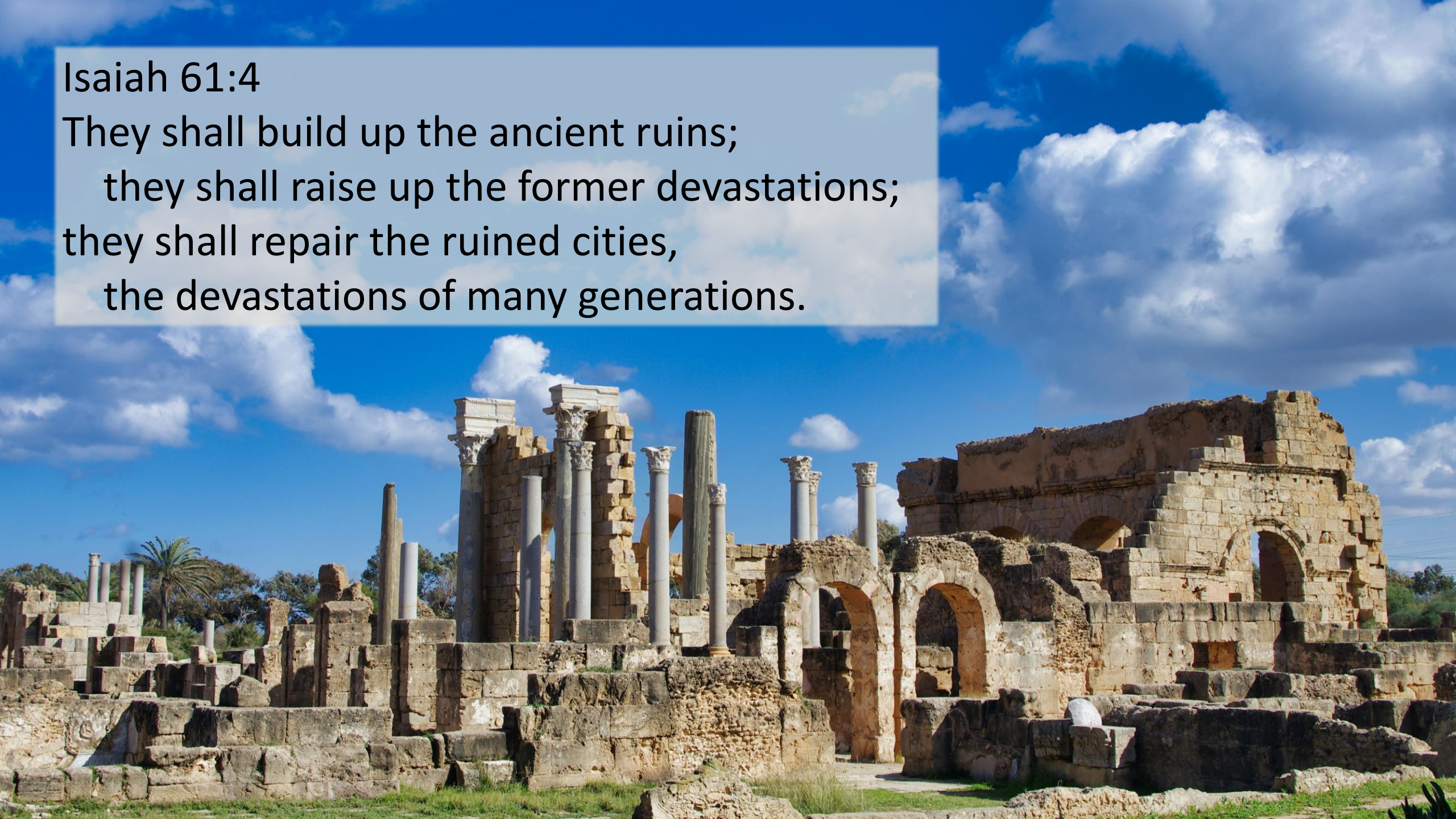
5. Stay with the vision

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart...¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Isaiah 61:4

They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.



The background image shows ancient stone ruins under a dramatic sunset sky. A tall, isolated column stands on the left. In the foreground, there are large, broken stone blocks and fragments of columns. The text 'DO NOT LOSE HEART' is repeated five times in a bold, sans-serif font, centered horizontally. The first, third, fourth, and fifth lines are yellow, while the second line is red. A faint, semi-transparent version of the same text is visible behind the main text.

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