



NEHEMIAH: BUILD COMMUNITY



Lessons on Leadership

Nehemiah 5-6

1 Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. 2 For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." 3 There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine."

4 And there were those who said, “We have borrowed money for the king’s tax on our fields and our vineyards. 5 Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards.”

6 I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. 7 I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them 8 and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say.

9 So I said, “The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? 10 Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. 11 Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them.”

12 Then they said, “We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say.” And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised. 13 I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, “So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied.” And all the assembly said “Amen” and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

Traits of a Godly Leader

1. Pursues Justice

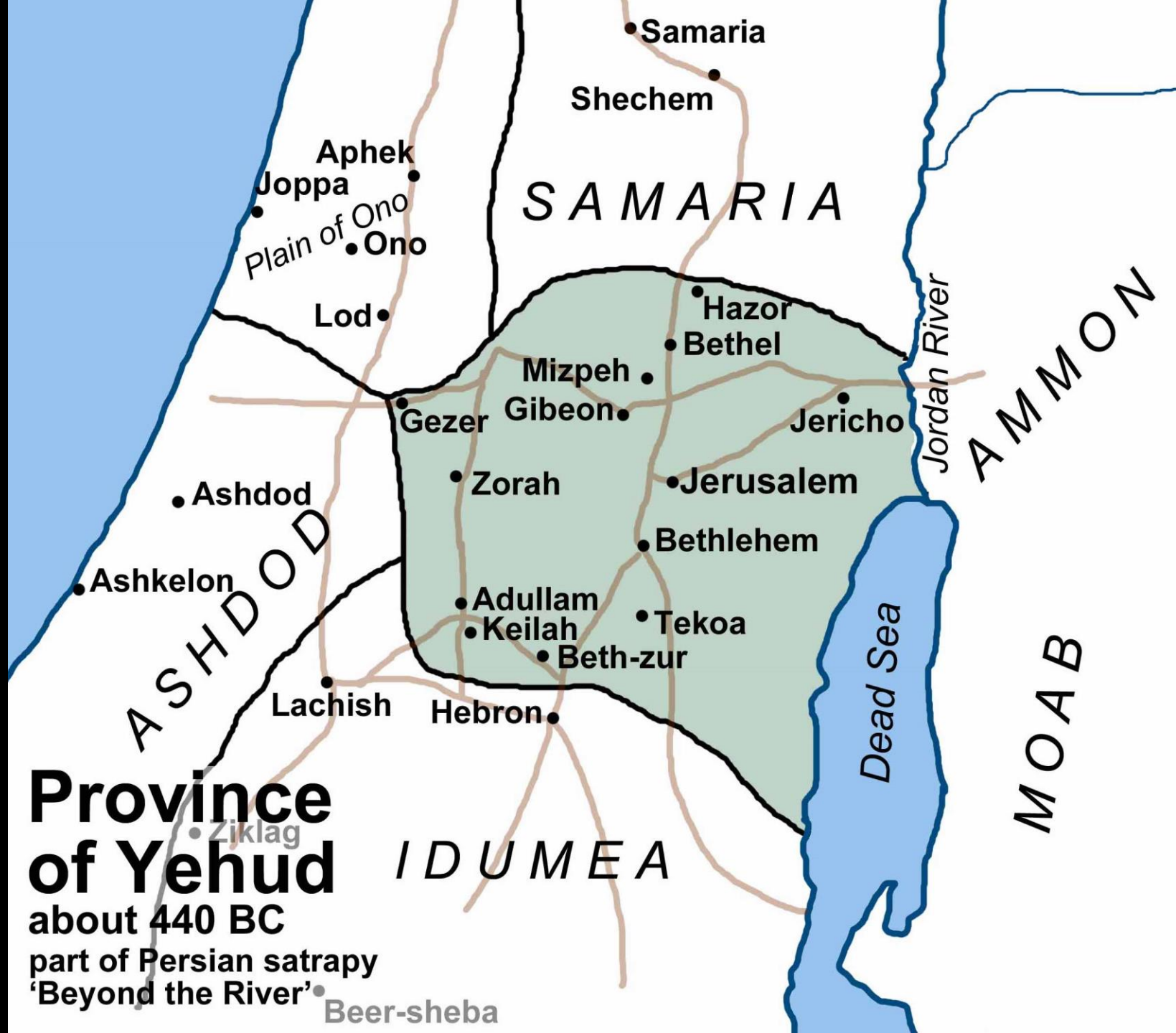
Nehemiah 5:14-19 Summary

- Governor Nehemiah was not taxing the people as was his right.**
- He was actually covering expenses for this project out of his own pocket.**

Traits of a Godly Leader

1. Pursues Justice

2. Self-Sacrificing



Province of Yehud

about 440 BC
part of Persian satrapy
'Beyond the River'

IDUMEA

SAMARIA

ASHDOD

Jordan River

AMMON

MOAB

Dead Sea

Beer-sheba

Nehemiah 6:1-14 Summary

- The wall is done except the gates.**
- Local governors plot to assassinate Nehemiah.**
- A smear campaign is launched.**
- Nehemiah outwits a false prophet.**
- Nehemiah focuses on the wall throughout.**

Traits of a Godly Leader

1. Pursues Justice

2. Self-Sacrificing

3. Focused on the will of God

15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.

16 And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

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