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John Brayboy, Salem Missionary Baptist Church

Make a Difference Nehemiah 2:4-8, 15-18 1. God Given Vision (Neh. 2:4-5) II. God Timed Opportunity (Neh. III. God Inspired Survey (Neh. 2:15-16) IV. God Directed Leadership (Neh.

I. God Given Vision

Nehemiah 2:4-5 Nehemiah was in captivity in Persia and was a cup bearer for King Artaxeres I, the Persian Emperor. God gave to him a vision of the ruins of Jerusalem. Being often in the pres-ence of the King, the King would see Nehemiah's countenance. This particular time the king noticed that Nehemiah was sad and he questioned him as to why he was so sad. Nehemiah prayed to God before he answered the king. Nehemiah did not do like many folks do, he did not speak hastily, but waited for the Lord's help before an-

swering the king.
Nehemiah asked two question the king (1) if I've pleased the king and (2) if I have found favor in thy sight. He knew that if the answer from the king was favorable, then his request to go to Jerusalem would be favorable. His request was to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the wall and rebuild the city. II. God-Timed Opportunity

(Nehemiah 2:6-8) Nehemiah evidently had a private audience with the king, and the queen. The king wanted only to know how long it would take for the journey. The king was glad for him to go and Nehemiah set a time when he would

return. Nehemiah had authority from God to go, but he also requested letters of authority from the king to travel across the other provinces to get to Jerusalem. God had called him for a mission and he made all the necessary preparations before making the jour-

Nehemiah also knew that when he got to Jerusalem he would need timber for the rebuilding of the wall and Jerusalem. Letters from the high command would ensure him safe passage to Jerusalem and the necessary materials he needed to accomplish the mission before him. When we go about doing the work of God we need to be doing it on his authority and the not the authority of man. We may need man's help but if we do, then God will prepare his heart to help.

III. God Inspired Survey Nehemiah 2:15-16)

Upon Nehemiah's arrival in Jerusalem he did not make an announcement of his purpose for being there. He waited three days then he took a survey of the city at night to access the ruins. Part of the reason for him not telling the Jews his plan initially was because he did not know who to trust. Remember that there was a mixed group living in Jerusalem who could have cause d trouble. Therefore, he needed to have a plan before he pro-

> IV. God Directed Leadership (Nehemiah 2:17-18)

Nehemiah called the leaders together to bring his purpose for being in Jerusalem. He reminded them of the waste of Jerusalem and the ruins of the wall and gates. He appealed to their self respect to do something about the situation. Sometimes our attitudes about situations we are in are like the Jews/ We just accept things as they are and do not try to correct or improve them. Nehemiah's plea to the Jews was to get to work on the wall and gates so that Jerusalem would no longer be a reproach. In those days a city without walls was considered to be a reproach on its people.

Nehemiah conveyed to the crowd how the hand of God was upon him to

see about the rebuilding of the wall and Jerusalem. Not only that, but he also told them that he had authority from the King of Persia. When they heard the words of Nehemiah they arose to the occasion to do their part in seeing the wall was built and the gates repaired. When God sets a mission before us we need to follow his leader-

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Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stanley Knick Director, UNCP Native American Resource Center

ship and make the necessary prepara- North Carolina before European lookatearly historical documents, such contact? In the search for Lumbee as the writings of explorers and context, it is important for us to try to missionaries, tax and census records, answer this question for two main and military records. For example, the reasons. First, it would be good to descriptions of Ralph Lane suggest a population in this region to help us Carolinas. Lane wrote to Richard envision important things about the diversity of life among the Lumbee ancestors. How many people lived together in a village? How many villages were there, and how were of Chawanook "is able to put seven they distributed? How much and what hundred fighting men into the field, kind of contact existed among the besides the force of the province between: a)the size and nature of the assess how reliable these written Indian population and b)the capacity population estimates are, and in many of the natural environment to sustain their kind of lifestyle?

Second, it would be good to know the size of the pre-contact population what happened after European contact. What changes occurred in the size and distribution of the population? What changes happened contact? What effects did European contact have on the culture of Indian questions in mind, and accepting the importance of knowing how many pre-contact people there were, how population?

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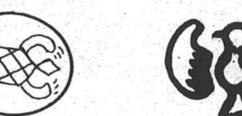
How many people lived in eastern Native Americans there were is to region was "very well peopled and towned." The next year he reported to Walter Raleigh that one Indian village simply unavailable.

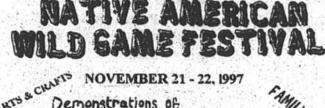
formula called "carrying capacity." Carrying capacity is an estimate of Carolina. how many people could be sustained in a typical village? What were the certain amount of land. For example, biological effects of European if we use an estimate as low as five people per square mile, then we could calculate that just the eastern half of people — on the context of the North Carolina (26,356 square miles) 130,000 people. But this estimate is Lumbee context. probably too low. An environment as full of plant, animal and water Native American Resource Center in can we estimate the size of the resources as eastern Carolina was historic Old Main Building, on the originally could support more than

A third way to estimate precontact population is by counting archaeological sites. This method consists of estimating the number of people in a household, the number of houses in a prehistoric village, the know the size of the pre-contact sizable population in the eastern number of villages, and so forth. For example, archaeological research here Hakluyt (in September, 1585) that the along the Lumbee River suggests that there were as many as twenty Woodland villages in Robeson County alone. If these villages were home for 200 people each, which would not be an unusual number for a Woodland village, then there could have been as villages? Was there a balance itself." However, it is difficult to many as 4,000 pre-contact Native Americans just in what is Robeson County. If the rest of the region had a cases written estimates which are early similar density of Woodland villages enough in the colonial period are (which seems a safe assumption given the large number of archaeological Another way to estimate pre- sites which have been documented), to help us understand the magnitude of contact population is by using a there could have been as many as 200,000 people in eastern North

Regardless of which of these three (with food, fuel, water, etc.) by a methods we use, the number of precontact Native Americans in eastern Carolina - the population which includes the ancestors of the Lumbee - must have been substantial. In the next segment, we will continue to Lumbee? With these and other could have supported more than reconstruct the past in our search for

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