Nehemiah’s second strategy for the consolidation of the victory just achieved was the appointment of leaders to continue from where he stopped. He understood that although God is their overall leader, yet He chooses to lead His people through human leaders. God led Israel through prophets, kings and judges. Before he removed Moses, he appointed Joshua and before He took Elijah to heaven He appointed Elisha. When Saul backslided, God immediately appointed David as a replacement. In the church, Jesus is the overall head, yet He chooses to lead the local assemblies through a physical human leader (Revelations 2:1,8,12,18; 3:1,7,14). **A BODY WITHOUT A PHYSICAL HEAD IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN APPARITION.** In this study, we shall consider the danger of a leaderless society and the essence of spiritual leadership.

1. **DANGER OF LEADERLESS SOCIETY:**

   Nehemiah 7:2,3; Mark 14:27; Judges 18:1-31; 19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; Jeremiah 18:1-6, Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10: 11, 12.

   We live in days of independence, self-assertion, freedom of thought and expression. Many people would relish situations similar to that described in the book of Judges - “In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6, 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). Such situations usually lead many into false illusions of freedom and happiness. It promotes carelessness and care-freeness that eventually breed rebellion against all forms of authority - from parental to pastoral. The outcome is normally confusion leading to chaos, because when everybody does what is right in his own eyes, there will inevitably come points of conflicts where “one man’s meat becomes another man’s poison”. It takes leadership to establish laws and order and set sensible boundaries that work for the common good of all and lead to harmonious co-existence and peace.

   Generally, WHERE THERE IS NO LEADER, THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE PREVAILS – resulting in survival of the fittest and destruction of the vulnerable who deserve to be protected! Calamity, destruction, vexation and lack of peace are some of the other numerous symptoms of such societies / homes. 2 Chronicles 15:3-6 provide a good example of one – “Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.... And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries. And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity”.

   USA congress once noted that “**History repeats itself: Man has not learnt his lessons**”. A lot of heartaches could be avoided if humanity humbles themselves to learn and discipline themselves to abide by divine principles outlined in scriptures (Psalms 119:9; Isaiah 28:13; John 8:32). We are bought with a price. We are not our
own. If one refuses to totally surrender his life, will and plan to God and His word he is refusing to accept God’s leadership. One then becomes a sheep without shepherd and the exact opposite of Psalm 23 characterise such lives and homes. Today, God is still asking you "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter?" (Jeremiah 18:6). The choice is yours and your actions reveals the choice - a will surrendered to God’s leadership or to self.

2. ESSENCE OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP: Nehemiah 7:2-3;

God appoints spiritual leaders as His physical representatives on earth. Through them he unfolds His plan and purposes for humanity. Prophet Hosea revealed that God brings deliverance and preservation through the prophets He has commissioned “And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved” (Hosea 12:13). Spiritual leaders play a number of roles in the lives of God’s people including:

2. Setting things in order (Titus 1:5) in churches as well as in homes, cities, nations, etc. Without a leader, a family can continue in practices they like till it destroys them. Similarly, a nation can continue to live beyond its means till it ruins the entire nation with terrible consequences.
5. Gathering out stones / stumbling blocks in the pathway thereby preparing a safe passage for the people of God (Isaiah 62:10)
6. Warning them of danger (Ezekiel 33:1-9)
7. Pleading their cause before the Lord (Exodus 18:19,20), thereby making a hedge to prevent their destruction.
8. Willingly taking oversight of the flock of God (1 Peter 5:1-4)
9. Appoints other leaders to assist in the work of God (Titus 1:5)

Note that HEZEKIAH THE KING PRAYED BUT GOD CHOSE TO SEND THE ANSWER THROUGH ISAIAH THE PROPHET – a similar situation to what happened between King David and Prophet Nathan. God rebuked Miriam and her rebels who claimed to be holy and hear from God, saying “… Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” (Numbers 12:6-8). What a lesson! It is for this reason that God commands “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:7,17). Believers do themselves great disservice when they ignore this scripture.