

I. Nehemiah on the Enemy’s Radar (1-3)

A. The motivation of the enemy (1a) - “Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged...” **The enemy always opposes the work of God being done for the glory of God.**

B. The aggression of the enemy (1b-2) - “...and he jeered at the Jews. 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?” **5 accusations**

C. The prediction of the enemy (3) - “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!”

The enemy traffics in accusation, lies, intimidation and discouragement. That is always his initial game.

II. Nehemiah on His Knees in Prayer (4-5) **WHEN YOU HEAR THE ENEMY’S VOICE, LET HEAVEN HEAR YOUR VOICE**

A. A well-directed response (4a) - “Hear, O our God, for we are despised...” **Their first move was toward their Father**

B. An appropriately measured response (4b-5a) - “Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from Your sight...”

Do not be passive when it comes to opposition to your vision!

5 requests to God in response to 5 accusations from opposition

C. A righteously grounded response (5b) - “...for they have provoked You to anger in the presence of the builders.”

Nehemiah knew this was not His personal mission and vision. He knew that the opposition was resisting what God was doing when they opposed Him.

Psalm 74:22-23 - Arise, O God, defend your cause; remember how the foolish scoff at you all the day! Do not forget the clamor of your foes, the uproar of those who rise against you, which goes up continually!

III. Nehemiah on the Wall with Endurance (6-14)

A. They still had the mission (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.”

B. They still had opposition (7-8) - “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. And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.”

C. They still had Heaven’s help (9) - “And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.”

D. They still had to strategize (10-13) - “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.” And our enemies said, “They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work.” At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, “You must return to us.” 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.”

E. They still had a cause (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.”

- 1. Expect enemy opposition**
- 2. Learn to fight in the Spirit**
- 3. Endure the battle and keep pressing onward in your assignment**