

NEHEMIAH

Chapter 6 & 7

ATTACKS FROM WITHIN

- Attacks from the outside did not work, walls still were going up
- As the work was finishing, enemies knew it was a last resort attempt to stall
- I going to attack you turns into 'let's talk'
- 4 attempts to meet me in another location, they get 4 rejections
- Setting a trap did not work, lets threaten and use fear to manipulate
- An open letter is a public letter, they try to get Nehemiah to defend or surrender
- Nehemiah does neither, he does not justify himself, he just calls their bluff
- God's providence showed Nehemiah the lies clearly and he calls for more strength
- Both traps would look like a comprise and therefore discourage the people
- A short prayer, escaped a trap, stood his ground and kept working while keeping a clear conscience, trusting God would give him a good name.
- A good prayer for those in work & warfare/ service and conflicts
- Next a trap was set by those related to Tobiah, a false prophet living inside the walls
- The couldn't get him to come outside, so they would try to drive him deeper inside
- DISPLACE - the Devil wants you anywhere but where God wants you to be
- Him running to the temple would look scared and would be sinful
- Laymen were not allowed in the temple (Lev. 21:17-24; Deut. 32:1)
- Again, the providence of God, not to believe a prophet trying to get you to sin
- A few bad apples don't spoil the bunch
- The God of Israel had done more in 52 days than all their God all their lives!
- Intermarraige opened the door for Tobiah to send a false friend to 'warn' Nehemiah
- Bound by 'oath' means they were related by some fashion and responsibility

CONSTRUCTION TO CENSUS

- God put it in Nehemiah's heart to enroll the children of Israel by genealogy
- Intermarriage was a problem for Ezra and Nehemiah
- This list is also in Ezra 2:1-70, both help us know who is uncompromised
- A census establishes a nation of people
- "Walls are dead protection without living watchmen" - M. Henry
- Appointed gatekeepers, levites and singers first
- God's worship is a first and best defense
- Appointed government officials of Hanani and Hannaniah
- Nehemiah moves from the walls of the city to the order of the city
- These men feared the Lord and were faithful with what was entrusted
- Domestic and civil life was being established
- Moving from a remnant scattered to a nation that is gathered
- The city was not built back yet, so the nation is still out in the region
- Citizenship comes with registry