

Lesson 19

The Opposition of the Enemies and the Resolve of the Jews (Nehemiah 4:1-23)

Questions

1. How did Sanballat react to the Jews building the wall (4:1-2)?
2. How did Tobiah react to the Jews building the wall (4:3)?
3. What prayer did the Jews offer up to God concerning their enemies (4:4-5)?
4. What was the attitude of the Jewish builders in the face of opposition (4:6)?
5. What further opposition was planned by Sanballat, Tobiah, and others (4:7-8)?
6. What precaution did Nehemiah and the Jews take once they heard that their adversaries wanted to fight them (4:9-14)?
7. How was the building done from that time onward (4:15-21)?
8. What further precautions were taken by Nehemiah and the Jews (4:22-23)?

Digging Deeper

1. What do we know about Sanballat and Tobiah from Nehemiah 2:10, 19 and what was “the army of Samaria” (4:2)?

2. How is the prayer in Nehemiah 4:5-6 similar to the psalms?
3. How does the reading of Nehemiah 4:23 read differently in the following versions: KJV, NKJV, ASV, and the NASV? How does the meaning of the last part of this verse change depending upon which version you are reading

Applications for Today

1. There will always be those people who are opposed to God's work being done (4:1-3; Lk. 21:15; 1 Cor. 16:9; Phil. 1:28).
2. Opposition can come in the form of verbal mockery, anger, or physical threat, but don't let it detour you from doing the Lord's work (4:1-8; Rom. 12:11; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9).
3. Face your oppositions with prayer to God. Ask him for help with your enemies who oppose you and pray for your enemies themselves (4:5-6, 9; 2 Thess. 3:2; 2 Tim. 4:14-16).
4. God's work will get done when his people have a "mind to work" (4:6; Tit. 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14).
5. We don't want the Lord's work to stay the same or go backward. We want it to go forward (4:7; Phil. 1:12, 25; 3:13; 1 Tim. 4:15).
6. The enemy wants to fight against you in order to bring about confusion in your life (4:8; Acts 19:29, 32; 21:31; Jas. 3:16).
7. Watch and pray (4:9; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2).
8. In difficult and trying times, remember the Lord who is great and awesome (4:14; Deut. 7:21; 10:17; Neh. 1:5; 9:32; Psa. 99:3).
9. Do not be afraid of opposition, adversaries, or enemies (4:14; 2 Tim. 1:7). Fight for your brethren and for your family (4:14; Esther 8:11; 9:16; Eph. 6:10-18).
10. God can answer our prayers and he can bring to nothing the counsel of the wicked world (4:15; Psa. 33:10).
11. Leaders should stand up for their brethren and stand behind them for support (4:16; Heb. 13:7, 17).

12. Sometimes you have to work and war (spiritually) at the same time (4:16-23; Eph. 2:10; 6:10).
13. If you fight (spiritually), God will fight for you (4:20; Ex. 14:14; Deut. 1:30).
14. Lead by example (4:23; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Heb. 13:7, 20).