

Our God Will Fight

Nehemiah 4:1-23

October 10, 2021

Nehemiah 4:1–3 (NASB95)

1 Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. 2 He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?” 3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him and he said, “Even what they are building—if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!”

Serving the Lord attracts opposition.

We have equated blessings almost exclusively in terms of material and emotional comforts!

Acts 14:22b (NASB95)

“Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

2 Timothy 3:12 (NASB95)

12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

1 Peter 4:12–14 (NLT)

12 Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. 13 Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. 14 If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you.

Prayer keeps our focus on God rather than our enemies.

Nehemiah 4:4–5 (NASB95)

4 Hear, O our God, how we are despised! Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not forgive their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

“Horror may be piled on horror more to express the speaker’s sense of outrage than to spell out the penalties he literally intends.”

- Derek Kidner

Nehemiah 4:6 (NASB95)

6 So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

They had a heart to pray, but they also had a mind to work!

Prayer spurs us to action in the face of opposition.

Nehemiah 4:7–9 (NASB95)

7 Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. 8 All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it. 9 But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night.

Nehemiah 4:10 (ESV)

10 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.”

Nehemiah 4:14 (ESV)

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.”

Pray

Persevere

Prepare

Nehemiah 4:18–20 (NASB95)

18 As for the builders, each wore his sword girded at his side as he built, while the trumpeter stood near me. 19 I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is great and extensive, and we are separated on the wall far from one another. 20 “At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

Our God will fight for us

I cannot work my soul to save,
For that my Lord has done;
But I will work like any slave,
For love of God's dear Son.

Deuteronomy 1:30 (NASB95)

30 ‘The Lord your God who goes before you will Himself fight on your behalf, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes

Deuteronomy 20:4 (NASB95)

4 for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.’

2 Chronicles 32:8a (NASB95)

8 “With him is only an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.”