

## Nehemiah 4 Jerusalem's Enemies Lesson 12

Nehemiah's plan to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem was received with enthusiasm by the people of Judah. After he assigned workers to their position on the wall, they all set to work. This massive building project generated much interest and the news started spreading. But not everyone was enthusiastic about the project, especially Sanballat.

### **The Opposition - Nehemiah 4:1-3**

1. How did Sanballat react to the news? (vs. 1)
  
2. To help understand him, look closely at verses 1 and 2:
  - How did Sanballat find out about the building?
  
  - What does that reveal about his location?
  
  - Who was he with when he exploded in anger?
  
  - Where do you think Sanballat was from?
  
3. Sanballat's temper flared and he started spouting off insults. Using Nehemiah 4:2:
  - What did he call the workers?
  
  - What questions did he raise?
  
4. Sanballat's ire was contagious. His dear friend Tobiah, who was standing at his side, added his own insults. What did he say? (vs. 3)

### **Nehemiah's Prayer - Nehemiah 4:4-6**

5. As we come to know Nehemiah, it is not surprising that his immediate reaction was to pray. And, in true Hebrew fashion he told God exactly what he thought about the whole matter. Using Nehemiah 4:4 & 5:
  - What did he ask God to do?

- How did he describe the workers?
  
  - What did he ask the Lord to do about the insults?
  
  - What about Sanballat and Tobiah?
  
  - Why did Nehemiah say he felt this way?
6. What might Nehemiah and the builders have thought about as Sanballat and Tobiah were taunting them? (Ezra 4:4 & 5)
7. After praying, what did Nehemiah and the people do? (vs. 6)

**Reinforcements - Nehemiah 4:7-12**

8. But when Sanballat and Tobiah heard the wall had reached half its height, whom else did they make sure was informed about this new situation? (vs. 7)
9. The text said, "*They were very angry.*" Why were they so angry? (vs. 7)
- Why do you think that made them so angry?
  
  - What did they do with that anger? (vs. 8)
10. News reached Nehemiah of the impending danger. How did he handle it? (vs. 9)

11. How did this affect the people? (vs. 10)
  
12. It seemed to be going well for Sanballat and Tobiah. What additional threats did they add just for good measure? (vs. 11)
  
13. More insight is given in Nehemiah 4:12:
  - Who delivered the message from Sanballat and Tobiah to Nehemiah?
  
  - How often did they deliver messages?
  
  - What did they say?
  
  - Notice the "you" and the "us". What were the messengers most concerned about?

**Nehemiah Takes Action - Nehemiah 4:13-23**

14. Verse 13 begins, "therefore", so we must always stop and see what it is there for. This word links the previous verses to what was about to happen next. After all the insults, taunting and threats, Nehemiah put his own plan into action. Using Nehemiah 4:13 & 14:
  - What was his first step?
  
  - Notice his placement strategy. Who did he put together and why do you think he did that?
  
  - In step 2 he spoke to all the people saying, "Don't be afraid of them." What did he say they should do instead of being afraid?
  
15. Verse 15 sounds rather odd so look closely at what Nehemiah was saying to his audience.
  - What did he say was a turning point?
  
  - Whom did he give the credit for this?
  
  - What was the result of Nehemiah's words?

16. Nehemiah was a very wise leader; he knew this was not the end of the battle so set into motion a new course of action. How did he protect the builders? (vs. 16-17a)
  
17. What about the people who were moving around carrying materials? (vs. 17b -8a)
  
18. Who remained with Nehemiah? (vs. 18b)
  
19. What was his job? (Numbers 10:9)
  
20. Using Nehemiah 4:19 & 20:
  - When Nehemiah spoke again, what problem did he address?
  
  - What was his solution to that problem?
  
  - How did he encourage them? (See also Numbers 10:9 above)
  
21. So, Nehemiah's plan was put into action and they worked from dawn to dusk. When the stars came out, Nehemiah called for another meeting. What did he say to the people this time? (vs. 22)
  
22. As he continued giving his account, Nehemiah finally told who was with him on his journey to Jerusalem. Whom does he mention? (vs. 23a)
  
23. What did he say about them? (vs. 23b)