

# NEHEMIAH 2:18-20; 4:7-9, 16-17 ESV

## Nehemiah 2:18-20

18 And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"

20 Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem."

## Nehemiah 4:7-9

7 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.

8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.

9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

## Nehemiah 4:16-17

16 From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah,

17 who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other.

## START HERE

*When Nehemiah and the Israelites began rebuilding Jerusalem, they faced intense opposition. Let's explore the Israelites' response to trials and persecution and consider what we can learn from their example.*

## OBSERVE

- 1 Underline the reaction of those who heard about repairing Jerusalem's walls.
- 2 Double underline what those in Jerusalem did in response.
- 3 Mark every reference to God (the Lord). Answer the following questions from what you marked:

## INTERPRET

- 4 How did opposition to rebuilding the walls manifest?
- 5 How did Nehemiah and the people of Jerusalem respond to the threats of their enemies?

- 6** Look at the places you marked God.  
List what you learned about Him,  
what He is and what He did or will do.

## APPLY

- 7** What did you learn that will help you  
when you face opposition?

## WRAP IT UP:

Opposition to the work of the Lord is not new, and neither are the enemy's tactics. He uses the same methods today as he did in Nehemiah's day—ridicule and threats designed to intimidate and instill fear, to cause you to stop what the Lord has directed you to do.

And our response today should be the same as in Nehemiah's day: Remember the Lord is great and awesome (Neh. 4:14). Pray, asking the Lord for His help. Prepare for battle as you continue to work. Draw encouragement from the examples of those who have gone before you in this spiritual battle.

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