

Facing Opposition Nehemiah 4

I. Opposition by Ridicule – 4:1-6

When God's people unite Satan will Oppose

1. Opposition is motivated by anger – 1
When they heard what God was doing
They were angry and greatly enraged
Jesus warned of the world's hatred – Jn. 15:18
2. Anger produces ridicule – 1-3
"He jeered the Jews" - 1
Ridicule was done publicly - 2
With his relatives & army of Samaria
Ridiculed by name calling - "feeble Jews"
Ridiculed their work – 2-3
Do they really think they can restore this wall
If a fox went on their wall it would break
3. Nehemiah answered by prayer – 4-5
He did not answer with a war of words
He turned to God to answer their enemies
Lord you have heard what they have said
Turn their taunt on their own heads
Give them up to be plundered by those over them
Don't cover their guilt for they have provoked you
4. They continued to build the wall – 6
They were already half way up in height
For God's people had a mind to work

II. Opposition by Intimidation – 7-9

1. The enemy threatened to attack – 7-8
Again motivated by enflamed anger
Progress on the wall increased their anger
They plotted together how to attack
Their goal was to create fear & confusion
2. Nehemiah's response to this threat – 9
First he prayed for God's protection
Set men to guard the workers day & night

III. Opposition by Discouragement – 10-14

Discouragement is a favorite weapon of Satan

1. Opposition now comes from within – 10-12
Jews were talking among themselves - 10
Workers were becoming exhausted
There was so much rubble
We are not able to build this wall
Enemy's threat hangs over them – 11
Neighbors urged them to return home – 12
2. Nehemiah's plan to meet need – 13-15
Armed those working in vulnerable places - 13
He gathered the people & leaders together -14
Needed to encourage, reassure them
He reminded them of God's power – 14
Challenged them to fight for family & home

IV. Opposition Rebuffed – 15-23

1. The threat was frustrated by God – 15
Their enemies knew they would build the wall
2. Plan for protection was put in place -16-20
Nehemiah's men were reassigned – 16
Half worked in building & half with protection
Leaders supported Nehemiah's plan 17
Laborers carried supplies and a weapon – 17
Builders also had a sword with them – 18
Communication plan was created – 18-20
Trumpet calls would alter workers to danger
3. He & his men set an example – 21-23
Half continued to work, Half were armed – 21
From the break of dawn until dark
Nehemiah continued encouraging people – 22
Encouraged them to sleep in Jerusalem
Help to provide a guard at night & work in day
Nehemiah remained alert day & night – 23
Slept in their clothes with a sword in their hand