

# Let's Worship God

1st-6th July 2019  
Nehemiah





## **Monday - Nehemiah 4:1-6 - Nehemiah's Response**

Nehemiah did not call the leaders of the people together to see what could be done to counteract the threat, nor did he seek to answer the criticisms made; his immediate response was to call upon God in prayer. For Nehemiah, prayer was the first resort and not the last!

a. He called upon God to take note of the reproach they were suffering (v.4). Nehemiah was aware that God was concerned about His people, and that the work they were doing was for God's glory and with God's blessing. It is important for the child of God to understand that God is not distant from their daily lives and struggles, and that it is quite legitimate for them to call upon God to witness their distress.

b. He called upon God to fight for them (v. 4b - 5). Nehemiah was not going to be distracted from the work that he was doing in order to deal with these opponents. He rather committed the whole matter to God for Him to deal with in His own way. Nehemiah may have considered that it would have been just punishment for his enemies to be plundered in a 'land of captivity', but he is quite content to leave the means of dealing with them in the hands of God.

c. He called on God to vindicate his own cause (v.5b). By seeking to demoralise the builders, Sanballat and Tobiah had provoked God. Nehemiah was fully aware that this work was not his but God's, and any opposition to the work was seeking to resist the Lord and to undermine the work of the kingdom. In these circumstances, it is quite proper for the people of God to pray against those who oppose them that their wickedness may be restrained.

## **Questions**

1. What was Nehemiah's first reaction to trouble?
2. Whom does he ask to fight for them?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that God fights for His people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

“Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.” Nehemiah 4:14b

**Praise: Psalm 132 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## **Tuesday - Luke 14:25-33 - A Mind To Work**

The result of the prayer of Nehemiah was very quickly seen: "So we built the wall ... for the people had a mind to work". The whole purpose of the mockery of Sanballat and Tobiah was to discourage the builders and get them to stop the work, but the commitment of the cause to God enabled the builders to disregard the opposition to the work and continue with the building.

a. God answered the prayer of Nehemiah by giving the people 'a mind to work.' "A mind to work is a gift from God, and no significant job will ever be accomplished until people come together with a mind to work." (David Guzik)

b. It is interesting to note that Nehemiah's prayer had no effect at all on those who were opposing the work. Nehemiah had prayed that God would deal with their enemies, but God answered the prayer by giving to the people the desire to continue with the work in spite of the opposition that was coming their way. God very often answers prayer in unexpected ways, not as we wish, but as He sees what is best for us and for the work of the kingdom. Undoubtedly the builders would have preferred God to have struck down those who were seeking to hinder the work, but God wanted them to know that He could enable them to complete the work in the face of their enemies

c. The work was progressing well. The whole perimeter wall had been almost completed to half the height that was required - they had done tremendously well, but the work was only half done! It is one thing to begin a work for God, but it is far more important to carry on the work until it is completed. There is always a need to count the cost.

## **Questions**

1. What effect did Nehemiah's prayer have on the Israelites?
2. What effect did Nehemiah's prayer have on their enemies?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that you would have a mind to work.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes." Nehemiah 4:14b

**Praise: Psalm 133 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



### **Wednesday - Nehemiah 4:1-9 - Growing Opposition**

The opposition was now not just centred on Sanballat and Tobiah, v. 7 makes it clear that the builders were surrounded by their enemies - Sanballat and the Samaritans to the north, the Arabs to the south, the Ammonites to the east, and the Ashdodites to the west. All these now formed a confederacy with the purpose of disrupting the rebuilding work.

a. The threat to the work was now more serious - it had moved from ridicule to a plan to physically attack Jerusalem with the purpose of creating confusion amongst the builders.

b. Although there was a plan to attack, it was nothing more than a threat! There was no actual action taken. No doubt they hoped that this threat alone would be sufficient to prevent the work continuing. This is often how the devil works as he seeks to undermine the work of the gospel. Sometimes the fear of action or persecution is sufficient even if nothing actually happens.

c. The opponents of the work wanted to cause a disturbance in the city, setting one builder against another. If confusion could be sown amongst the builders, some taking the threats more seriously than others and deciding to withdraw from the work, the progress of the work would be halted.

This is ever the work of the devil; if he can get believers to be at odds with one another, he has gone a long way in undermining the work of the kingdom. It is when the people of God focus their minds on the task that God has given them, trusting in the promises and the protection of God, and not allowing themselves to be distracted, that great things are done for God.

### **Questions**

1. How were the Israelites threatened?
2. How are great things done for God?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for unity of purpose and focus in the church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

“Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.” Nehemiah 4:14b

**Praise: Psalm 134 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## Thursday - Ephesians 6:10-20 - Prayer and Defence

The continued and intensified attacks of Sanballat and Tobiah could easily have discouraged the builders, they had, after all, asked God to deal with the opposition, and their prayer may have appeared to have gone unanswered. Their response however, was quite different.

a. They brought the matter to God in prayer v. 9a. Although God had not answered Nehemiah's previous prayer in the way that they may have wished but had rather given the people a will to work in spite of opposition, that did not prevent them from seeking God afresh when new danger threatened. Perseverance in prayer is a lesson taught consistently in the Word of God.

b. Not only did they pray for God's help and protection, they also took practical measures to defend themselves. This did not display any lack of faith in God but was simply recognition that God expects his people to use the minds that he has given them to make use of the means available to them. We are told to pray for our daily bread, but we do not expect it to fall from the sky. We use the strength and abilities that God gives to earn the wherewithal to provide food for our families. So too in the spiritual warfare; Christians are commanded to pray, Eph. 6:18, but they are also to arm themselves for the battle against the 'principalities and powers'.

c. They were determined not to be taken by surprise by the enemy, and so they maintained their guard day and night. This demonstrated their commitment to finish the work no matter what and sent a message to their enemies that they would be ready to repulse any attack. Watchfulness is an essential part of the life of the believer, as the Lord Jesus Christ said to his disciples 'watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation' Luke 22:46.

### Questions

1. What did the people do when they were threatened?
2. How did they show their committment?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would watch and act against sin in our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

“Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.” Nehemiah 4:14b

**Praise: Psalm 135 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# NEHEMIAH

pray | plan | build

## Friday - Nehemiah 4:9-10 - Discouragement

It now appears as though the pressure coming from the enemies of the work was having some effect. One of the things that the opponents wanted to do was to discourage the builders and cause them to stop the work and it appears that some of the people were indeed becoming discouraged.

The discouraging words came from the tribe that was considered the strongest - the tribe of kings and the tribe from which would come the Messiah, Judah. Their discouragement was based on a number of factors:

a. The failing strength of the workers. They had been working hard and had accomplished much, but there was still a great deal left undone and they wondered if they had the strength or ability to complete it.

b. There was a great deal of rubbish to be cleared away. The walls had been destroyed and the rubble had been building up for around a hundred years! Before the rebuilding could be done, the rubbish had to be taken away.

c. They were not able to rebuild. Perhaps they felt that there were not enough of them to clear away all the rubbish and rebuild the walls as well, the task just seemed to be too big for them.

This is a very good picture of how discouragement can come in the work of the gospel. We very often think that our strength is insufficient to complete the task before us; we can often begin well but become discouraged as the work seems to take so long! We must always remember that perseverance in the strength of the Lord is essential.

In our own personal lives and in the work of the church, it is necessary to clear away the rubbish - old habits, unBiblical practices, unhelpful attitudes, and harmful relationships - before we can construct God glorifying lives.

### Questions

1. Who was discouraged and why?
2. What is the rubbish of our lives?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would clear the rubbish of sin from our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

“Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.” Nehemiah 4:14b

**Praise: Psalm 136 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**





### **Saturday - Nehemiah 4:11-15 - Attack**

Not only were some of the builders discouraged because of the enormity of the task and their own lack of resources, they now had to face the prospect of their enemies not just trying to stop the work, but to kill them.

It is uncertain whether or not the enemies knew of the discouragement that some of the builders were experiencing, but it is certain that Satan was well aware of it and prompted those wicked men to attack when God's people were at a low ebb. Such is the work of the evil one who will attack God's people when they are discouraged, depressed, tired or self-confident.

The plan was to attack secretly, at a time when the builders were not alert. It was for that very reason that Nehemiah had set up guards day and night. Spiritual defeat comes upon the child of God when he drops his guard and does not remain watchful for the temptations of the devil.

Nehemiah's enemies had sought to stop the work by mockery and threats, but they had realised that such was the commitment and dedication of the builders that the only way that they could be stopped was by killing them. How often has this been seen in the history of the church when persecution has broken out against the people of God. Seventeenth century Covenanters were doing nothing more than proclaiming the Word of God and denouncing compromise and wickedness as they sought to build the kingdom of God, and yet they were pursued, persecuted and killed in an attempt to stop the work. Unfortunately, this cannot always be said of every child of God. For many, the devil does not have to kill them because discouragement, compromise, money, relationships, frustration, or trouble get them to stop serving God.

### **Questions**

1. When did the enemies plan to attack?
2. How did Nehemiah counteract this?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

“Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.” Nehemiah 4:14b

**Praise:** Psalm 137 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

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