



OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES

A STUDY FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Anti-semitism is a hatred of the Jewish people because they are the chosen people of God. It has been around since the very beginning and proves we live in the midst of a spiritual battle.

Nehemiah 2:17-20 KJV

[17] Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. [18] Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work . [19] But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it , they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king? [20] Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

SANBALLAT, TOBIAH, AND GESHEM

These three men were a great hinderance to Nehemiah when he was trying to rebuild the city of Jerusalem but people are not the enemy, ultimately it is the devil who seeks to prevent the word of God. Evil must come into the world but woe to the man through who it comes.

Nehemiah 2:10 KJV

When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it , it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

Nehemiah 6:2 KJV

That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

Nehemiah 6:14 KJV

My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

THE SCHEMES USED AGAINST NEHEMIAH ARE THE SAME SCHEMES USED AGAINST US TODAY:

1. We will be Despised.

Matthew 10:22 KJV

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

2. God's Promises are for His Children.

Romans 8:17 KJV

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

3. We will be Mocked.

Nehemiah 4:1-3 KJV

[1] But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. [2] And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? [3] Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

Matthew 5:11 KJV

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

4. God will Handle Our Enemies.

Nehemiah 4:4-5 KJV

[4] Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity: [5] And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders.

5. Determination Makes the Difference.

"It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog."

- Dwight Eisenhower

Nehemiah 4:6 KJV

So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

6. Progress Angers the Enemy.

Nehemiah 4:7 KJV

But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

Revelation 12:12 KJV

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

7. The Enemy is Plotting Attack and Confusion.

Nehemiah 4:8-9 KJV

[8] And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it. [9] Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

8. Assemble Your Weapons.

Nehemiah 4:13 KJV

Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

9. Be Willing to Fight.

Nehemiah 4:14 KJV

And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

10. Keep Your Guard Up.

Nehemiah 4:22 KJV

Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

11. Listen For the Alarm.

Nehemiah 4:20 KJV

In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

12. The Enemy Creates Distractions.

Nehemiah 6:1-3 KJV

[1] Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) [2] That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.[3] And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

1. Evil will always try to subvert righteous acts.
2. Obstacles keep us dependent on God.
3. Difficult people help us grow in Godly character; They're like holy sandpaper refining us.
4. Victory depends on my threshold of discouragement.
5. By faith I will one day stand on a finished wall.