Knocked Down, but Not Knocked Out - Part 1/2

Nehemiah **4:1-13**



Main idea: God's will done God's way will never go unopposed!

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2 Corinthians 4:8-10 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

In the work of the Lord, it is not only important to expect opposition, but also to be prepared for it.

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Flaming arrows of the Enemy

- Mockery (vv.1-3)
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Mockery (Ridicule, Intimidation) is one of the first weapons Satan uses to stop the progress of God's work

Opposition faced by the Team

Mockery by the Opponents

- The feeble Jews
- Are they going to restore themselves?
- Can they offer sacrifices?
- Can they finish in a day?
- Can they revive from the dusty rubble?
- A fox could break their stone wall

Modern Equivalent

- Faith in God is for the weak
- Your problem is too big to be fixed
- Church is a corrupted place; you can fix your own problems
- Everyone finishes well
- Is Jesus the ONLY Savior?
- You believe that the salvation is eternal?

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

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Flaming arrows of the Enemy

- Mockery (vv.1-3)
- Conspiracy to cause commotion (vv. 7-8)
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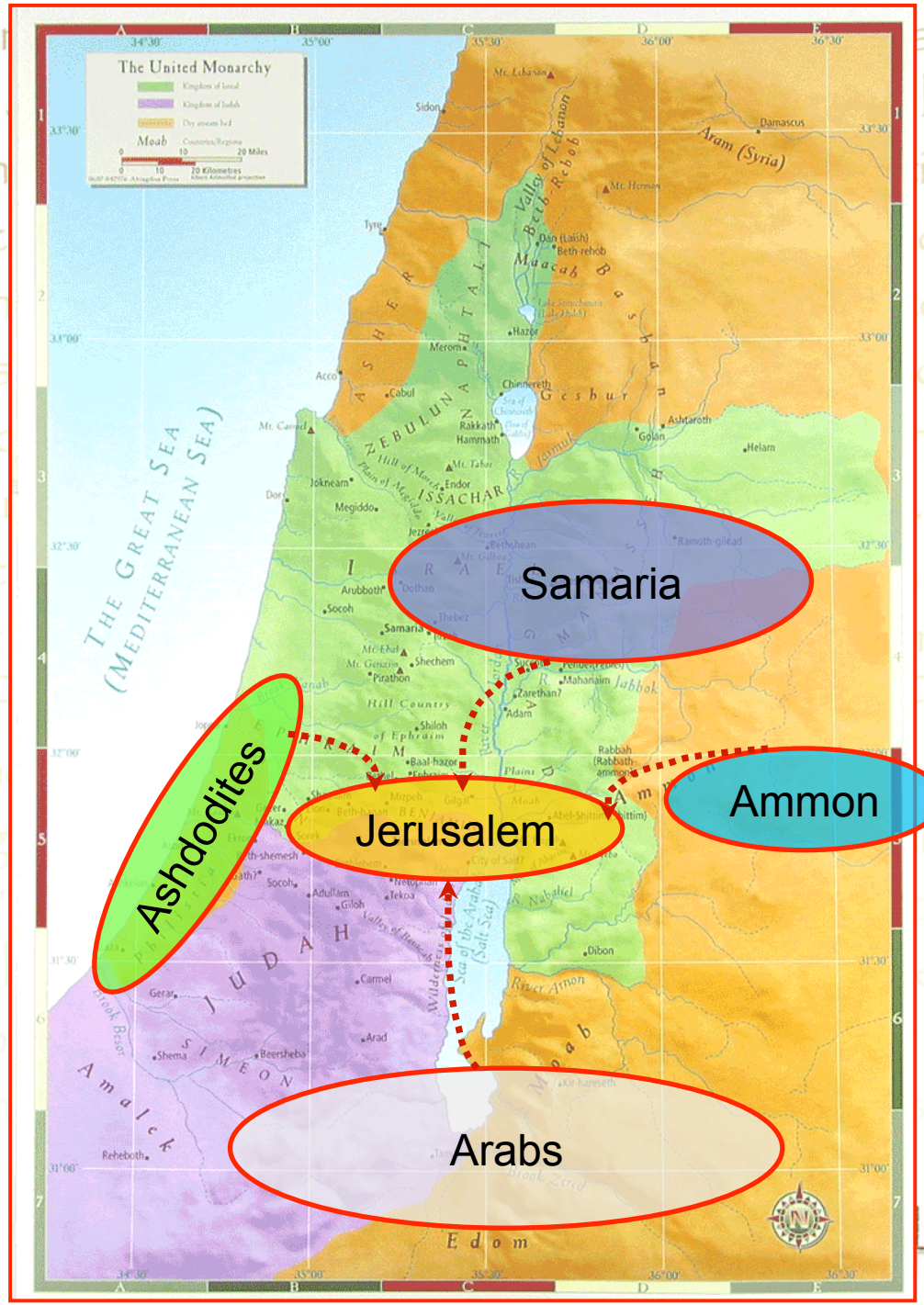
Satan doesn't give up after his first failure. He comes back at an opportune time with his next weapon.

Luke 4:13 "When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time."



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Matthew 12:14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.

Matthew 27:7 And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers.

Mark 15:1 Early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes and the whole Council, immediately held a consultation; and binding Jesus, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate.

Flaming arrows of the Enemy

- Mockery (vv.1-3)
- Conspiracy to cause commotion (vv. 7-8)
- Discouragement (v. 10)
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In the warfare, the enemy not only knows the kind of weapons to use, but he also knows the time to use.

Nehemiah's threat to the success of the project was not only from without, but also from within.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God

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Flaming arrows of the Enemy

- Mockery (vv. 1-3)
- Conspiracy to cause commotion (vv. 7-8)
- Discouragement (v. 10)
- Threat (v. 11-12)



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Martyrs in Church history

Apostolic Era (1st Century)	Age of Martyrdom (2nd to 4th)	Middle Ages (5th to 15th)
• Stephen, was stoned c. 34 A.D. • James - beheaded in 44 A.D. • Philip - crucified in 54 A.D. • Matthew - killed with a halberd. • James - beaten to death with a club after being crucified and stoned. • Matthias was stoned and beheaded. • Andrew was crucified. • Mark was dragged in the streets until his death • Peter, crucified upside-down. • Paul, beheaded in Rome. • Jude was crucified. • Bartholomew flayed alive and crucified. • Thomas was killed with a spear. • Luke was hanged. • Simon the Zealot was crucified	• Ignatius of Antioch • Justin Martyr of Palestine • Saint Philomena • Polycarp of Smyrna, • Forty Martyrs of Sebaste, died in Roman Persecution • Saint George, died in the Diocletianic Persecution in 303.	• King Edward the Martyr, 979 • Stanislaus of Szczepanów, • Thomas Becket, 1170 • John Huss • Jerome of Prague, 1416 • Joan of Arc

Martyrs in Church history

Reformation Era (16th Century)	Modern Era (17th to 21st)
• Margaret Ball, 1584 • The Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, various dates • William Tyndale, 1535 • Juan de la Cruz, Spanish missionary to New Mexico, 1542 • Luis de Escalona, Spanish missionary to New Mexico, 1542 • Juan de Padilla, Spanish missionary to New Mexico, 1542 • The Huguenots, massacred in the 1572 St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre	• Martyrs of Japan • Vietnamese Martyrs 1625 – 1886 • Chinese Martyrs (various Christian denominations), 19th and 20th centuries • Korean Martyrs 1839, 1846, 1866 • Jim Elliot and team, 1956 • The German martyrs in Turkey • • • • • • •

1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

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