

STRENGTHENED

O GOD, STRENGTHEN MY HANDS

NEHEMIAH 6:9

Sunday Morning, February 16, 2025 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Strength to Continue in the Work

Message Text: Nehemiah 4:7-23

Introduction:

Nehemiah and the people Jerusalem were halfway into the massive building project of rebuilding walls of Jerusalem. More than forty teams of workers had been working tirelessly to restore nearly two and a half miles of walls so that the city would again be protected and taken seriously. However, the burden of the work was growing heavier and the enemies opposing the work were increasing. It is one thing to start well, but to end well you must continue well even when faced with challenges. This is exactly what Nehemiah and the people did. May we do the same in the work that God has given us to do.

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Rebuilding the Walls
[1-6]

Restoring the People
[7-13]

1. The _____ of God's Enemy (7-8)

A. An Angry _____ (7)

Nehemiah 4:7 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,

SANBALLAT — Governor of Samaria

TOBIAH — An official of Ammon

ARABIANS — Ruled by King Geshem

AMMONITES — The people with Tobiah

ASHDODITES — The people from the city of Ashdod, located west of Jerusalem {Mentioned in Acts 8:40}

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

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sermon notes



B. An Aggressive _____ (8)

Nehemiah 4:8 And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

DEFINITION—CONSPIRED: to plot; to engage in plotting or enter into a conspiracy, swear together.

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

QUOTE: Satan always hates Christian fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians apart. Anything which can divide saints from one another he delights in. He attaches far more importance to godly intercourse than we do. Since union is strength, he does his best to promote separation.
—C.H. Spurgeon

2. The _____ of God's People (9-14)

A. Their Stand was _____ (9a)

Nehemiah 4:9a Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God...

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

QUOTE: Prayer is repeating the victor's name (Jesus) into the ears of Satan and insisting on his retreat. —S.D. Gordon

QUOTE: When prayer is a mechanical act, and there is no soul in it, it is a slavery and a weariness; but when it is really living prayer, and when the man prays because he is a Christian and cannot help praying, when he prays along the street, prays in his business, prays in the house, prays in the field, when his whole soul is full of prayer, then he cannot have too much of it. —C. H. Spurgeon

B. Their Stand was _____ (9b-14)

THEY SET A WATCH-GUARD

Nehemiah 4:9b ...and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

THEY SURVEYED THE WORKFORCE

Nehemiah 4:10 And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

THEY SUMMARIZED THE UNCOVERED WAR-PLANS

Nehemiah 4:11-12 And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease. 12 And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you.

THEY STATIONED THE WATCHES

Nehemiah 4:13 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.

C. Their Stand was _____ (14)

Nehemiah 4:14 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.

NOTE—*Nehemiah gave two calls to action. Remember the Lord and fight for your families.*

DEFINITION—GREAT: *remarkable or out of the ordinary in degree, magnitude, or effect.*

DEFINITION—TERRIBLE: *to be awesome; to be inspiring awe or reverence or fear.*

QUOTE: The fear of the Lord is the cure for the fear of man.—Evers

1 Samuel 17:47 And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.

3. The _____ for the Lord's Work (15-23)

A. They Continued from _____ (15)

Nehemiah 4:15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

DEFINITION—COUNSEL: *plans; a series of steps to be carried out or goals to be accomplished.*

DEFINITION—NOUGHT: *to thwart; to hinder or prevent (the efforts, plans, or desires) of.*

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing

1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

B. They Continued with _____ (16-18a)

Nehemiah 4:16-20 And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. 17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. 18 For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me. 19 And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another. 20 In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

NOTE — Their vigilance was rooted in faith.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

C. They Continued with _____ (21-23)

Nehemiah 4:21-23 So we laboured in the work; and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared. 22 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. 23 So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.

NOTE — They worked from the rising of the sun until after sunset.

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Conclusion

Deuteronomy 33:25 Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; And as thy days, so shall thy strength be.

Questions to Consider

What is your first response when facing a challenge in the work the Lord has given to you?

What kind of challenges are you facing right now?

Have you prayed specifically about those challenges?

Are you proactively stepping forward in the work what trusting the Lord to fight for you?

