

From Ruin to Revival

A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

LESSON FOUR Introduction: Nehemiah recounts for us the great opposition he and the Jews faced in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. Similarly, those of us who strive to do work for God will also be opposed, resisted, and attacked. In that day, may his statement also be ours: "Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them...So we laboured in the work" (4:9, 21a).

1. The Opposition against Us.

a. The Causes of Some Opposition.

- i. **Intimidation.**
- ii. **Jealousy.**
- iii. **Agenda.**
- iv. **Exclusion.**
- v. **Suspicion.**
- vi. **Tradition.**
- vii. **Satan.**

b. The Categories of Their Opposition.

- i. Their first attempt was **contempt**.
 - "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 rubbish?"
- ii. Their second attempt was **conspiracy**.

c. The Caution in face of the Opposition.

2. The Opportunities before Us.

a. The First Guard: **pray** (v9, 4-5)

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- i. When Nehemiah prayed, he prayed **particularly**.
- ii. When Nehemiah prayed, he prayed **prevailingly**.
- iii. When Nehemiah prayed, he prayed **with priority**.
- iv. When Nehemiah prayed, he prayed **persistently**.
- v. When Nehemiah prayed, he prayed **personally**.

- b. The Second Guard: **watch**
 - i. In setting the watch, Nehemiah had a **plan**.
 - ii. In setting the watch, Nehemiah had a **purpose**.
 - iii. In setting the watch, Nehemiah was **persistent**.
- c. The Third Guard: **work**
 - i. The people had an **attitude** to work (v.6, 19)
 - This is essential because of the work's **significance**
 - This is essential because of the work's **size**
 - ii. The people had an **assignment** to work (v.17).
 - Some were assigned to **planning**.
 - Some were assigned to **building**.
 - Some were assigned to **supply**.
 - Some were assigned to **logistics**.
- d. The Guards **Together**.
 - i. Prayer alone will not **prevail**.
 - ii. Watching alone will not **protect**.
 - iii. Work alone will not **prosper**.