

From Ruin to Revival

A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

LESSON SIX Introduction: So far Nehemiah has faced three forms of opposition. He battled **contempt** and **conspiracy** from without, and he dealt with **conflict** from within. In this lesson we will investigate three final tests Nehemiah had to pass. Each of these tests was aimed at Nehemiah **personally**. Their wounded pride would not be appeased until Nehemiah was **humiliated**. Their plan was simple "sack the quarterback." Now let's look and see how they tried to accomplish this.

1. Opposition by **Intrigue** (v.1-4).

- a. The **Invitation**
- b. The **Intrigue**
- c. The **Inhibition**
- d. The **Instruction**

i. **"No"**

- In what circumstances should I say no?
- To whom should I say no?
- When should I say no?

ii. **"Ono"**

- He **perceived** their aim
- He did not **provoke** their anger
- He **prepared** his answer

2. Opposition by **Innuendo** (v.5-9).

- a. The **Communiqué** of Opposition
 - i. It was an **open** letter
 - ii. It was a **threatening** letter

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- b. The **Counter** to Opposition
 - i. It was **prompt**
 - ii. It was **pointed**
 - iii. It was **prayerful**
- 3. **Opposition by Intimidation (v.10-14).**
 - a. It was **suggestive**
 - i. Put your **safety** first
 - ii. Put the **Scripture** last
 - The suggested area was **sanctified**
 - The suggested action was **sin**
 - b. It was “**spiritual**”
 - i. Their **prophet** was debunked
 - ii. Their **purpose** was detailed
 - iii. Their **prophecy** was dissected
- 4. **Overcoming by Integrity.**
 - a. Nehemiah’s **Dependence** on His God
 - b. Nehemiah’s **Devotion** to His Calling
 - c. Nehemiah’s **Discernment** of His Opposition
 - d. Nehemiah’s **Daring** against His Odds

Conclusion: Who is not afraid at times? Who is not disturbed? Who is not hurt? We all are. Yet it is precisely when we yield those fears to God and press on that we **accomplish the most** for Him.