

## Together We Win Every Battle

**Text: Deuteronomy 32:29** *O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!* <sup>30</sup> **How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?** <sup>31</sup> **For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.**

**Introduction:** As we study the book of Nehemiah we see opposition, then prayer and action from Nehemiah and the people to fight and build the walls around Jerusalem.

**Nehemiah 2:17** *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.* <sup>18</sup> *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.*

**Opposition** – to unity to build the walls and repair the gates

- <sup>19</sup> **But when Sanballat the Horonite (Enemy in secret) (Sanballat the Horonite or Sanballat I in Neo – Assyrian Aramaic, Sinballidh or "The god Sin has vivified") was a Samaritan leader and official of the Persian Achaemenid Empire who lived in the mid to late fifth century BCE,**
- **and Tobiah (Goodness) the servant, the Ammonite,**
- **and Geshem (Rain) the Arabian, (The Arab king ruling the south into Jerusalem)**

*that 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?*

**Answer** -<sup>20</sup> *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.*

**Nehemiah 3** – Every person and family took their responsibilities and rebuilt the one next to another on the wall and to rebuild the gates!

**Opposition - Nehemiah 4:1** *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.* <sup>2</sup> *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?* <sup>3</sup> *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.*

**Answer - Prayer and response of the people!**

<sup>4</sup> *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:* <sup>5</sup> *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.* <sup>6</sup> **So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.**

**Opposition** -<sup>7</sup> *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,* <sup>8</sup> *And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.*

**Answer - Prayer and action!**

<sup>9</sup> *Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.*

## **Opposition - People discouraged and speaking the enemy's words**

<sup>10</sup> *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.*

## **Opposition - The enemy increases fear and threats**

<sup>11</sup> *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.*

## **Opposition - The Jews spoke the enemy's words and magnified the threat!**

<sup>12</sup> *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.*

## **Answer - Actions to fight the internal and external threat – FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILIES**

<sup>13</sup> *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. <sup>14</sup> 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.***

## **Answer - Plans in place to fight and build the wall! The enemy was finally defeated!**

<sup>15</sup> *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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> **For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.** <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, **resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.** <sup>21</sup> **So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.** <sup>22</sup> **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.** <sup>23</sup> 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.*

## **\*\*\*WE ARE ONE in Communion with our Lord! –**

**1 Corinthians 10:15** *I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. <sup>16</sup> The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.*

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## **Worship God with your First-Fruits, Tithes, and Offerings –**

**Exodus 35:5** *Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,*

**Exodus 35:21** *And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments. <sup>22</sup> And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the LORD.*