

## **Nehemiah 4:4-5 – Nehemiah Prayer During Construction of the Wall!**

3/30/19 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

### **The Battle Belongs to the Lord - The Maranatha! Singers**

1 In heavenly armor we'll enter the land. The battle belongs to the Lord. No weapon that's fashioned against us shall stand The battle belongs to the Lord. We sing glory, honor Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor Power and strength to the Lord

2 When the power of darkness comes in like a flood, The battle belongs to the Lord. He's raised up a standard, the power of His blood, The battle belongs to the Lord. And We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord

3 When your enemy presses in hard do not fear. The battle belongs to the Lord. Take courage my friend, your redemption is near. The battle belongs to the Lord. And We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord. And We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord

### **Nehemiah Prays Against Their Enemies! (Neh. 4:4-5) - Ridicule (Neh 4:1-6) – As Builder**

God's people always have enemies. In this case, they were Sanballat, a government official in Samaria; Tobiah, the Ammonite; and Geshem, an Arabian, who is also called Gashmu (Neh 6:1, Neh 6:6). These three wicked men were outside the nation of Israel; in fact, the Ammonites were definite enemies of the Jews (Deu 23:3-4). Their **first weapon was ridicule**; they mocked the "feeble Jews" openly before the leaders of Samaria. Satan is a mocker (Luk 22:63; Luk 23:35-37). Ridicule is a device used by ignorant people who are filled with jealousy. They mocked the people ("feeble Jews"), the plan ("will they finish in a day?"), and the materials ("stones and rubbish"). How did Nehemiah answer them? He prayed to his God! His concern was only for the glory of God and the testimony of the nation, so do not read personal revenge into his prayer (see Psa 139:19-24). Note that the people **still worked as they prayed, for prayer is no substitute for work**. Satan would have loved to see Nehemiah leave the wall and get involved in a dispute with Sanballat, but Nehemiah did not fall into Satan's trap. **Never allow ridicule to stop your ministry; "take it to the Lord in prayer" and keep on working.**

**Nehemiah comes against the discouraging attack with prayer-this time a group prayer.**

**Neh 4:4-5 Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! [5] do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders.**

**Hear, O our God:**

Nehemiah's response was a great example. He didn't debate, he didn't form a committee, he didn't even **deal with the two enemies directly. Instead, he took it to God in prayer.**

For Nehemiah, prayer was a **first resource, not a last resort**. When times of opposition come, **God wants us to rely on Him** - and the purest way of expressing our reliance on God is through prayer.

**Hear, O our God, for we are despised:**

In his prayer, Nehemiah **first asked for Gods attention and mercy**. God did care about Nehemiah and the work of rebuilding, but Nehemiah **needed God to display it** and he **also needed to sense Gods presence and care**.

**Turn their reproach on their own heads . . . give them as plunder . . . do not cover their iniquity:**

Nehemiah **then asked God to battle their enemies for them**. He depended on God to fight the battle. God gave him a work to do, and he would not be distracted from it.

This prayer seems pretty tough, but prayers in the Psalms are even tougher: *Breath their teeth in their mouth, O God! (Psalm 58:6) Let their dwelling place be desolate; let no one live in their tents (Psalm 69:25).* **It is proper for a child of God to pray such a prayer, because they are giving their violent inclinations over to God, and letting Him deal with them.**

If we are angry at someone or have a real enemy, then we can go at them in prayer. **Never in the sense of praying evil upon them, but in turning them over to a good and just God, because He knows exactly what to do with them.**

**They have provoked You to anger:**

Finally, Nehemiah's prayer gave God a reason to show mercy and to come against his enemies. Nehemiah recognized that **this was Gods cause, not his own.**

**Neh 4:6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. - The result after the attack and Nehemiah's defense in prayer: the work continues on with greater and greater strength.**

So, we built the wall: God answered the prayer by giving them all a **mind to work**. A **mind to work** is a gift from God, and no significant job will ever be accomplished until people come together with a **mind to work**. This is exactly what Satan wants to destroy with his attacks - the **mind to work**. He wants to **make us feel defeated, or passive, or self-focused, or discouraged**.

It appears that Nehemiah **prayed for four months before** he did anything. Later, when the work of rebuilding the walls actually begins, it **only takes 52 days to finish the job**. But that 52-day project had a **four-month foundation of prayer**.

Nehemiah **took his pain and stress to God in prayer** - and seemingly, **was able to leave it there**. Prayer will relieve your stress. You may be trying to relieve stress through entertainment, but all that does is divert your attention. Entertainment doesn't give any solutions to stress. **Prayer will give you strength; when you wait on the Lord in prayer, He will renew your strength (Isaiah 40:31)**.

### **SUMMARY:**

- When the enemies of the Lord come strongly against you, what do you do? Complain or pray?
- Never allow ridicule to stop your ministry; “take it to the Lord in prayer” and keep on working.
- He did not upbraid them with their weakness but looked up to God in prayer.
- He begs of God to avenge their cause and turn the reproach upon the enemies themselves.
- Finally, Nehemiah’s prayer gave God a reason to come against His enemies, recognizing the enemy had come against God and not just them alone!
- We should not be praying evil upon them, but in turning them over to a good and just God, because He knows exactly what to do with them.
- The reproaches of enemies should quicken us to our duty rather than to drive us away from it.

**Summary – Resistance/Response** - The things of success we see so far in *Nehemiah*:

**Resistance - Laughing**, Chap. 2v19; - Response - 2v20 Called on the God of Heaven, building continues!

**Ridicule/Mocking**, 4v1-3; - Response - 4v4-6 Prayed, “*Hear, O our God*”; work begins/continues!

**Threats**, 4v8; - Response; 4v9 - Nevertheless we prayed! Set a watch day & night!

**Discouragement/fear**, 4v10-12; - Response - v13-14 – Positioned men (families) with swords, spears, bows.

Encouraged the people “*Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.*” Work continued!

### **Proper Response to Enemy Resistance**

Have a heart to do the work! They prayed! They were watching! Remember Your God! Remember Your Sword!

Do all of this while listening for the trumpet *-come thither!*

### **HE IS ABLE – Ferguson, Noland; Sung By - Maranatha Singers**

*He is able more than able to accomplish what concerns me today. He is able more than able*

*To handle anything that comes my way. He is able more than able to do much more than I could ever dream*

*He is able more than able to make me what He wants me to be.*

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*He is able more than able to make me what He wants me to be. He is able more than able to do much more than I*

*could ever dream. He is able more than able to make me what He wants me to be.*

**Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation**, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India;

Donald Trump – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Muhammadu

Buhari - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Benjamin

Netanyahu – Israel; Angela Merkel – Germany; Theresa May – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Moon Jae-

in – South Korea.

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