## **Resistance… Give up, or remain steadfast? 2 July 2023**



## **We are working our way through Nehemiah.**

## **He faced resistance… every prophet of the Lord faced resistance.**

## ***Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.***



## ***13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.***



## **The resistance thrown at Nehemiah was fear, doubt, intimidation, threats and discouragement!**

## **Nehemiah though stayed focused because He stayed on the Word Of God!!!!!**

## **Faith in what God Promised!**

## **Faith in what God taught!**

## **The stuff that Nehemiah faced was like a nightmare church. A lot of the people in charge are related and they are all part of the problem of division, gossip, backbiting, and wickedness!**



## ***Neh 6:17 Also in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came to them. 18 For many in Judah were pledged to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shechaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.***

## ***19 Also they reported his good deeds before me, and reported my words to him. Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.***

## ***28 And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I drove him from me.***

## **Tobiah and Sanballat were 2 of the 3 that caused Nehemiah so many problems!**

## **Nehemiah 4**

## **4:1-3: The enemies angrily mocked the Jews; but were also mocking the will of God.**

## **4:4: Nehemiah hears this but simply goes to the Lord in prayer.**

## **These men had publicly mocked God and deserved no mercy. This is an “imprecatory prayer.” (judgment)**



## **4:7: The enemies now threaten violence.**

## **4:10: Opposition from within; “we can’t build this wall!!!”**

## **4:11: Opposition from without.**

## **Nehemiah set up armed guards. Pray to God and pass the ammunition. (Balance between human effort and dependence on God…faith and works)**

## **More discouragement incoming, this time from the people themselves!**

## ***Neh 4:10 Then Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall.” 11 And our adversaries said, “They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease.”***

## ***4:12 So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, “From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us.”***

## **It’s one thing to take flak from the opposition, it is another to take it from your own people. Nehemiah’s response:**

## ***4:14 And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of 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.”***

## **Not only did Nehemiah have to fight fear**

## **But he also had to fight corruption in the nation!**

## **The rulers of the people had lent money and food and many other things to their brothers who had less, for profit! Now they were charging interest on all that payback and the people were basically slaves now to them because the interest rate was so high!**

## ***Neh 5:9 Then I said, “What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?***

## ***10 “I also, with my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury! 11 “Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them.”***

## **Give them back what you took from them, and you pay back some of the interest you charged them. If you don’t God will**

## **SHAKE YOU OUT!**

# **MORE PROBLEMS FOR NEHEMIAH.**

# **A plot to harm Nehemiah (6:1-4)**

# **A false charge leveled against Nehemiah (6:5-9)**

# **An attempt to get Nehemiah to flee, thus stopping the work (6:10-13).**

# **Words from Israelite “prophets” to cause fear in Nehemiah (6:14).**

# **OCTOBER 3, 445…a great day!!!**

# **The basic wall is completed in 52 days.**

## **The plot:**

## ***Neh 6:1 Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates),***

## ***2 that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono.” But they thought to do me harm. 3 So I sent messengers to them, saying,***

## ***“I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?” 4 But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.***

## **The false charge:**

## ***Neh 6:5 Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand. 6 In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors,***

## ***you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king. 7 And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, “There is a king in Judah!” Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together.***

## ***8 Then I sent to him, saying, “No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart.”***

## ***9 For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, “Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done.” Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.***

## **The scare from men:**

## ***6:10 Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you.”***

## ***11 And I said, “Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!” 12 Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.***

## ***13 For this reason he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me.***

## **The scare from the counterfeit presence of God:**

## ***6:14 My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid.***

## **The victory and the reversal of discouragement:**

## **OCTOBER 3, 445 BC…a great day!!!**

## ***6:15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.***

## ***Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”***

## Next week: Neh 9