

NEHEMIAH'S OPPOSITION
(Nehemiah 4:1-23)

- I. Dealing with RIDICULE (Neh. 4:1-6)
 - A. Sanballat, governor of SYRIA, was FURIOUS/INCENSED (4:1)
 - B. His immediate response was MOCKERY (4:2)
 - C. Tobiah ridiculed the QUALITY/DURABILITY of their work (4:3)
 - D. Nehemiah PRAYED for God's JUDGMENT on His enemies (4:4-5)
 - E. They built the ENTIRE wall to HALF its height (4:6)

- II. Delayed by OBSTACLES (Neh. 4:7-14)
 - A. Enemies made THREATS (4:7-9)
 - 1. They were ANGRY with the PROGRESS on the wall
 - 2. They CONSPIRED to DISRUPT the work
 - 3. Nehemiah led in PRAYER and established SECURITY
 - B. The workers became WEARY (4:10)
 - C. The people became FEARFUL (4:11-14)
 - 1. Enemies threatened to MURDER them by STEALTH
 - 2. Jews who lived near the BORDERS reported this CONSTANTLY
 - 3. Nehemiah posted ARMED GUARDS at vulnerable points

4. Nehemiah challenged them to ABANDON fear, REMEMBER God's power, and FIGHT

III. Defending the WORK (Neh. 4:15-23)

- A. Half the BUILDERS became ARMED GUARDS while the other half BUILT (4:16)
- B. The PORTERS carried one-handed and held a WEAPON in the other (4:17)
- C. The BUILDERS carried a SWORD in a sheath (4:18a)
- D. Nehemiah organized an ALARM system (4:18b-20)
- E. Nehemiah took steps to ACCELERATE the project (4:21-23)
 1. They worked LONGER HOURS
 2. All the workers stayed in JERUSALEM
 3. No one took time to BATHE or change CLOTHES
 4. No one went to get WATER without his WEAPON

IV. Lessons

- A. God usually uses HUMAN AGENCY to accomplish His will
- B. God helps those who TRUST in HIM and DO His WILL
- C. God delights in using the WEAK to accomplish His will (1 Cor. 1:27-29)