

Nehemiah: Servant to The King

“When Opposition Comes...From the Outside” (Nehemiah 4)

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Introduction

The work on the Jerusalem city walls had begun.. All round the wall, forty-one work groups were focused on their piece of the wall—dedicated to the work of God and unified in the action of repair!

The enemies of this project of Jerusalem had clearly challenged the work in its inception (Neh. 2:19), but now that the work had progressed, the opposition intensified in its size and forms.



I. **Success breeds** _____ . (2:19; 4:1, 7-8, 11, 15)

For the Hebrews building the wall in Jerusalem, opposition came from several directions in various, intensifying forms.

A. The _____ of Opposition (vv. 1-3, 7)

1. From the North: **Sanballet the Horonite**
2. From the East: **Tobiah**
3. From the South: **Geshem the Arab**
4. From the West: **Ashdodites**

Scripture: Psalm 3

B. The _____ of Opposition (vv. 2-3, 8, 11)

1. **Ridicule:** Opposition through _____.
2. **Conspiracy:** Opposition through _____.
3. **Threats:** Opposition through _____.

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 11:14, Ephesians 6:12.

II. **Opposition produces** _____ . (v. 10-12)

A. When it comes from powerful _____ . (v. 1)

B. When it comes with a grain of _____ . (v. 2-3)

Scripture: Romans 12:10; Isaiah 1:18; Psalms 109:1-5

“Ridicule is effective because it strikes at the hidden insecurity or weakness that almost everybody has.”
(James Montgomery Boice)

C. When it comes at a low point in _____. (v. 6, 10)

III. Cowardly opposition is best met _____. (v. 4-15)

- Nehemiah’s theology avoided both the errors of _____ and of _____.

**There are two forces at work in every Christian’s life:
God working in us, and our working in God’s strength.**

Scripture: Revelation 21:7-8; Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 15:10; Ephesians 6:12-14

A. Combating cowardly opposition relies on a _____.
(v. 4-5; 9, 14)

- Nehemiah did not resort to retorts. He relied on God who has the final word.

B. Combating cowardly opposition responds with an _____
_____. (vv. 6, 9, 13-14)

Conclusion:

**We do what is _____, not because it is easy or popular,
but simply because it is _____.**