

## Oppositions in Nehemiah 4

### Ridicule, Neh. 4:1-6

1But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we build the wall, he was wrath, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. 2And he spoke 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?** 3 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.** 4Hear, 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: 5And 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. 6So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together

### Force, Neh. 4:7-9

7But 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 wrath,** 8**And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.** 9Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

### Discouragement, Neh. 4:10

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.**

### Fear, Neh. 4:11-23

"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. 12 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. 13 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. 14 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.** 15And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to naught, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work. 16 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. 17 They which built on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. 18 For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet us by me. 19And 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.** 20In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us. 21 So we labored in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared. 22 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.** 23So 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.

### Selfishtiess, Neh. 5

1And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews. 2For there were that said, **We, our sons, and our daughters, are many: therefore we take up corn for them, that we may eat, and live.** 3Some also there were that said, **We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth.** 4**There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, and that upon our lands and vineyards.** 5Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already. neither is it in our power to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards.



6And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. 7Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them. 8And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer. 9Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies? 10 likewise, and my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury. 11Restore, r pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive-yards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them. 12Then said they, We will restore them, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou sayest. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise. 13Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.

14Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor. 15But the former governors that had been before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God. 16Yea, also I continued in the work of this wall, neither bought we any land: and all my servants were gathered thither unto the work. 17Moreover there were at my table an hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, beside those that came unto us from among the heathen that are about us. 18Now that which was prepared for me daily was one ox and six choice sheep; also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days store of all sorts of wine: yet for all this required not I the bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this people. 19Think upon me, my &ad, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

22221Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) 2That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. 3And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that r cannot come down: why should the work cease, while I leave it, and come down to you? 4Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and answered them after the same manner.

#### Slander, Neh. 6:5-9

'5Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand; 6Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words. 7And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together. 8Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart. 9For they all made us of raid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Plow therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

#### Threats, Neh. 6:10-14

10Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up.- ad he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple- for they will come to slay thee: yea in the night will they come to slay thee. 11 And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in. 12And, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Sanballat had hired him. 13Therefore was he hired, that I should be of raid, and do so, and sin, and that they might have matter for an evil report, that they might reproach me. 14My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.