

Nehemiah 4



In the last chapter, we were shown who was building the wall and the location on the wall where they were working. It was a great chapter of unity. Chapter four takes place as the wall is being built. This chapter shows a series of attempts by the opposition to stop the building process.

Textual Information:

- In the Hebrew Bible, 4:1-6, are a part of chapter 3. The Hebrew Bible begins the fourth chapter with verse 7.

A. The Trouble with Sanballat (v. 1-3)

1. He _____ attacks the building project
- in vs. 2 there are a series of five questions

- He attacks the _____ (feeble)
- He attacks the _____ (going to do it themselves)
- He attacks their _____ (sacrifices)
- He attacks their _____ (stones from rubble)

2. Tobiah ridicules their efforts (3)
Critics run with critics

- Nehemiah prays to God
- Nehemiah encourages the people

3. Nehemiah does not speak to the critics (4-6)
- He prays to God (asking God for three harsh things)
- Refer to these as imprecatory prayers (Ps 58:6; 137:9?)

The Verbal Threats "Demoralized" the builders (5)

- Loss of _____ (10)
- Loss of _____ (10)
- Loss of _____ (10)

B. The Trouble becomes _____ threats (7-9)
- Sanballat has gathered others and planned to _____ (8)
- The threats turn to _____ (11)
- The people are scared (12)

C. The Powerful Leadership Through the Storms of Turmoil (10-23)

- Nehemiah p _____ (9)
- Nehemiah p _____ (9b, 13, 16-18)
- Nehemiah p _____ (14)
- Nehemiah p _____ (19-20)

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Power of _____ (Prov 18:21).
- Jealousy, anger and an evil heart can stop the good that is being done
- the object of criticism ought to be to make _____, not _____
- Importance of recognizing the _____ of people (Prov 27:23)
- Nehemiah "saw their fear" (4:14) and understood that they were "demoralized"
- The ability to _____ and _____ weary hearts
- Remember the Lord" (4:14): Remember what the Lord has _____; remember what the Lord has _____; remember _____ the Lord is
- There comes a time when critics need to be _____ and the focus needs to be upon your people
- Satan is always ready to _____ the good that God's people are doing (Rev 12:17)
- There comes a time to _____ what is the Lord's (Phil 1:16; Acts 4:20)
- Never underestimate the value of _____ (Neh 4:4, 9)
- The need to be _____: to build as well as defend (Neh 4:17)
- The assurance of _____ from others (Neh 4:20)