

# ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

Neh. 2:20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore **we his servants will arise and build:** but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.



We have observed the background of Nehemiah, the man the Lord used in Jerusalem to fulfill a divinely directed mission.

I. THE INQUIRY OF THE SITUATION, 1:1-3

II. THE INTERCESSION OF THE SERVANT, 1:4-11

III. THE INVOLVEMENTS OF THE SOVEREIGNS, 2:1-20

IV. THE INDIVIDUAL SPECIFICATIONS, 3:1-31

A. The Participants – they built and repaired.

B. The Progress – what and where was built and repaired.

In the first three chapters, most of the material is regarding the beginning of the work in Jerusalem. Besides the men and supplies listed, incidents revealed the opposition to the work. In chapter four, we saw the “Enemy Without.”





V. THE INTRICATE STRUGGLES, 4:1-6:19

A. The Enemy Without, 4:1-23

B. The Enemy Within, 5:1-6:19

1. The Greed, 5:1-19

a. The Complainers, 5:1-5

b. The Confrontation, 5:6-11

c. The Confirmation, 5:12-19



A few weeks ago, we began looking at “THE INTRICATE STRUGGLES” that are inevitable when we are involved in God’s service. Last, we began looking at our text to observe “The Enemy Within,” and focused upon “The Greed.” This morning, we will consider “The Guile.”

## 2. The Guile, 6:1-19

### a. The Enemies’ Tactic, 6:1-2

Neh. 6:1 Now 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;) 2 That 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.**



❖ The Tactical Request – “...Come, let us meet together...”

Isa. 5:18 Woe unto them that **draw iniquity with cords of vanity**, and **sin** as it were with a cart rope:

19 That say, Let him make speed, *and* hasten his work, that we may see *it*: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know *it*!

20 **Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!**

21 Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!



❖ The Treacherous Reason – “...But they thought to do me mischief.”

Heb. 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For **every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness**: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of **full age**, *even* those who **by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil**.

b. The Esteemed Task, 6:3

Neh. 6:3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, **I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?**



❖ We overcome distractions by focusing upon the value of God's work.

1 Chron. 29:1 Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and **the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.**

Jn. 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

❖ Jesus, our example, desires us to be involved in the great work of God's grace.

Jn. 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, **the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**



Eph. 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you **the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is **the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,**

❖ God's children are to fulfill His work, according to His will, and His power.

2 Thess. 1:11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our **God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power:**



Heb. 6:10 For **God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye **have ministered** to the saints, and **do minister**.

Heb. 13:21 Make you **perfect in every good work to do his will**, working in you that which is **wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ**; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

c. The Endless Truculence, 6:4-7

Neh. 6:4 **Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.**

5 Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner **the fifth time** with an open letter in his hand;

6 Wherein *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.

7 And 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.



- ❖ The enemy tried four more times to discourage Nehemiah.
- ❖ Nehemiah replied the same thing four more times.
- ❖ The fifth assault by the enemy was false accusations.

Mt. 5:11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute you, **and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.**

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward in heaven**: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

- ❖ The enemy's persistence must be countered by the saint's perseverance.

Isa. 40:31 But **they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; **they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**



2 Thess. 3:13 But ye, brethren, **be not weary in well doing.**

Gal. 6:9 And **let us not be weary in well doing:** for in due season **we shall reap, if we faint not.**

2 Tim. 2:3 Thou therefore **endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

4 No man that warreth **entangleth himself with the affairs of this life**; that he may **please him** who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

**DO NOT QUIT!!!**



d. The Enduring Toleration, 6:8

Neh. 6:8 Then I sent unto him, saying, **There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart.**

9 For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. **Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.**

10 Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who *was* shut up; and 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.



Gal. 5:22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace,  
**longsuffering**, gentleness, goodness, faith,  
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Num. 14:18 “**The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilt...**”

Psa. 86:15 But **thou, O Lord, art a God full** of compassion, and gracious, **longsuffering**, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Col. 1:11 Strengthened with all might, **according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;**



### e. The Efficient Tenacity, 6:11-16

Neh. 6:11 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.

12 And, lo, **I perceived that God had not sent him;** but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for **Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.**

13 Therefore *was* he hired, **that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin,** and *that* they might have *matter* for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

14 My 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.**

15 **So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.**

16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard *thereof*, and all the heathen that *were* about us saw *these things*, **they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.**



❖ Nehemiah stood with conviction, v. 11 “...Should such a man as I flee...*being as I am...*”

Prov. 29:25 **The fear of man bringeth a snare**; but whoso **putteth his trust in the LORD** shall be safe.

Psa. 118:6 **The LORD is on my side**; I will not fear: **what can man do unto me?**

Heb. 13:6 So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**

- Modern society is attacking “toxic masculinity,” thereby emasculating society, producing weak, effeminate males.



The guidelines have also been assailed for claiming that “traditional masculinity — marked by stoicism, competitiveness, dominance and aggression — is, on the whole, harmful.” <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-young-masculinity-20190124-story.html>

- The Scriptures encourage men to be strong:

Deut. 31:6 **Be strong and of a good courage**, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Josh. 10:25 And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, **be strong and of good courage**: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.



1 Chron. 28:20 And David said to Solomon his son, **Be strong and of good courage**, and **do it**: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, *even my God, will be with thee*; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, **until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.**

1 Cor. 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, **quit you like men**, be strong.

- Four areas for men to develop Spiritual masculinity are as follows:
  - **Learn like men;**

Deut. 17:19 And it shall be with him, and **he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn** to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:



Mt. 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

- **Love like men;**

Eph. 5:25 **Husbands, love your wives**, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Col. 3:19 **Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.**

- **Lead like men;**

Josh. 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**



- Live like men;

Jn. 10:10 “...I am come that they **might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**”

Phil. 1:21 For **to me to live *is* Christ**, and to die *is* gain.

Col. 3:4 When **Christ, *who is our life***, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

❖ Nehemiah sensed the circumvention, vs. 12-13 “And, lo, **I perceived that God had not sent him...**”

Neh. 6:13 Therefore *was* he hired, **that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin**, and *that* they might have *matter* for an evil report, that they might reproach me.



❖ Nehemiah saw the conclusion, vs.14-16

Neh. 6:14 My 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.

15 **So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.**

16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard *thereof*, and all the heathen that *were* about us saw *these things*, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for **they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.**

Heb. 6:10 For **God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that **ye have ministered** to the saints, **and do minister.**



f. The Empty Triviality, 6:17-19

Neh. 6:17 Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and *the letters* of Tobiah came unto them.

18 For *there were* many in Judah sworn unto him, because he *was* the son in law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and his son Johanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.

19 Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. *And **Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.***

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, **except they be agreed?**



Summary: The Tactics of the Enemy

1. The tactic of deception, vs. 1-2; = *Intrigue*
2. The tactic of persistence, vs. 4-5; = *Intimidation*
3. The tactic of slander and gossip, vs. 6-7; = *Innuendo*
4. The tactic of psychological warfare, vs. 10-13; = *Intuitive*
5. The tactic of assault AFTER a victory, vs. 16-17; = *Incursion*
6. The tactic of infiltration via false teaching, vs.17-18; = *Invasion*
7. The tactic of compromise, v. 19 = *Imperil*



## Conclusion

2 Cor. 6:14 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what **fellowship** hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what **communion** hath light with darkness?

15 And what **concord** hath Christ with Belial? or **what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?**

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,** and touch not the unclean *thing*; **and I will receive you,**

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, **saith the Lord Almighty.**