

# 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 will use in Jerusalem to fulfill a divinely directed mission. In the introductory material of the first two chapters, we learned what characteristics were present that prepared Nehemiah for the work of the Lord.

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

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

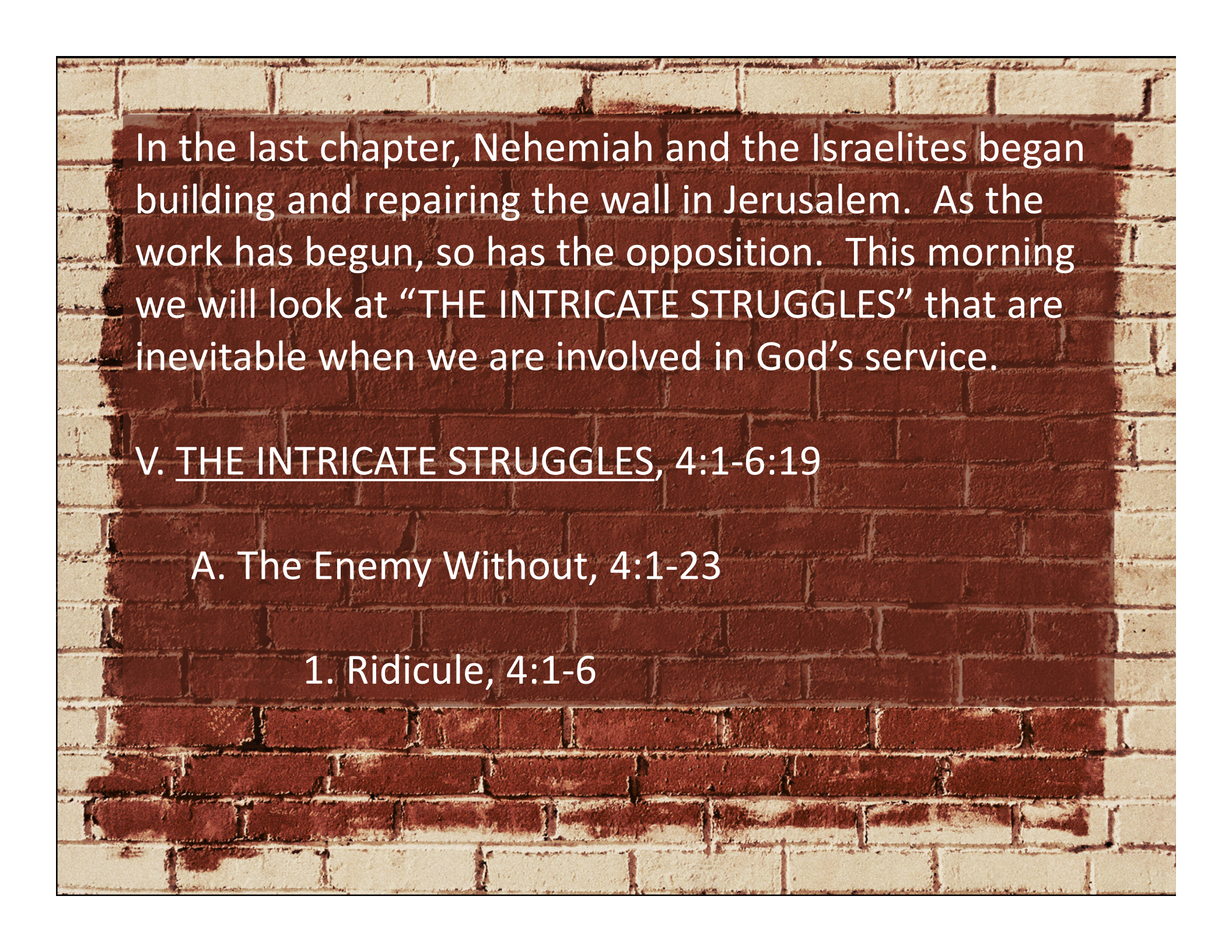
III. THE INVOLVEMENTS OF THE SOVEREIGNS, 2:1-20

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 last chapter, Nehemiah and the Israelites began building and repairing the wall in Jerusalem. As the work has begun, so has the opposition. This morning we will look at “THE INTRICATE STRUGGLES” that are inevitable when we are involved in God’s service.

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

### A. The Enemy Without, 4:1-23

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



Neh. 4:1 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and **mocked the Jews.**

2 And he spake 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.**

4 Hear, 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:

5 And 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.

6 **So built we the wall;** and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.



- ❖ Sanballat's anger was more than opposition against the Jews – he was the enemy of God.

Acts 13:8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) **withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.**

9 Then Saul, (who also *is called* Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, **thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness**, wilt thou not cease to pervert **the right ways of the Lord?**

2 Cor. 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for **we are not ignorant of his devices.**

- ❖ Such tactics hindered the building of the Temple during the days of Ezra:



Ezra 4:1 Now when **the adversaries** of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel;

2 Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, **Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do**; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

3 But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, **Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel**, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,

5 And hired counsellors against them, **to frustrate their purpose**, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.



Ezra 4:24 **Then ceased the work of the house of God** which *is* at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

- ❖ The enemy without, the “world,” is a deadly distraction to hinder spiritual growth.

Jas. 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?** whosoever therefore will be **a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

- ❖ The Lord Jesus warned us about such enemies:

1 Jn. 3:13 **Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.**



❖ The Lord gave us the remedy for the contamination by the world:

Jn. 14:27 Peace I leave with you, **my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

❖ Our deliverance from such enemies is by maintaining fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ:

Isa. 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in **perfect peace**, whose **mind is stayed on thee**: because he trusteth in thee.



- ❖ The primary motivation for service that pleases the Lord is the heart – 4:6b “...for **the people had a mind to work.**”

**Original Word:** לֵב

**Transliteration:** leb

**Phonetic Spelling:** (lave)

**Definition:** inner man, mind, will, heart

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3820.htm>

This Hebrew word is used 593 times in the Old Testament, 508 times is translated “heart,” and 12 times “mind.”

- ❖ David, the “man after God’s own heart,” knew the connection between mind, heart, and service to God:



1 Chron. 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, **know thou the God of thy father**, and **serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind**: for **the LORD searcheth all hearts**, and understandeth **all the imaginations of the thoughts**: if thou **seek him, he will be found of thee**; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For **the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God** to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 **Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God**, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

❖ Our focus in life is a reflection of the Lord working in our heart and mind.

Mt. 6:21 For where **your treasure** is, there will **your heart** be also.



2 Cor. 4:7 But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellency of **the power may be of God, and not of us**.

8 *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest** in our body.

❖ Remember the commandment that Jesus said was the greatest:

Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God with all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy strength**, and with **all thy mind**; and thy neighbour as thyself.

❖ The battleground for the believer originates in the mind.

1 Pet. 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind**: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;



❖ A believer has several weapons by which to defend himself:

Eph. 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding what the will of the Lord is.**

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit;**

19 **Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,** singing and making melody **in your heart to the Lord;**

20 **Giving thanks always for all things** unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.



- The Will of God – Stay in the center of God’s perfect will – v. 17
- The Spirit of God – Stay Spirit filled – v. 18
- The Word of God – Stay in the Scriptures – v. 19a
- The Melody toward God – Stay with spiritual music – v. 19b
- The Spirit of Gratitude – Stay thankful “for all things...” – v. 20
- The Submission and fear of God – v. 21 (Rom. 12:1-2)

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that ye may **prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**



## 2. Rage, 4:7-9

Neh. 4:7 But 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 wroth,  
8 And conspired all of them together to come *and* **to fight** against Jerusalem, and **to hinder** it.

9 **Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God**, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

❖ Spiritual opposition is inevitable for those faithfully serving the Savior.

Jn. 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation**: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.



❖ The Israelites fought the conspiracy by two things: prayer and guarding the heart.

Mt. 26:41 **Watch and pray**, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

Col. 4:2 **Continue in prayer, and watch** in the same with thanksgiving;

1 Pet. 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: **be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.**

❖ When Nehemiah and the Jews faced the inevitable opposition, they defended themselves with the same tools that we are to use.

❖ At best, every one of us is a sinner, imperfect, weak, too often defeated by the distractions of the enemy without, needing victory in many areas of our life.



❖ We must confront the enemy, through the power of God's weaponry.

1 Pet. 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind**: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

Rom. 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: **let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.**

Phil. 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.



## Conclusion

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**

11 **Put on the whole armour of God**, that ye may **be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

13 Wherefore **take unto you the whole armour of God**, that ye may **be able to withstand** in the evil day, **and having done all, to stand.**