

# 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.

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

A. The Enemy Without, 4:1-23

1. Ridicule, 4:1-6

2. Rage, 4:7-9



Last week, we began looking at “THE INTRICATE STRUGGLES” that are inevitable when we are involved in God’s service. This morning, we will continue looking at our text to observe “The Enemy Without.”

### 3. Rubbish, 4:10-11

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**.

11 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**.

Rubbish = Fragments of buildings; broken or imperfect pieces of any structure; ruins. <http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/rubbish>

Rubbish = worthless, unwanted material that is rejected or thrown out; debris; litter; trash.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/rubbish>

Three specific hindrances to the work:

❖ **Fatigue** – “...**The strength** of the bearers of burdens **is decayed...**”

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

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.

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

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

Psa 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, **O LORD, my strength**, and my redeemer.

Psa. 144:1 Blessed *be* **the LORD my strength**, which teacheth my hands to war, *and* my fingers to fight:

Psa. 27:1 The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? **the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

❖ Fragments – “...and **there is much rubbish**; so that **we are not able to build the wall**.

❖ “...*there is*...” – present tense, a result of past challenges, but must be dealt with NOW.

❖ Piles of rubbish take time to accumulate, and, eventually, slowly hinders progress.

1 Cor. 5:6 Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that **a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?**

7 **Purge out therefore the old leaven**, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with **the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth**.

❖ In order to be a “vessel meet for the master’s use,” we must clean the rubbish out of lives.

2 Tim. 2:21 If a man therefore **purge himself** from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and **meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

❖ The Lord is a separatist, holy, and uses “holy instruments.”

Gen. 35:2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that *were* with him, **Put away the strange gods that *are* among you, and be clean, and change your garments:**

Lev. 10:10 And that ye may **put difference between holy and unholy,** and **between unclean and clean;**

❖ The Lord expressed His concern when the spiritual leadership of Israel failed to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.

Ezek. 22:26 Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: **they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean**, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

Ezek. 44:23 And they shall **teach my people the difference between the holy and profane**, and **cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean**.

- ❖ David repented, knowing the importance of being in fellowship with the Lord.

Psa. 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall **be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

- ❖ The Lord is holy, and has made provision for us to be clean and holy in order to have fellowship with Him.

Eph. 5:26 That he might **sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**  
27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, **not having spot, or wrinkle,** or any such thing; but that it should **be holy and without blemish.**

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

❖ **Foes** – “...our adversaries...”

Note the tactics of the adversaries:

- Surprise warfare (*blitzkrieg*) – “...They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them...”

Job 22:10 Therefore **snakes are round about thee**, and **sudden fear troubleth thee**;

Prov. 3:25 **Be not afraid of sudden fear**, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

- Slay the workers – “...and slay them...”

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.**

**“Cowards die many times before their deaths;  
The valiant never taste of death but once.**

Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,  
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;  
Seeing that death, a necessary end,  
Will come when it will come.” — **William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar**

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/2056-cowards-die-many-times-before-their-deaths-the-valiant-never>

- Stop the work – “...and **cause the work to cease.**

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?

Gal. 5:7 **Ye did run well; who did hinder you** that ye should not obey the truth?

1Thess. 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; **but Satan hindered us.**

#### 4. Resistance, 4:12-13

Neh. 4:12 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.

❖ When the enemy attacks, defend yourself.

Psa. 144:1 Blessed *be* **the LORD my strength**, which **teacheth my hands to war**, *and* **my fingers to fight**:

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;

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.**

## Conclusion

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For **consider him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, **lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds**.