

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Who were the enemies and what did they do?
2. How did Nehemiah combat the opposition?
3. Should opposition from without be expected?
4. What are some examples of external opposition?
5. How should we deal with external opposition?

SUMMARY:

Again, as we see the work of the people of the Lord progressing, there are those that mock, despise, and become angry toward those who are doing the good work. Nehemiah turned to God in prayer seeking guidance and strength for the people to go forward with the work of building the wall. As they gained courage they overcame the ridicule and hatred and prepared themselves for anything that the enemy might attempt to do to them. Opposition from without is to be expected and every preparation should be made to overcome each one as we are faced with it. We must go forward in faith before we can expect the blessing of God in VICTORY.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

August 30, 2020

Third Quarter

OPPOSITION FROM WITHOUT

LESSON TEXT: *Nehemiah 4:1-23*

LESSON SETTING: Workmen rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 445 B.C.

I. VICTORY OVER RIDICULE. Nehemiah 4:1-6

- A. Wrath and Mocking (vs. 1) Luke 4:28-30; Acts 2:13
- B. Despised (vs. 2) Matthew 13:55; Mark 15:29-30
- C. Trust (vs. 4)
- D. Cooperation (vs. 6)

II. VICTORY OVER HATRED. Nehemiah 4:7-14

- A. Anger (vs. 7) Proverbs 14:17; 16:32; Matthew 5:22
- B. Prayer (vs. 9) Romans 8:26-27; Revelation 5:8
- C. Courage (vs. 14) 1 Samuel 17:32; Daniel 3:16-17, 6:10

III. VICTORY THROUGH PREPAREDNESS. Nehemiah 4:15-23

- A. Preparation Before Blessings. 2 Kings 3:16-17, 4:3-4, 5:10
- B. Readiness for Future. Matthew 24:44, 25:10; Luke 12:35-36

GOLDEN TEXT: *NEVERTHELESS WE MADE OUR PRAYER UNTO OUR GOD, AND SET A WATCH AGAINST THEM DAY AND NIGHT, BECAUSE OF THEM.*
Nehemiah 4:9

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Nehemiah 5:1-10; 6:1-16

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 13:24-30; Mark 7:14-23
Galatians 5:16-21; 1 Peter 3:8-17

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People Restored

TOPIC: OPPOSITION FROM WITHIN

INTRODUCTION:

Poor Nehemiah! He had so much trouble from the enemies of the Jews when he was building the walls. However, this wasn't all; he even had to admonish some of his very own people who were oppressing others. It seemed surely that he had more than he could bear, but always in the chapters of his book we read how again and again he turned to the Lord in prayer.

We all live in much the same manner as Nehemiah. We have much affliction and oppression from the devil in our daily lives. However, this isn't all. We also have temptations from within. How often our trials from without cause us to have doubts, fears, jealousy, strife, envy, self-centeredness from within. We, too, often fail and yield to these inward enemies and become unfit for God's help. We must resist these evils, depending in faith upon God to do so for us through the blood of Christ, if we wish His peace, help and mercy.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Through God's power we can overcome even the greatest obstacles.

GOLDEN TEXT: *I AM DOING A GREAT WORK, SO THAT I CANNOT COME DOWN.*

Nehemiah 6:3

When we consider all the hindrances, which were put before Nehemiah in his great work of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, we must marvel at his determination that the work must continue. Even among his own people, there were those who, because of their higher position were using their authority to oppress their brother Israelites. This was causing discontent and suffering in their own ranks. Nehemiah could point out his own example that as governor he had not abused his authority by enriching himself at the expense of the poor. Thus, he was able to persuade others to do that which is right in the eyes of God.

When we, as individuals in God's vineyard find within ourselves thoughts and impulses which would hinder our service to Him, or detract from His honor, we ought also apply ourselves to His service with a greater zeal, and so overcome the evil which seeks to find root within us. Nehemiah said, "I am doing a great work." Jesus asked, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Fathers' business?" In addition, Paul wrote, "Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good."

Grant feet that will pass over all hindrances and ever with thee, LORD, walk the narrow way. (Z.H. 215:2)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Aug. 31 – Sep. 6

M. Self-invited Opposition. Exodus 2:11-29

T. Unwarranted Opposition. Numbers 12:1-10

W. Opposition Born of Unbelief. Numbers 13:26-33

T. *Opposition Through Greed. Nehemiah 5:1-10

F. *Opposition by Craft. Nehemiah 6:1-16

S. Opposition Through Traditions. Mark 7:6-13

S. Man - His Own Worst Enemy. Mark 7:14-23

Visit www.accfoundation.org for this and other Bible class lessons