

RESTORED: REFORTIFYING YOUR LIFE IN A HOSTILE WORLD

Message 4: How Do I Resist The Adversary?

Text: Nehemiah 4:1-23, February 4, 2024

1. WHEN THE ENEMY FURIOUSLY MOCKS ...

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became **furiously**. He **mocked** the Jews² ... and said, "What are these **pathetic** Jews doing? Can they **restore** it by themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they ever finish it? Can they bring these burnt stones back to life from the **mounds of rubble**?"³ Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, "Indeed, even if a fox climbed up ... , he would break down their stone wall!"

A. PRAY and Keep WORKING! Ignore them! Rom. 12:19

⁴ **Listen, our God**, for we are despised. Make their insults return on their own heads and let them be taken as plunder to a land of captivity.⁵ Do not cover their guilt or let their sin be erased from your sight, because they have angered the builders.

⁶ So **we rebuilt the wall** until the entire wall was joined together up to **half its height**, for **the people had the will to keep working**. Turn the mocking to motivation!

B. REMEMBER: When I am not able, HE IS!

1 John 4:4, Eph. 3:20-21 Declare the TRUTH!

2. WHEN THE ENEMY FURIOUSLY PLOTS ...

⁷ When Sanballat, Tobiah, and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the repair to the walls of Jerusalem was progressing and that the gaps were being closed, they became **furiously**.⁸ They all **plotted together** to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw it into confusion.⁹ So **we prayed** to our God and **stationed a guard** because of them day and night.

¹⁰ In **Judah**, it was said: The **strength of the laborer fails**, since there is so much rubble. **We will never be able** to rebuild the wall.¹¹ And our enemies said, "They won't realize it until we're among them and can kill them and stop the work."¹² When the Jews who lived nearby arrived, they said to us time and again, "Everywhere you turn, they (will) attack us."

A. PRAISE God and STAND UP to the Enemy!

Nehemiah 4:13-14 ¹³ So I **stationed** people behind the lowest sections of the wall, at the vulnerable areas. I **stationed** them by families with their swords, spears, and bows.¹⁴ After I made an inspection, I **stood up** and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, "**Don't be afraid** of them. **Remember the great and awe-inspiring Lord, and fight for your countrymen**, your sons and daughters, your wives and homes." See Jude 1:24, Ephesians 6:10-18, James 4:7-8

B. WATCH/STAY ALERT/AWAKE AND WORK!

Nehemiah 4:15-17, 21-23 ¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we knew their scheme and that God had frustrated it, every one of us **returned to his own work** on the wall.¹⁶ From that day on, half of **my men** did the work while the other half held spears, shields, bows, and armor. The **officers supported** all the people of Judah,¹⁷ who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried the loads worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other. ...²¹ So **we continued the work**, while half of the men were holding spears from daybreak until the stars came out.²² At that time, I also said to the people, "Let everyone and his servant spend the night inside Jerusalem, so that they can stand **guard by night and work by day**."²³ And I, my brothers, my servants, and the men of the guard with me **never took off our clothes**. Each carried his weapon, even when washing. Isaiah 62:6-7, Matthew 26:41

C. RALLY AT THE CALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Nehemiah 4:18-20 ¹⁸ Each of the builders had **his sword** strapped around his waist while he was building, and the one who sounded the ram's horn was beside me.¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, "The work is enormous and spread out, and we are separated far from one another along the wall.²⁰ **Wherever you hear the sound of the ram's horn, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us!**" See Luke 4:1-13, Zechariah 4:6

NEXT STEP: