

Discouragement – Part 2b

March 30, 2022

- I. The project identified – chapter 1
- II. The project announced – chapter 2
- III. The project assigned – chapter 3
- IV. The project attacked – chapter 4
 - A. Source 1 – Mockery part 2 – 4:1-6
 1. The anger of Sanballat, Samaritan governor: Ridiculed the Jews before the officials & army. 1-2
 2. The ridicule by Tobiah the Ammonite: Mocked the weakness of the wall, suggesting it would collapse under the weight of a fox. 3
 - B. Solution 1 – prayer and perseverance 4-6
 1. _____ - Nehemiah prayed to God 4-5
 - Shared the insults
 - Requested that the enemy reap what they had sown
 - Requested that true justice be executed
 2. _____ - Nehemiah & the people persevered, continued the work: The wall was completed to half its original height 6

* The same “strategy” that Goliath used with the children of Israel and David many years before – 1 Sam. 17: 42-44

Application: When we are attacked, take it to God in prayer and keep doing the work.

- C. Source 2 — _____ neighbors 7-9
 1. The response of the surrounding enemies to the building of the wall. 7-8
 - The enemies listed. 7
 - The plot: They formed an alliance & laid plans to attack Jerusalem. 8
 2. Sanballat and Tobiah show up again and again.
 - Chapter 6a – Sanballat and Geshem attempt to draw Nehemiah away from the work 5 times with letters and then a sixth time send an open letter full of lies.
 - Chapter 6b – Sanballat and Tobiah hire a “prophet” to entice Nehemiah to sin by hiding in the temple.

- Chapter 6c – The nobles of Judah would try to convince Nehemiah that Sanballat was not bad, while they told Sanballat all the he did to give him wherewith to attack Nehemiah with.

D. Solution 2 – _____ and _____ 9

1. Every time there was an attack, from either within or without, Nehemiah took it to God in prayer.
2. He was not paranoid, but cautious and sought the wisdom of God to deal with the attacks.

Application: We need to be aware of the way that the flesh and the devil will seek to destroy the work of God in our lives. Mark 14:38

E. Source 3 – fear, _____, intimidation 11-12

- They spread the rumor of a secret attack throughout the countryside to strike fear in the hearts of the Jewish builders

F. Solution 3 – _____ for battle and keep at the work

1. Nehemiah _____ the people
2. Nehemiah _____ and challenged the people
3. Nehemiah _____ the people back to work.
4. Nehemiah _____ the people for both work & battle
5. The _____ stood ready for battle every moment of every day & night

Application: We need to pray that God will protect us from the “fiery darts of the wicked one.” Eph 6:10-11

Application: One of the main ways to combat discouragement is to be faithful in the work we have been called to do. 1 Cor 15:55-58