

O God, Strengthen My Hands

Introduction and Review

- Nehemiah is obeying the will of God in an extremely difficult ministry – rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem for God’s glory.
- God has already given Nehemiah victory against several plots from opponents – ridicule & threats of violence (4:1-23).
- God has also given victory over internal problems among the people of God – pervasive financial problems (5:1-19). *We saw the extraordinary benefits of ministry in the fear of God.*
- Today we will see two new plots from opponents & two amazing ways that God protects & delivers believer in ministry for Him.

I. Opposition by Worldly Deception (v. 1-9)

A. The deceptive offer (v. 1-2, 4-7)

*Opponents are interested in & informed about believers’ progress in gospel ministry (v. 1). Opponents will use clever tactics of distraction, compromise & even physical danger to stop progress (v. 2). Past failures do not dissuade opponents from trying the same & new strategies (v. 4-7) – repetition to weaken resistance (4 times), slander & gossip.*

B. The wise response (v. 3, 8-9)

*Nehemiah knows that this ministry & work is in the will of God and therefore vitally important – “a great work” (v. 3). It may seem insignificant to people observing, but not to God & those who trust Him. He refuses to be distracted or make compromises from his mission – “I cannot come down”. He simply denies the false accusations (without defending himself) & continues the work (v. 8; Ps. 26:1). He knows that deceptive opponents have deceptive plans (v. 9a). He also knows that that he needs God’s help to remain faithful & strong – prayer (v. 9b).*

II. Opposition by Religious Deception (v. 10-14)

A. The deceptive offer (v. 10)

*Some opponents to God’s ministry are in the religious community – false leaders, members, etc. Christ, Paul & Peter warn believers about these pretenders. They pretend to be interested in the welfare of believers – health, finances,*

*etc. which sounds godly & honorable. They make deceptive offers to help believers - traps & snares. They are instruments & children of the devil (Jn. 8:41ff). The devil will do anything to stop a believer from doing the work God has called you to do – any trick, lie, deception; use anyone not submissive to Christ.*

B. The wise response (v. 11-14)

*God gives believers discernment & wisdom regarding our opponents – “I understood and saw...” (v. 12-13a-b; Ps. 119:98). Nehemiah discerned that this was **ungodly counsel** – based on fear (*not to trust God*) & rebellion (*not to obey God*). God also gives wisdom to respond (v. 11). Opponents want to give believers a bad reputation (v. 13c) – **guilt & shame destroy ministries**. Believers know we need divine help to deal with opponents – prayer (v. 14; Rom. 12:19).*

**ILL:** David had repeated, first- hand experience with deceptive people that continually sought to trap, ensnared & harm him. He also experienced God faithfulness & repeated deliverance (Ps. 31:1-4; 119:109-110; 140:4-8; 141:8-10).

**APPL:** The same is true of you and me. We face opposition daily if we are engaged in the will & work of the Lord. We have the same enemy as Nehemiah, David & every other saint. Clothing styles, modes of transportation & communication have changed, but the enemy is still the same. And his objective is to kill, steal & destroy. But Jesus Christ has given us abundant life, immutable promises, limitless resources & access to God Almighty to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

## CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters, we can face our challenges in faith, with grace and confidence. We are not the first to have these kinds of problems in ministry & we certainly will not be the last. We are learning from believers who lived 2400 years ago. They trusted the same God as we do; loved Him, prayed & depended upon Him just as we do. And He delivered them just as He will deliver us. God knows that we are weak; that we have enemies, problems, failures & fears. God knows that we need Him & so we must pray "O God, strengthen my hands". He will answer; provide, protect, deliver, sustain, guide, give wisdom, peace, joy, hope, courage, food, clothing, transportation, housing, a place to worship, heat, AC... He will supply all of needs... **in CHRIST JESUS!!!!**

And if you are not a Christian, you must pray & ask God to help you too. He will deliver you from your sins; forgive you, heal you, set you free to love & live & give. He gives you the certainty of heaven as your future home & true blessings for the rest of your life on earth, but you must believe in Jesus today.... Will you trust Him & believe today...?

SUBJECT: [O God, Strengthen My Hands](#)

TEXT: [Nehemiah 6:1-14](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [November 18, 2012](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [1021](#)

FILE LOCATION: [Computer Sermons 4Q12](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)