

## Ministry After The Wall Is Completed

### Introduction and Review

- ❑ Nehemiah & the people of God experienced opposition by worldly deception (Neh. 6:1-9).
- ❑ Nehemiah & the people of God experienced opposition by religious deception (6:10-14).
- ❑ In each circumstance, God gave discernment along with grace for both a wise response & wise actions because Nehemiah was a man of prayer (6:9, 14).
- ❑ Today we will consider the impact of the completed wall around Jerusalem on opponents of God & the people of God.

### I. Opposition Outside The Wall (6:15-19)

#### A. Experiencing a temporary fear of God (v. 15-16)

*God displays His miraculous power & glory publicly in difficult ministries that are obedient to His will (v. 15). Completing this wall in 52 days under these circumstances requires divine intervention. Even opponents can recognize divine intervention in difficult ministries & they are temporarily humiliated in fear of God (v. 16).*

#### B. Causing an ungodly fear of man (v. 17-19)

*Opponents fight against God even when defeated repeatedly. Opponents cleverly find ways to discover weaknesses & get information from the people of God (v. 17-19a) – “nobles of Judah”, “bound by oath” (establish & abuse relationships; tempt people with money, power, status, etc.) Opponents are persistent in their goal to stop the work of God (v. 19b). Why would anyone oppose God, His plans, work or people?*

**APPL:** Why did Satan oppose God in heaven or on earth with Adam & Eve? Why did Pharaoh, Jezebel & others in the OT oppose God even after they have seen His great power? Why did Pilate, crowds, Pharisees, Sadducees & Judas oppose Christ even after they had seen His great power? They oppose God because of pride, their love for this evil world & things of it (Ps. 10:2-4; Jas. 4:4; 1Jn. 2:15-16).

**But we must remember that our goal is to grow in Christ not just fight against the devil & our enemies.**

### II. Ministry Inside The Wall (7:1-4)

#### A. Protection and defense (v. 1-3)

*Believers in various ministries are called to protect & defend the church from danger – “gatekeepers”, “singers” & “Levites” (v. 1). Ushers must stay alert & be discerning; members in the music ministry, church leaders & all church members must be alert. Qualified leaders must be wise when exposing the church to danger (v. 2-3b) – opening the door to other churches, practices, etc. Believers must learn to protect & defend their own homes from danger (v. 3c) – visitors, video, audio, etc. that may distract, confuse & mislead.*

#### B. Vision and thanksgiving (v. 4)

*Believers must live by faith & have a vision from God in ministry (v. 4a) – “The city was wide & large” (plenty of potential). Believers must learn to value & be thankful for the work or ministry that God has given (v. 4b) – regardless of the size or condition (people were few, no houses).*

**APPL:** We are encouraged in scripture not to despise small things & small beginnings. We see the pattern throughout the scriptures of God taking the small, insignificant & despised things to bring glory to Himself – widows, orphans, poor, weak, Israel, Judah, mustard seed, widow’s two coins, blind, lame, lepers, outcasts, etc. God says the same thing of us sinners (1Co. 1:27-31). Therefore we should always value, treasure, protect, defend & be thankful for whatever ministry God has entrusted to our hands regardless of the size or circumstances.

## CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters, we can see how our lives & ministry are so similar to Nehemiah & the saints of generations past. We can see how they encountered blatant & persistent opposition in ministry without being defeated. We can see how God intervened to give them wisdom, discernment, courage, resources, hope, faith, determination & everything necessary to complete the ministry to which they had been called. Are you thankful for what God has called to you to do? Do you treasure it; protect & defend it? Do you have a vision for what God has called you to do? Are you determined & resolved to complete it with the eyes of your heart fixed on Christ? Jesus is the one who called, equipped, made promises... Do you trust Him; love Him? He will never fail you...

And if you are not a Christian, I must ask you the same question. Do you trust Jesus to take care of all your sins? He will deliver you from your sins; forgive you, call you to ministry, equip you & faithfully be with you until the end of the age.... Will you trust Him & believe today...?

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