

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of June 7, 2020

Remember & Fight

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Nehemiah 4:1-14](#)

¹ Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" ³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!" ⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the

walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

¹⁰ In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." ¹¹ And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." ¹² At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." ¹³ So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴ And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

Israel has taken to the rubble together and begin to sort, sweat and build until the work is halfway done. The wall will be rebuilt, and they will do it. But Israel is mocked and opposed by the nations, the people grow weary, and their progress slows: "By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall" (10). The people begin to fear and doubt. Nehemiah watches Israel's strength fail and hears their fearful cries. "Do not be afraid of them" he says. "Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your homes" (14).

- What is often your first **response to fear**? What does your response say about where you **find your confidence**?
- Sanballat and Tobiah criticize and mock the Israelites (1-3). **Why do they oppose** the rebuilding of the wall?
- Nehemiah responds to their criticism with a strongly worded prayer (4-5). How do you personally **respond to his prayer**?
- Think of a time when someone **criticized you for doing good**. How did you **respond**? What does our response toward criticism **reveal about our fears**?
- Sanballat and Tobiah (together with and the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites) begin plotting an attack (7-8). **What two actions do the builders take** in response (9)? Why are **both important**?

- The Israelites in the surrounding areas hear rumors of attack when the wall is only halfway done. They come in from the field and beg for help. How would you characterize their **state of mind** (10-12)?
- Nehemiah gives **three commands** to the people (14). **What are they? Why** does he give these three specific commands?
- What **battle you are fighting** today? How do you need the **Lord's help**?

Pray in response to God's Word.

- *Praise God for His faithfulness and provision*
- *Confess your doubts, worries and fears*
- *Ask the Lord to help you to rest in His care*

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