

Arise & Build, #7
STRAP ON YOUR SWORD

October 28–29, 2023 // Sermon Study Guide // Pastor Nate Miller

Text: Nehemiah 3 & 4

Truth Points: What truth was covered this weekend in the message?

1. What happens in chapter 3 of Nehemiah? Why do you think this detailed account is included? What do you notice about the people and the division of labor?

2. Read Nehemiah 4:1–6. What is the attitude of Sanballat and Tobiah toward the Jews? Why might they have so much contempt for the Jewish people? What is Nehemiah's first response to their ridicule? What kind of ridicule do believers experience today? How does expecting ridicule help us to persevere through it?

3. Read Nehemiah 4:7–9. How has the situation now gotten worse? Why does this happen sometimes when we pray? What are some other times in history when the Jewish people have been surrounded by enemies? How does this constant intimidation of the Jews show us that God's Hand is still on the Jewish people?

4. What two things does Nehemiah do in response to their intimidation? Why is it important that he does BOTH of those things? What would be lacking in his response (and our response today) if he simply did just one or the other?

5. Read Nehemiah 4:10. The saying at this point is "there is too much rubble," but is there really any more rubble now than when they started? Why is the halfway point a vulnerable spot? Why does discouragement often set in at this point? How does knowing that discouragement is coming prepare you for facing it?

6. Read Nehemiah 4:11–15. What is the final tactic of the enemy? What does Nehemiah remind the people about the character of God? What strategies does Nehemiah employ to prepare their defenses (4:16–23)? How do you see the people assume responsibility? What does this look like in our day?

Reflection Points: How does God want me to think, feel, act, and speak because of this truth?

1. Am I prepared for opposition, or do I believe the lie that the Christian life should be easy? How does expecting opposition prepare me to overcome it? What habits do I currently have that are preparing my soul for the opposition ahead? What habits do I need to form to prepare for opposition?
2. When I face opposition, is prayer my first response or my last resort? What needs to change in my mindset to make it my first response? How can I cultivate a habit of prayer? Who can I connect with that can pray alongside me?
3. Nehemiah is a good reminder of God's love for the Jewish people. Have I taken time today to pray for the Jewish people? Do I have a love for them because of God's love for them? Do I appreciate the blessings of being 'grafted in' among the chosen people of God?

Action Points: What am I going to do this week because of this truth?

1. **Memorize:** 2 Chronicles 20:12.
2. **Clarify the Task:** What are the top 5 things that God has tasked you with in this season of life? What is your role in each of those? (examples: passionately pursue Jesus, point my family to Jesus, share Jesus in my workplace...)
3. **Share the Story:** Share with a friend what you're learning about Jesus in 2023.