

EZRA + NEHEMIAH

Restoring Foundations

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Restoring Confidence

NEHEMIAH 4:1-23

A city with no walls is a city of embarrassment, not salvation.

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NEHEMIAH 2:17

“You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.”

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No sooner are the people celebrating their achievement of work and unity that an object of hostility appears.



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NEHEMIAH 4:1

No sooner are the people celebrating their achievement of work and unity that an object of hostility appears.

- “Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews.”

If you are building something for God, then you will soon be battling; so be prepared.

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This is coordinated and persistent opposition – and the object of this design is not Sanballat or Tobiah or Geshem; it's Satan.



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Our opposition often appears natural, but in reality,
it's always supernatural.

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EPHESIANS 6:11-12

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

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- 1 Peter 5:8 – “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

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- Revelation 13:14 describes Satan as a deceiver;
- 1 Peter 5:8 – “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
- Jesus tells us in John 10:10 that Satan is also a thief, who comes to “steal, kill and destroy.”

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NEHEMIAH 4:1-23

- Scheming (vv. 7-8),
- Deceiving (v. 12), and
- Being an adversary (vv. 1-3)

HOW TO RESTORE OUR CONFIDENCE

1. Know the enemy

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1. KNOW THE ENEMY

When you faithfully and selflessly sacrifice for the advancement of God's kingdom, you can expect some response from Satan.

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1. KNOW THE ENEMY

“God had one Son without sin, but He never had a son without trial.”

(Charles Spurgeon)

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1. KNOW THE ENEMY

“We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

(1 John 5:19)

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1. KNOW THE ENEMY

“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.”

(Matthew 5:11)

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HOW TO RESTORE OUR CONFIDENCE

1. Know the enemy
2. Pray for justice

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2. PRAY FOR JUSTICE

This is known as an *imprecatory prayer*, and we see more of these in the Psalms (Ps. 69; 79; and 139:19-22).

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2. PRAY FOR JUSTICE

1. God is being despised just as much as Nehemiah and the Jews.

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4. Justice belongs to God.

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HOW TO RESTORE OUR CONFIDENCE

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2. Pray for justice
3. Remember God

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3. REMEMBER GOD

“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 houses.”

(Nehemiah 4:14)

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“...but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong.”

(1 Corinthians 1:27)

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1. Know the enemy
2. Pray for justice
3. Remember God
4. Run to the trumpet

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4. RUN TO THE TRUMPET

“At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

(Nehemiah 4:20)

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