

A.M. OUTLINE

5/5/2024

NEHEMIAH

(Nehemiah 1:1 – 11)

NEHEMIAH'S LEADERSHIP IN THE MIDST OF OPPOSITION

Any servant of God, in a place of responsibility, will face opposition.

This story takes place approximately 450 BC

150 years earlier, Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon invaded Jerusalem and taken thousands of the Jews to Babylon to be held captive. The captivity lasted 70 years. (586 – 516 BC)
During this captivity, the Babylonian Empire is defeated by the Persian Empire.
Cyrus, King of Persia, issues a decree to allow the captives to return to Jerusalem to re-build the city, its temple, and walls. (Ezra 1:1-4)

Now, many return, and Nehemiah leads the way in rebuilding the walls of the city.

The character of Nehemiah is introduced in the first two chapters of the book:

(1:4) "I sat down and wept, and mourned many days" (v4) "I was fasting and praying"
(2:1-3) "the king said to me, Why is your face sad ... this is sorrow of heart?"
(v6) "So it pleased the king to send me"

THE OPPOSITION'S TACTICS FACED BY NEHEMIAH

1. LAUGHTER - (2:19) "But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us ... "

(v20) " ... we His servants will arise and build ... "

2. MOCKING - (4:2) "It so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews."

(v6) "So we built the wall ... up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work."

3. PLANNED PHYSICAL ATTACK - (v7-8) "Now it happened, Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ashdodites ... all of them conspired together to come attack Jerusalem ... "

(v15) "... our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work."

4. STOP WORKING AND TALK - (6:1-4) "... Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono ... "

(v3) "Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"

5. LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN / SMEAR - (6:5-9)

6. RUN FOR YOUR LIFE & HIDE IN THE TEMPLE - (6:10-14)

(6:15) "SO THE WALL WAS FINISHED"

(12:27-43) "AT THE DEDICATION OF THE WALL"