

Rebuilding Spiritually

REBUILDING AND MATURING THE SPIRITUAL MAN

DEFENDING AGAINST SPIRITUAL ATTACK – NO WEAPON

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Scripture

- ▶ Nehemiah 4:6: So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its *height*, for the people had a mind to work.
- ▶ Nehemiah 4:7,8: Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, *and* that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. **8 All of them conspired together to come *and* fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it. (NASB)**
- ▶ **Nehemiah 4:7,8:** But it came to pass, *that* when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, *and* that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,
8 And conspired all of them together to come *and* to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it. (KJV)

How Does Satan Do This?

- ▶ **Discouragement** - to hinder, hold back, forbid, disallow, restrain, frustrate (Numbers 32:7)
- ▶ **Deception** – to lead aside from the right way; to be led away into error and sin
- ▶ **Disrupt/Delay** – To hinder or slow down progress
- ▶ **Distort – Distorting the Truth to confuse and mislead you and distorting your testimony to render you ineffective in your witness**
- ▶ **Destroy** – to render useless; to cause one to lose eternal salvation
- ▶ **Divide** – Causing Dissension within a group (Romans 16:17; 1 Cor 3:3; 1 Cor 11:18)

A Good Offense is a Good Defense

4

- ▶ **Determine** – Resolve to stay committed
- ▶ **Devote** – Devote your time and effort to the task (Luke 9:62)
- ▶ **Discipline** – Stay strong in the spiritual disciplines
 - ▶ Disciplines: prayer, fasting, worship, meditation of Word
- ▶ **Defend** (thought life, intercede, fortify your position, repair) – put on your prayer armor; cast down imaginations; (2 Cor 10:4; Ephesians 6:10-18)
- ▶ **Do (Doer of the Word)** – Trust in the validity of God's Word and the principles, obeying and doing the Word (James 1: 22-23; Proverbs 3:5,6)

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If you attack your opponents, they will be so busy fighting off your attack that they will not be able to attack you.

Nehemiah 6:5-9

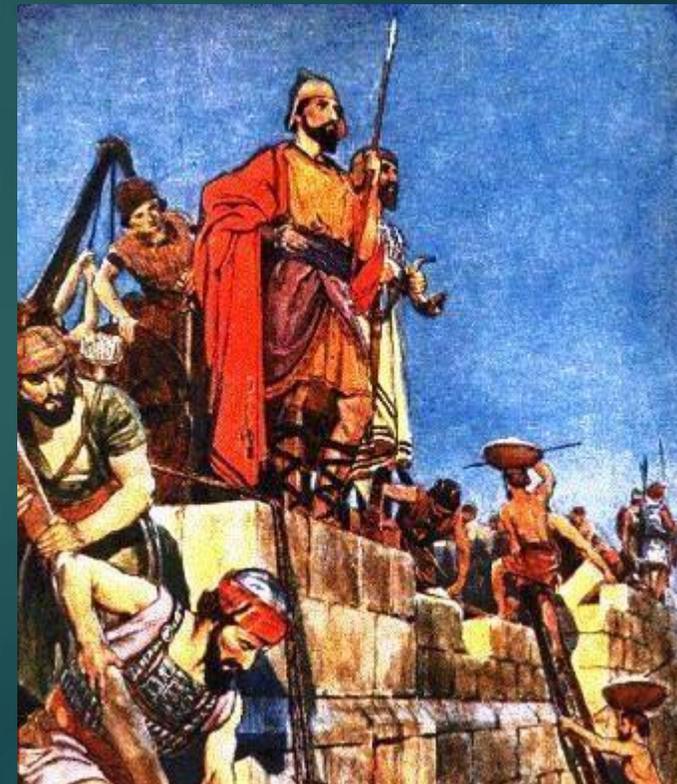
Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;

6 Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith *it*, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words.

7 And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, *There is a king in Judah*: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

8 Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart.

9 For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.



Enemy Attacks Are Imminent

- ▶ Nehemiah responded not reacted to enemy attacks
 - ▶ Respond – Time to reflect, pray, or a delayed, purposed, action
 - ▶ React – usually emotional, in fear or anger, without thought or purpose
- ▶ Nehemiah trusted God – Even in the midst of verbal assaults, physical threats, accusations, etc. Nehemiah trusted that God would sustain him
 - ▶ David knew that (Psalms 3: 1-3) – Thou O Lord art a shield for me
 - ▶ A shield covers and defends the body from the strokes of the adversary
 - ▶ **My glory** – the source of my honor; God will defend your honor
 - ▶ **The Lifter of my head** – restore me to the state from which my enemies have cast me down
 - ▶ There are times the weight of our afflictions causes us to bow down, feeling overpowered, but God can take away such affliction and restore us to a happy, honorable condition

Point of Emphasis

The reason so many of us struggle is that we don't believe that God has our backs. That He will defend us, offer us protection as a strong tower, be our Healer and Helper.

So we try to bring things to pass by our own devices or respond in the only way we learned how carnally

God isn't saying that you won't have afflictions, enemies, accusers, nor tests or trials. His Word comforts us in knowing that He is there with us and offers us His love, protection, support, and strength – He will fight for you

(2nd Chronicles 20:17)

Exodus 14:14 - "The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."

Victory is Already Established

Isaiah 54: 15-17 - Behold, they shall surely gather together, *but* not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.



Question

- ▶ Have you been beaten down by words lately?
- ▶ Do you feel that the enemy is winning?
- ▶ Are you having trouble discerning your friends from your foes?
- ▶ Do you believe that God is still in Control?

Be Encouraged

- ▶ God is saying, “I made the blacksmith and the destroyer
- ▶ God is well aware of Satan and his tactics along with his demonic horde because “I MADE THEM”
 - ▶ God created the blacksmith and the waster (destroyer)
- ▶ “The Tongue That Accuses You” is of the devil because Satan is the accuser of the brethren
- ▶ This is not a message to give us reason to fear but of hope
- ▶ God is saying in this scripture, “Everything that can affect your welfare is under my control

God is In Control

- ▶ Behold, I have created the smith **who blows on the fire of coals and who produces a weapon for its purpose**; and I have created the devastator to destroy
- ▶ When one blows on the fire, it stirs the embers creating more heat
 - ▶ Sometimes the heat gets turned up in our lives
 - ▶ Each tactic and weapon the enemy employs has a particular purpose or goal
- ▶ **Why did God create and allow this to happen?**
 - ▶ From Adversity grows strength
 - ▶ Yet this conflict is under God's control
 - ▶ This is not a lesson being learned but about spiritual development

Example: Pharaoh and the Children in Egypt

- ▶ Pharaoh was, to show his power and heavily persecuted Israel; He was still under God's control, therefore, God's people had no reason to be afraid of him
- ▶ God revealed to Abraham that a time of suffering and testing was to take place
 - ▶ Genesis 15:13 ,14- God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions
 - ▶ Exodus 3:7 - The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings.
 - ▶ God was aware of their suffering but He was still in control

God is With You

13

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but *God is faithful*, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, *that you may be able to bear it.*” - 1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV

- ▶ **An untested faith is indeed a shallow faith, and God will surely put your faith to the test**
- ▶ **With each Adversity comes a promise of God's deliverance reminding us that He is in control**

“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.” – Isaiah 43:2-3 KJV

God Supports You

14

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.” – Jude 24-25

- ▶ If works best if you are in communion with Him

2nd Chronicles 15:1-2:

Now the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded,
2 and he went out to] meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: **the Lord is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.**

(read also verses 3-6)

Did God Put This Sickness on Me?

15

- ▶ Source: John 10:10 KJV The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
 - ▶ **Yet God created the blacksmith and the waster**
- ▶ Support: 1 John 3:8 (NLT) But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.
- ▶ Acts 10:38 (KJV) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.
- ▶ If God is putting sickness and disease upon people , they why is He removing it?

Sickness and Disease

- ▶ In a world tainted by sin, sickness, disease, and death will always be with us. Man, is a fallen being, with physical bodies prone to disease and illness
- ▶ Some sickness is simply a result of the natural course of things in this world.
- ▶ Sickness can also be the result of a demonic attack. The Bible describes several instances when physical suffering was caused by Satan and his demons ([Matthew 17:14-18](#); [Luke 13:10-16](#)).
- ▶ So, some sickness is not from God, but from Satan. Even in these instances, God is still in control
- ▶ And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee. (Exodus 15:26)

Create & Cause

▶ **God is in Control**

- ▶ God created the blacksmith and the destroyer
- ▶ God created all things in this world and some things to challenge us, strengthen and develop us
- ▶ He allows us to go through trials, tests, in an effort to bring us more into his image
- ▶ As we endure each weapon that is formed against us, the more Christ's nature is formed within us

▶ Yet many things in life are **caused** by our disobedience, rebellion, and association with evil things

- ▶ i.e. Someone create the lamp - if you, due to running in the house, break it, there may be consequences

Then there may be a power outage (out of your control) and the lamp is not working

No Weapon “formed” Against You

18

- ▶ Formed – something that takes shape
 - ▶ Satan schemes are “fashioned” against you – It is something that is formed over time and pressure
- ▶ No weapon... shall prosper – Shall the final and ultimate prosperity; to accomplish its intent
- ▶ Tongue that accuses you – Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10-12)
 - ▶ No one should be able to injure you by words and accusation
 - ▶ Thou shall condemn – you must put to shame those who accuse you by continuing to accomplish what God has purposed you to do

Points of Emphasis

- ▶ Words and/or actions can be weapons against us when it comes from an enemy or a provoking spirit.
- ▶ **Trying to please people who provokes us is even more dangerous**
 - ▶ **The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.**” (Proverbs 29:25) This doesn't mean one is afraid of people. It's more along the line of the fear of rejection **from** people-and that is what ensnares us
- ▶ While God's Word never returns void, he can make of none effect the words people have spoken against you and over you
 - ▶ He also gives you the authority to rise above the Words, condemn those words, taking away its effects, and prove your accusers wrong by staying faithful to God's Word and purpose

Do We Trust God's Word?

Isaiah 54:11-14:

O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, *and* not comforted,
behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy
foundations with sapphires.

12 And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of
carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones.

13 And all thy children *shall be* taught of the LORD; and
great *shall be* the peace of thy children.

14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be
far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror;
for it shall not come near thee

God Is On Your Side

21

- ▶ Good to know what weapon is being employed – Discernment is Key
- ▶ Weapons are formed and fashioned for a specific intent
- ▶ Seek the Lord – He knows all about what you are facing
- ▶ Don't Retaliate Carnally, but Respond Faithfully