

Manifest Destiny

Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther

Die Hard

Introduction to Nehemiah 4-6

In the movie, “Die Hard”, terrorist Hans Gruber couldn’t make New York city cop, John McLane, die hard, or any other way. Similarly, Nehemiah faced his share of opposition as they rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem, but refused to give up. The enemy, who has his own agenda, will not go away easily; therefore God’s people must expect opposition and determine to overcome it. In this week’s study we see three tactics that the Jews’ enemies employed to stop the completion of the wall. First, they tried to sabotage the work through mocking and slander. While we downplay the effect of mere words, they can cause people to be demoralized to the point that they want to give up completely. Sometimes our

insecurity allows these false words to make an impact, and when they do we must stand on God’s purpose and strength if we are to persevere. Also, like Nehemiah, we must encourage each other with God’s support and truth. A second aspect of opposition came from within. Those who were wealthy among the Jews had taken advantage of their poorer brothers by making loans with interest. Nehemiah took a bold stand against this, saying that they were treating each other just as the foreigners had treated them. He exposed this outrageous expression of selfishness, and made the perpetrators take an oath to not do it again. Finally, the enemy repeatedly



Understanding how God’s destiny for us is fulfilled.

tried to scare Nehemiah through false reports and false prophets, but he refused to be victimized by their tactics. Because he continued to trust God, he was able to lead the people to finish the wall in an astounding 52 days. After completion, though, he appointed a guard, because he knew the enemy wouldn’t stop. Like John McLane, he would not “die hard” or any other way.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God’s family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Daily Questions for Nehemiah 4-6

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

<p>1. Read 4:1-6. How did Sanballat and Tobiah mock the Jews (v2, 3)? What was Nehemiah’s response (v4-5) and why? What resulted (v6)?</p>	
<p>2. From 4:7-14 what did the enemies do next (v7-8)? What 2 critical things did the Jews do (v9), and why (v11-13)? How did Nehemiah react (v14)?</p>	
<p>3. According to 4:15-23 what did the Jews do to counteract the enemy (v16-19, 20)? How serious were they (v21-23)? Apply this.</p>	

Nehemiah 4-6 Study Questions (cont)

4. In 5:1-5 what further problem were some of the Jews facing (v3—5)? Who was causing this (v1)?

5. Based on 5:6-13 how did Nehemiah react (v6), and what did he do about it (v7-13)? Why did he react so strongly (v9)? What was the response (v8, 12-13)?

6. Looking at 5:14-19 how did Nehemiah act differently than the previous leaders (v14-15, 16, 18), and why (v15, 19)? How can we apply this?

7. Using 6:1-9 what did Nehemiah's enemies try next (v2, 6-7), and how often (v5)? How did he respond (v3, 4, 7-8)? What does this teach us?

8. Read 6:10-14. Who tried to intimidate Nehemiah next (v10, 12)? What was Nehemiah's two-fold response (v11, 13-14)? What can we learn from him?

9. According to 6:15-19 what happened when the wall was finished and why (v16)? Did this stop the enemies' efforts (v17-19)?

10. Looking over 7:1-4 what did Nehemiah order once the wall was completed (v2-3)? Why was this a wise strategy?

11. From Nehemiah 4-6 what do we learn about how the enemy tries to oppose us, and what we should do to overcome him?

Scripture to Remember

“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 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

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www.celebrationnet.com

Life Group Questions—How Obstacles Become Opportunities

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Everyone think of a something they would really like to see happen in their life that seems to have an obstacle in the way. Share that with the group.
2. Why do you think God wanted Joshua to put the Ark in front of the people as they crossed the Jordan R.? What are you focusing on, and what should you focus on?
3. What does it mean “It's not just the possession of Christ that will make a difference; it's the position of Christ in your life that will make a difference.”
4. Talk about why obstacles present the opportunity to be renewed in our dependence on Christ? How does this cause us to take a look at ourselves?
5. Each person share what specific demand on their faith will be required for them to overcome the obstacle they are facing.
6. Discuss anything else important to you from the message today if you have time.