

SATAN'S SIX ATTACKS ON THE MINISTRY

Nehemiah 1-6

The work of the Lord which Nehemiah undertakes comes under constant attacks. His enemies, like our enemy, sought to distract him, add problems to his work, and put a stop to his obedience to the will of God.

He ridicules us to prevent us from serving (4:1)

If he can convince us that we can't do the work, we will stop ourselves, and he doesn't have to do any more. Many ministries die in this way; before they are even born.

If God tells you do to it, that's all you need. Don't worry! Shield yourself from the sharp arrows of scorn, whether they come directly from the devil or everyone else.

He conspires to battle with us by ganging up on us (4:7-8)

If a direct attack of ridicule won't work, the devil will seek out whoever he can (both unbelievers and believers) to help bring an attack against us.

Nehemiah *"prayed unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night."*

The church today needs watchmen –vigilant overseers—who are looking out for the united attacks of the enemy and warning the rest of the workers what is happening.

He lures us for compromise with the intent to make us ineffective (6:1-2)

Four times the enemy tries to lure Nehemiah to get him on neutral ground. Nehemiah, **"Come down, from the wall"**, they would say. Each time, Nehemiah refuses to give the enemy any opportunity for compromise.

The same temptation came to Jesus, when He was on the cross, when they said, **"Come down from the cross. And we will believe."** But it was there and then, that he was doing the greatest work of all. The precious, peerless work of redemption. A work that could never be compromised.

He spreads evil rumors to misrepresent and discredit us (6:5-8)

The enemy charged Nehemiah with pride and self-seeking. Sanballet and Tobiah, like all unsaved men, can never understand the motives of those who seek only the glory of God.

When the ungodly find that they cannot confound the Christian worker, they will, without any scruples, try to misrepresent his motives.

Nehemiah rebuked them and told them, ***“Nothing you are saying is true, it is all in your heads.”***

He seeks to frighten us in order to control us (6:9)

The Bible contains the phrase **"fear not"** 365 times! That's one time for every day of the year! Why does it say it that often, maybe because we have too much fear?

Faith is confidence in God's ability to do good for us. Fear is confidence in something's ability to do us harm. Many people are afraid of snakes. Why? Because they have confidence in the snake's ability to harm them.

Fear will always yoke a person up and enslave him.

He masquerades himself as a servant of righteousness to deceive us (6:10-12)

The prophet proposes to Nehemiah to hide himself in the temple. Nehemiah refuses. He says, **“Why should I flee from my place of service. Should I go and care for my personal safety and leave the people of God alone.**

If Nehemiah would leave, he would have at once spread fear and distrust among the people, and that's what Sanballat wanted. Where would have been Nehemiah's faith if he did leave?

God Himself was Nehemiah's refuge and strength, not His earthly house. Nehemiah's thinking probably was: If God doesn't help me, what's the temple going to do for me. I have no security.

It is so sad when those who speak in the name of the Lord sympathizes with the adversaries of God's truth, and hinder the work God has committed to His loyal servants.

In spite of all the attacks, Nehemiah and the people persevered and the new walls and new gates were up in 52 days. Hallelujah!

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