# Nehemiah

Ps Karl Holz

Nehemiah 4:1-18

1 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious. He mocked the Jews

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2 before his colleagues and the powerful men of Samaria, and said, "What are these pathetic Jews doing? Can they restore [it] by themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they ever finish it? Can they bring these burnt stones back to life from the mounds of rubble?"

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3 Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, "Indeed, even if a fox climbed up what they are building, he would break down their stone wall!"

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4 Listen, our God, for we are despised. Make their insults return on their own heads and let them be taken as plunder to a land of captivity.

Nehemiah 4:1-18

5 Do not cover their guilt or let their sin be erased from Your sight, because they have provoked the builders.

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6 So we rebuilt the wall until the entire wall was joined together up to half its [height], for the people had the will to keep working.

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7 When Sanballat, Tobiah, and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the repair to the walls of Jerusalem was progressing and that the gaps were being closed, they became furious.

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8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw it into confusion.

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9 So we prayed to our God and stationed a guard because of them day and night.

10 In Judah, it was said: The strength of the laborer fails, since there is so much rubble. We will never be able to rebuild the wall.

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11 And our enemies said, "They won't know or see anything until we're among them and can kill them and stop the work."

12 When the Jews who lived nearby arrived, they said to us time and again, "Everywhere you turn, [they] attack us."

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13 So I stationed [people] behind the lowest sections of the wall, at the vulnerable areas. I stationed them by families with their swords, spears, and bows.

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14 After I made an inspection, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the great and awe-inspiring Lord, and fight for your countrymen, your sons and daughters, your wives and homes."

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15 When our enemies realized that we knew their scheme and that God had frustrated it, every one of us returned to his own work on the wall.

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16 From that day on, half of my men did the work while the other half held spears, shields, bows, and armor. The officers supported all the people of Judah,

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17 who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried the loads worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other.

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18 Each of the builders had his sword strapped around his waist while he was building, and the trumpeter was beside me.