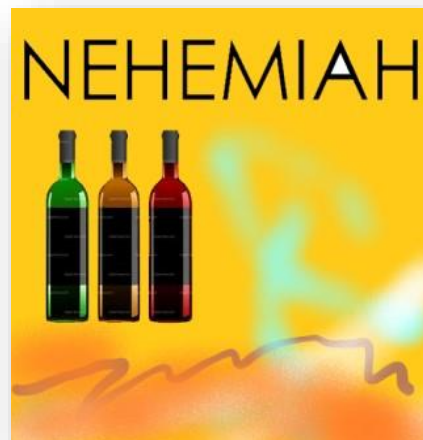


NEHEMIAH 4 vs 1

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The Book of Nehemiah originally was one book shared with Ezra; certain Greek manuscripts separated the two prior to the time of Origen and Jerome. Hebrew manuscripts kept them together until 1448. Nehemiah was a very gifted and capable man. His patriotism was infectious, moving men to leave their harvest in the field, in order to make the grueling journey back to Jerusalem. His integrity and humility made him stand out as a leader living at the highest level of trust. He attained fame as the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia.



Scoffers attack the work rebuilding the walls,

¹ Now it happened, that when Sanballat heard we built the wall, he was very angry, and furious and mocked the Jews / so this fool was greatly pissed off.

² And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and asked, What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they sacrifice? Can they do it all in a day? Can they recover stones from the rubbish heaps which are burned?

³ Now Tobiah of Ammon who was next to him added, Let them build, if a fox goes up, it will even knock down their stone wall.

And Nehemiah prays,

⁴ Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their criticism upon their own head, and leave them to be plundered in the land of their exile:

⁵ do not forgive their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out before You: for the builders have heard them provoking You.

⁶ So we built the wall to half its height; and all the wall was joined together: for it was in the heart of the people to work.

⁷ But it happened, when Sanballat and Tobiah, and those of Arabia, of Ammon, and of Ashdod, heard that the repairs of the walls of Jerusalem went forward, and the breaches were being closed, then they were extremely angry,

⁸ they all conspired together to go and attack Jerusalem, and make confusion in the city.

⁹ However we prayed to our God, and posted guards to watch against them day and night.

¹⁰ And Judah said, The strength of the laborers is giving way, the rubbish is great; we will never be able to build the wall.

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¹¹ And our enemies said, They will know and see nothing, till we are among them, and kill them, and cause their work to cease.

¹² And it happened, that when the Jews who lived by them came, they said to us ten times, / in other words, they said repeatedly, From wherever you return to us, they will be upon you.

¹³ So I positioned in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even positioned the people by their families, armed with their swords, spears, and bows / so 2500 years ago, the Lord approve the second amendment rights of the people to carry their own weapons.

¹⁴ And I looked, and arose, and addressed the nobles and officials and the rest of the people, Do not be afraid of them: remember the LORD, who is awesome and terrifying, and fight for your kinsfolk, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

¹⁵ And it happened, when our enemies heard that we knew of their plans, and God had thwarted their counsel, that we all returned to the wall, every man to his work.

¹⁶ And it happened from that time forth, that half of my servants continued working, while the other half held their spears, shields, bows, and vests of armor; and the rulers supported all the house of **Judah.**

¹⁷ Those building the wall, and those supplying the builders, each of them worked, with one hand doing the work, and with the other hand holding a weapon.

¹⁸ For the builders, each one fixed his sword at his side, and kept building. And the bugler who sounded the trumpet stood by me.

¹⁹ And I said to the nobles, and rulers, and rest of the people, The extent of the work is great, and we are far apart from each other on the wall.

²⁰ So wherever you hear the trumpet sound, rally to us there: our God will fight for us.

²¹ This is how we worked: half of us held their spears from dawn till the stars appeared.

²² At the same time I told the citizens, Let each of you with his servant lodge in Jerusalem, to provide us with guards at night, and laborers during the day.

²³ As for myself and my fellows, and my retinue, and the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes, except for washing; each kept his weapon in his hand.

Every Praise