

Wednesday February 1, 2017

12:00 – 1:00pm

Nehemiah's Answers by Prayer

Nehemiah 4: 4-9

The principal characters in this book are Ezra and Nehemiah. Though the Temple had been rebuilt, as recorded by Ezra, the walls of the city were still in ruins because of the indolence of the people.

Eleven times in the book it is recorded that Nehemiah was engaged in prayer.

Nehemiah name means: The Lord Comforts.

A. The wall defended against enemies.

- I. Sanballat gathered men from the army of Samaria to mock the Jews that was building the wall.
- II. Tobiah declared that if a small creature like a fox jumped on the wall, the wall would collapse because of its flimsy construction.
- III. Nehemiah did not respond to his opponents. Instead, he prayed that the Lord would not protect them (5)
- IV. Nehemiah believed that when the people of God were involved in the work of God, any assault on them was an assault on God(6).
- V. In this case, to despise the Jewish worker was to despise God Himself (6).
- VI. When their ridicule did not stop the work on the wall, Nehemiah opponents tried a threat of attack (8).
- VII. They not only prayed, but they set a watch and did what was humanly possible to protect themselves from attack.

Conclusion: When Nehemiah and the men started their work, it was two men (Tobiah and Sanballat) Neh. 2: 10) that wanted to stop the work. As the work began to progress, they gather others to help them to put fear in Nehemiah and his workers heart (Neh. 4:7).

For our next week lesson read chapters 6 & 7 of Nehemiah.

