

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

# RESTORED

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

## Lesson 7 – Confronting Opposition

### Nehemiah 4:12-23

The enemy never wants to see the work of the Lord prosper and succeed. When Jerusalem was in ruins and no work was being done, he left them alone. But, the moment God's people decided to "arise and build," the opposition came at Nehemiah and the workers full force. It isn't easy to continue working when there is constant pressure against you. If we let it, discouragement and fear can easily overtake and defeat us. Nehemiah chose to confront his opposition by standing strong and carrying on with the work. Let this lesson be a reminder to each one of us to persevere no matter what hostility we face. Life this side of heaven is a battle, and we must be prepared at all times to fight the good fight of faith. We might be hard pressed on every side, but rest assured with God's help the enemy will never succeed in defeating us.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

### This Week's Scripture: Nehemiah 4:12-23

*<sup>12</sup>So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us." <sup>13</sup>Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. <sup>14</sup>And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." <sup>15</sup>And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. <sup>16</sup>So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. <sup>17</sup>Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. <sup>18</sup>Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me. <sup>19</sup>Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall.*

<sup>20</sup>Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

<sup>21</sup>So we labored in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared. <sup>22</sup>At the same time I also said to the people, “Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day.”

<sup>23</sup>So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes, except that everyone took them off for washing.

**This Week’s Memory Verse:**

**Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.**

**Nehemiah 4:14b(NKJV)**

1. In last week’s lesson, we found Nehemiah’s opposition coming against him by means of slander and discouragement. His first response was to go to the Lord in prayer. The Lord heard his cry and his foes were quieted for a time. But, the enemy didn’t give up! The attack came again and when it did, Nehemiah knew it was time for him to move into action. Read Nehemiah 4:13-14 and describe his battle plan? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. And, what was the result of this action? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. From that time on, the Jews kept themselves armed and ready to fight at a moment’s notice. Although we usually do not have to physically fight like the Jews did, we do have to fight battles of a different sort. According to Ephesians 6:12, how is our battle described? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How can we stand against this kind of attack, according to Ephesians 6:10-11? \_\_\_\_\_

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