

# Through External Opposition: Prayer

Nehemiah 4:1–6



Week Five

## inTro



Read This Week's Passage:

Nehemiah 4:1–6

### NEWTON'S THIRD LAW

Every action has an equal and opposite reaction in the realm of physics. But the same occurs in the spiritual realm. When there is movement going forward, there is also friction moving against it. In leadership, any project is bound to undergo opposition before it meets success.

While God's people are rallying behind Nehemiah in chapter 2 and uniting to build the wall in chapter 3, chapter 4 gives us insight into what their enemies were doing. God was not the only One moving—His enemy was too. A coalition had been forming against Nehemiah's initiative. Sanballat, the governor of Samaria (northern region); Tobiah the Ammonite (an eastern region); Geshem the Arabian king (a southern region); and the Ashdodites (west of Israel) created an alliance to surround Jerusalem. Trace the growth of their coalition from Nehemiah 2:10, 19, and 4:7. They could not war openly against Jerusalem because Nehemiah was under the protection of the king. Rather, in Nehemiah 4, they implemented three strategies: ridicule (4:1–3), violence (4:7, 8), and discouragement (4:11, 12).

In this week's study, we find the biblical answer to external forms of opposition: prayer. It sounds like a simple answer, but it really is the ultimate means to overcome any challenge. Instead of letting emotion take over, Nehemiah resorted to prayer. He did not repress his frustrations or express them to others. Instead, he confessed his heart to the Lord and then reassessed his situation. This focus allowed the people to have confidence in their leader and to mimic his restraint and resolve.



inScribe

Write out Nehemiah 4:1–6 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out Nehemiah 4:4–6. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline it, or mind map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases



Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

What insecurities do you struggle with? How do your insecurities impact your family? How can Christ help you overcome your insecurities?



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After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?



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[www.inverseible.org/neh5-4](http://www.inverseible.org/neh5-4)



What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- Prov. 16:32
- Rom. 8:31
- 2 Cor. 12:9



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Nehemiah 4:1–6?

Review your memorized verse from Nehemiah 4:1–6.



Meditate on Nehemiah 4:1–6 again and look for Jesus in the passage.



Are you comfortable with the concept of Jesus punishing the wicked?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?



Read more at  
[www.inverseible.org/neh5-6](http://www.inverseible.org/neh5-6)



Review your memory verse.  
How does it apply to your  
life this week?



As you have studied this  
week, what personal  
applications have you been  
convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications  
you must make in your school,  
family, workplace, and church?



Read more inSight from the  
Spirit of Prophecy at  
[www.inverseible.org/neh5-7](http://www.inverseible.org/neh5-7)



Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



Have you ever been personally attacked?

How have you dealt with similar social and/or spiritual situations in the past? Which party were you?

Can things go wrong for people who live right? If so, what can we say to give them comfort and courage?

What are the tools of the devil mentioned in this chapter?

How has prayer solved your situations of opposition?

Are our spiritual lives so close with God that we identify with Him in everything, even to the extent that we imprecate others?

How is God like a Lamb and a Lion?

How do we explain the imprecatory prayers in the Bible?