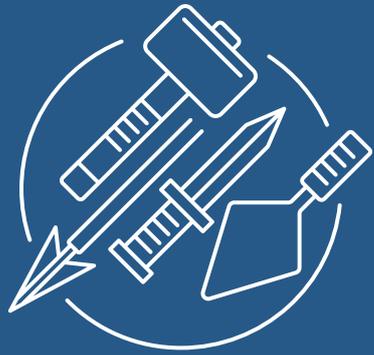


# Through External Opposition: Watchfulness

Nehemiah 4:7–23



Week Six

## inTro



Read This Week's Passage:  
Nehemiah 4:7–23

### COURAGE BY CONFLICT

Nehemiah 4–6 can be taken as a narrative that compiles the schemes of the opposition. The first chapter of this section recounts forms of direct external opposition. Chapter 5 reframes opposition from an internal perspective, where issues arise from the people within. The last chapter revisits external opposition but now from an indirect, hidden angle. Three whole chapters dedicated to opposition, indicating that friction and resistance should not discourage godly leaders. Whenever God moves, there will always be a reaction from the devil. We should, in fact, be encouraged when there is friction. For when there is friction, we can rest assured that there is movement.

These opposition chapters advise us on the recourse we can take when faced with opposition. There is nothing new under the sun, and today's attacks still fall into these categories. As the study of these chapters will reveal, the opposition is not the challenge. The real challenge is to consistently, persistently, insistently, and faithfully turn to God at each point of conflict. Last week's study identified the main weapon for biblical leadership as prayer. This week, we will look at the second weapon against external opposition.



Write out Nehemiah 4:7–23 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out Nehemiah 4:9, 13–17. 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.

How do you deal with discouragement? How can you help others overcome discouragement in their lives?



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

Luke 21:34–36

Eph. 6:18

Phil. 2:13



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Nehemiah 4:7–23?

Review your memorized verse from Nehemiah 4:7–23.



Meditate on Nehemiah 4:7–23 again and look for Jesus in the passage.



How does Jesus fight for us when we are the ones who have the swords in hand?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

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



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[www.inverseible.org/neh6-6](http://www.inverseible.org/neh6-6)



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/neh6-7](http://www.inverseible.org/neh6-7)



## inQUIRE

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.



Describe the last time you were really discouraged. By whom, when, where, how, and why were you discouraged?

How did you get out of discouragement?

What is the individual's responsibility when it comes to the morale of the larger group?

Who is absolved of this responsibility?

What things can leaders do to raise the morale of the church?

Is being distracted a social or a spiritual problem?

How can the level of sacrifice be raised today by the leadership?

How can we watch and pray?

Where does the principle of divine cooperation need to be exercised in your life?

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