

Nehemiah 4:1-23 **Defense while building the Wall of Jerusalem**

The Wall Defended Against Enemies

1 But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews.

2 And he spoke before **his brethren and the army of Samaria**, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish — stones that are burned?"

3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall."

4 Hear, O Eloheynu (our God), for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity!

5 Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders.

6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

7 Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry,

8 and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.

9 Nevertheless we made our prayer to Eloheynu (our God), and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

10 Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."

11 And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease."

12 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."

13 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.

14 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 Adoney (the Lord), great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

15 And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that Elohiym (God) had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

16 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.

17 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.

18 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.

19 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.

20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Eloheynu (Our God) will fight for us."

21 So we labored in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared.

22 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."

23 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.

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Facts Revealed:

The Wall Defended Against Enemies

- ☪ Sanballat and Tobiah were governors of the region beyond the river under the king of Persia to whom the letters from Artaxerxes were given authorizing the work of building the walls of Jerusalem to be done. [\[Nehemiah 2:10\]](#)
- ☪ Sanballat and Tobiah ridiculed and mocked the Jews seeking to rebuild the city walls. [\[Nehemiah 4:1-3\]](#)
- ☪ Because they were over the army of Samaria which was a Persian military force, they represented a threat to the Jews.
- ✧ Nehemiah prayed to Elohiym for protection from the adversaries. [\[Nehemiah 4:4-5\]](#)
- ✧ Artaxerxes had sent captains of the army and horsemen with Nehemiah which gave him a little official defense against the adversaries. [\[Nehemiah 2:9\]](#)
- ✧ The Jews built the wall enthusiastically because the people had a mind to work. [\[Nehemiah 4:6\]](#)
- ☪ When Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. [\[Nehemiah 4:7-8\]](#)
- ✧ The Jews living near the adversaries warned the builders of the threat of the adversaries, so the builders prayed to Elohiym against them and set a watch against them day & Night and armed the workers and the rest of the people encouraging them that Adoney, great and awesome, is with them in the fight. [\[Nehemiah 4:9-14\]](#)

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- ✧ The Jews with the help of the servants of Nehemiah returned to the work on the wall, with half of his servants working on construction and the other half in their armor guarded with their spears, shields, and bows while the builders worked with one hand and held a weapon in the other with his sword girded at his side. [\[Nehemiah 4:15-18\]](#)
- ✧ Nehemiah called for the workers to stay in Jerusalem at night to be guards by night and a working party by day to respond to the trumpet call trusting Elohiym to fight for us, no one took off his cloths except for washing. [\[Nehemiah 4:19-23\]](#)