

FACING OPPOSITION

Nehemiah 4:1-2

-Sunday, August 15, 2021-

When Sanballat, the governor of Samaria, heard that we were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, he became angry and started insulting our people. 2 In front of his friends and the Samaritan army he said, "What is this feeble bunch of Jews trying to do? Are they going to rebuild the wall and offer sacrifices all in one day? Do they think they can make something out of this pile of scorched stones?"

It is a fact of life. That when we undertake any good work, there will be opposition. And we will discover over the next several chapters that opposition comes in different forms. There is external opposition. There is internal opposition. There is opposition from within your own mind at times. But it's been said that the true measure of greatness is in what one has to overcome to accomplish their goals. This is true spiritually as well.

Transition: And that's where we find ourselves in this text today. When we first met Sanballat, he was laughing at their ambitious goal. Now when we met him again, he's livid at their astonishing gains.

THE ORIGINS OF THIS OPPOSITION

- a. Sanballat was the governor of the Samaritans.
- b. Who were the Samaritans? Why were the Samaritans enemies of the Jews?
- c. Physical opposition always has spiritual origins.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS OPPOSITION

- a. Listen to Sanballat's words. He tries to minimize their virtue, marginalize their identity, mock their ambitions, muffle their enthusiasm, malign their confidence and magnify their problems.
- b. To stop you from doing what God called you to do.
- c. To keep you from becoming what God called you to be.
- d. To block you from revival taking place in your life.

THE OVERCOMERS OF THIS OPPOSITION

- a. This isn't the first time that these people have opposed the people of God and the work of God. When Ezra was rebuilding the temple, these same people tried to stop the work. And here's what Nehemiah discovered. The same God that helped Ezra face opposition is the same God that would help him face opposition. And the same thing is true for us today. THE SAME GOD that helped Ezra and Nehemiah is THE SAME GOD that will help us face our opposition.