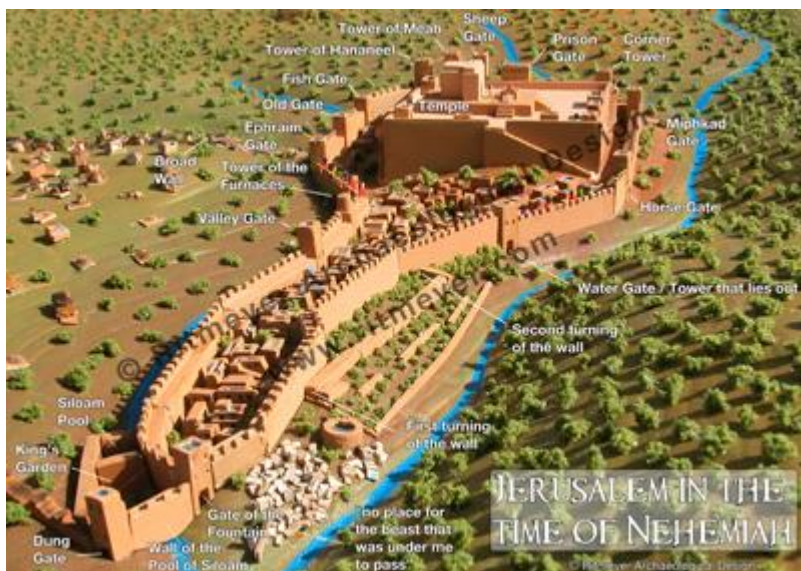




Nehemiah 4:1-3

1 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble-- burned as they are?" 3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building-- if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!"

➤ **Resistance indicates progress.**

"There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan." – C.S. Lewis

Nehemiah 4:4-6

4 Hear us, O our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. 6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

➤ **Resistance fueled prayerfulness.**

the greater the forces coming against you = the deeper the cry for God to come through

Nehemiah 4:7-8

"Two main elements of job discipleship: one, work diligently with Jesus' help; two, offer gentle non-cooperation with evil." – Dallas Willard



Nehemiah 4:9

But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

Nehemiah 4:10-12

Nehemiah 4:13-14

Nehemiah calls out to God, steps toward the chaos, walks into the headwinds, assesses the situation, comes up with a solution, confronts their fear = **God + anybody is a majority!**

Remember that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob commands our destiny...

Remember that God sustained us in exile and promised us a return to our homeland.

Remember that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world...

Remember that He'll never leave you or forsake you...

Remember that faithfulness surrounds Him...

Remember that He's our Rock, our Refuge & our Fortress...

and

Fight to get done what you know God wants done.

Fight for the future that awaits our children and grandchildren.

Fight for a gentle, non-cooperation with evil.

Fight for truth and righteousness and holiness.

Fight the battles that are going to matter 100 years from now.

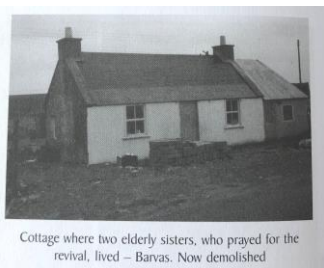
Nehemiah 4:15-16

Nehemiah 4:21-23

➤ **Resistance built resilience.**

"It is possible to evade a multitude of sorrows through the cultivation of an insignificant life. Indeed, if a man's ambition is to avoid the troubles of life, the recipe is simple: shed your ambitions in every direction, cut the wings of every soaring purpose, and seek a life with the fewest contacts and relations. If you want to get through the world with the smallest trouble, you must reduce yourself to the smallest compass. Tiny souls can dodge through life; bigger souls are blocked on every side. As soon as a man begins to enlarge his life, his resistances are multiplied." – John Henry Jowett (1863-1923)

Hebrides Revival in Scotland (1949-1953)



Cottage where two elderly sisters, who prayed for the revival, lived – Barvas. Now demolished



The thatched cottage where the elders met for prayer before revival – Barvas area

What were they praying about?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| -- gospel light to shine clear | -- Satan be bound up | -- strong lusts subdued |
| -- saving knowledge to increase | -- secure sinners awakened | -- many sons & daughters |
| -- ignorance and error to vanish | -- dead souls would live | born to God |
| -- riches of grace would be displayed | -- hard hearts would be melted | |