

## NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 4

<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass, when Sanaballat heard that we were building the wall, that it was grievous to him, and he was very angry, and railed against the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And he said before his brothers (that is, the army of the Samaritans), "*Is it true* that these Jews are building their city? Do they indeed offer sacrifices? Will they prevail? And will they restore the stones this day, after they have been burned and made a heap of rubbish?" <sup>3</sup> And Tobiah the Ammonite came near to him, and said to them, "Do they sacrifice or eat in their place? Shall not a fox go up and pull down their wall of stones?"

<sup>4</sup> "Hear, O our God, for we have become a scorn; and return their reproach upon their own heads, and make them a scorn in a land of captivity, <sup>5</sup> and do not cover *their* iniquity."

<sup>6</sup> (This verse omitted in LXX)

<sup>7</sup> But it came to pass, when Sanaballat and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, heard that the building of the walls of Jerusalem was advancing, and that the breaches began to be stopped, that it appeared very grievous to them. <sup>8</sup> And all of them assembled together, to come to fight against Jerusalem, and to destroy it utterly. <sup>9</sup> So we prayed to our God and set watchmen against them day and night, because of them.

<sup>10</sup> And Judah said, "The strength of the enemies is broken, yet *there is* much rubbish, and we shall not be able to build the wall. <sup>11</sup> And they that afflicted us said, 'They shall not know, and they shall not see, until we come into the midst of them, and kill them, and cause the work to cease.'" <sup>12</sup> And it came to pass, when the Jews who lived near them came, that they said to us, "They are coming up against us from every quarter."

<sup>13</sup> So I set *men* in the lowest part of the place behind the wall in the secret places, I even set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. <sup>14</sup> And I looked, and arose, and said to the nobles, and to the captains, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them; remember our great and terrible God, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

<sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was made known to us, and God had frustrated their counsel, that we all returned to the wall, *every* man to his work. <sup>16</sup> So it was, from that day on, *that* half of them that had been driven forth, did the work, and half of them kept guard; and *there were* spears, shields, bows, and breastplates, and rulers behind the whole house of Judah, <sup>17</sup> even of them that were building the wall. And those who carried the burdens *were* under arms: *each* with one hand performing his work, and with the other held his weapon. <sup>18</sup> And the builders *worked with* each man having his sword girded at his side, and so they built; and the trumpeter with his trumpet next to him.

<sup>19</sup> And I said to the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, "The work *is* great and abundant, and we are dispersed upon the wall, each at a great distance from his brother. <sup>20</sup> In whatever place you shall hear the sound of the trumpet, gather yourselves to us there; and our God shall fight for us."

<sup>21</sup> So we *continued* laboring at the work. And half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning until the stars appeared. <sup>22</sup> And at that time I said to the people, "Let every man with his servant stay at night in the midst of Jerusalem, and let the night be a watch-time to you, and the day a work-time." <sup>23</sup> And I was *there*, and the watchmen behind me, and there was not a man of us that put off his garments.