

## “WHAT ARE YOU TO DO WHEN OPPOSITION ARISES?”

(Nehemiah 4:1-9)

### I. OPPOSITION TO THE WORK IN THE FORM OF RIDICULE (4:1-9)

#### A. The TAUNTING of the Workers and Their Work (4:1-9)

1. When Sanballat heard that the construction of the walls had begun, he was \_\_\_\_\_; he then proceeded to use the enemy’s oldest weapon, \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 1)
  
2. While gathering an audience of Gentiles, Sanballat asked five questions in his mocking of the Jews (v. 2)...
  - a. *What are these feeble Jews doing?* The word “*feeble*” was used in Hebrew of a \_\_\_\_\_ plant (Isa. 16:8; 24:7; etc.) or of a people with \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa. 19:8; Hos. 4:3).
  
  - b. *Will they fortify themselves?* This question must have brought a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ since this city sat in rubble for over 140 years.
  
  - c. *Will they offer sacrifices?* This question was taunting that it would take more than \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to rebuild the walls; it was a \_\_\_\_\_ of Jehovah’s involvement.
  
  - d. *Will they complete it in a day?* This suggests that the Jews really didn't \_\_\_\_\_ just how \_\_\_\_\_ this project was, and before long they would call it quits.
  
  - e. *Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish--stones that are burned?* This mockery exaggerated the destruction, most of the bricks had \_\_\_\_\_ been burned and were still \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. Sanballat’s ridicule was very effective within \_\_\_\_\_ ranks, as evident by Tobiah’s contemptuous \_\_\_\_\_ regarding a lightweight fox. (v. 3)

\* How did Nehemiah respond to their evil taunts against God's people and God's work? (v. 4)

4. Most skeptics or critics look at a situation only from the \_\_\_\_\_ perspective, and \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_; whereas Nehemiah saw the Lord as the very foundation.
  
5. Nehemiah knew that ultimately these mockers were adamantly \_\_\_\_\_ to Jehovah's \_\_\_\_\_ in rebuilding; thus his prayer was \_\_\_\_\_ vindictive, but entirely appropriate. (vv. 4-5, cf. Gen. 12:1-3)
  
6. The "sin" mentioned in v. 5 should be viewed as the sin of sneering at the work, opposing the builders and the Lord— \_\_\_\_\_ of their sins in general.

\* Did all of the ridicule cause the workers to lay down their tools and quit? (v. 6)

7. Verses 7 and 8 inform us that Jerusalem was surrounded by enemies who had \_\_\_\_\_ to attack the city or at the very least disrupt the construction by causing \_\_\_\_\_.
  
8. Once again Nehemiah went \_\_\_\_\_ with his problem to the Lord in \_\_\_\_\_, he also took \_\_\_\_\_ precautions by setting guards. (v. 9)

\* How can you personally apply this truth today?