

# Rebuilding *for* God's People

*A Study of Nehemiah  
and 2 Corinthians*



## Lesson 5



## Psalm 33:20–21

We wait in hope for the Lord.

He is our help and our Shield.

In Him our hearts rejoice  
for we trust in His holy name.

## Psalm 33:20–21



# Three Returns from Exile

Jerusalem destroyed 586 BC

	First Return	Second Return	Third Return
Date	538 BC	458 BC	444 BC
Led by	Zerubbabel	Ezra	Nehemiah
Accomplishment	Temple Rebuilt	People Reformed	Wall Rebuilt



# Attack 1 Ridicule

Neh 4:1–6

## Nehemiah's Response



Prayed

Kept building

“This is spiritual warfare, and battles like that are best fought from a kneeling position.”

“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. 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.”

# Attack 2 Threats

Neh 4:7-9

## Nehemiah's response



Prayed  
Posted a guard  
Kept building

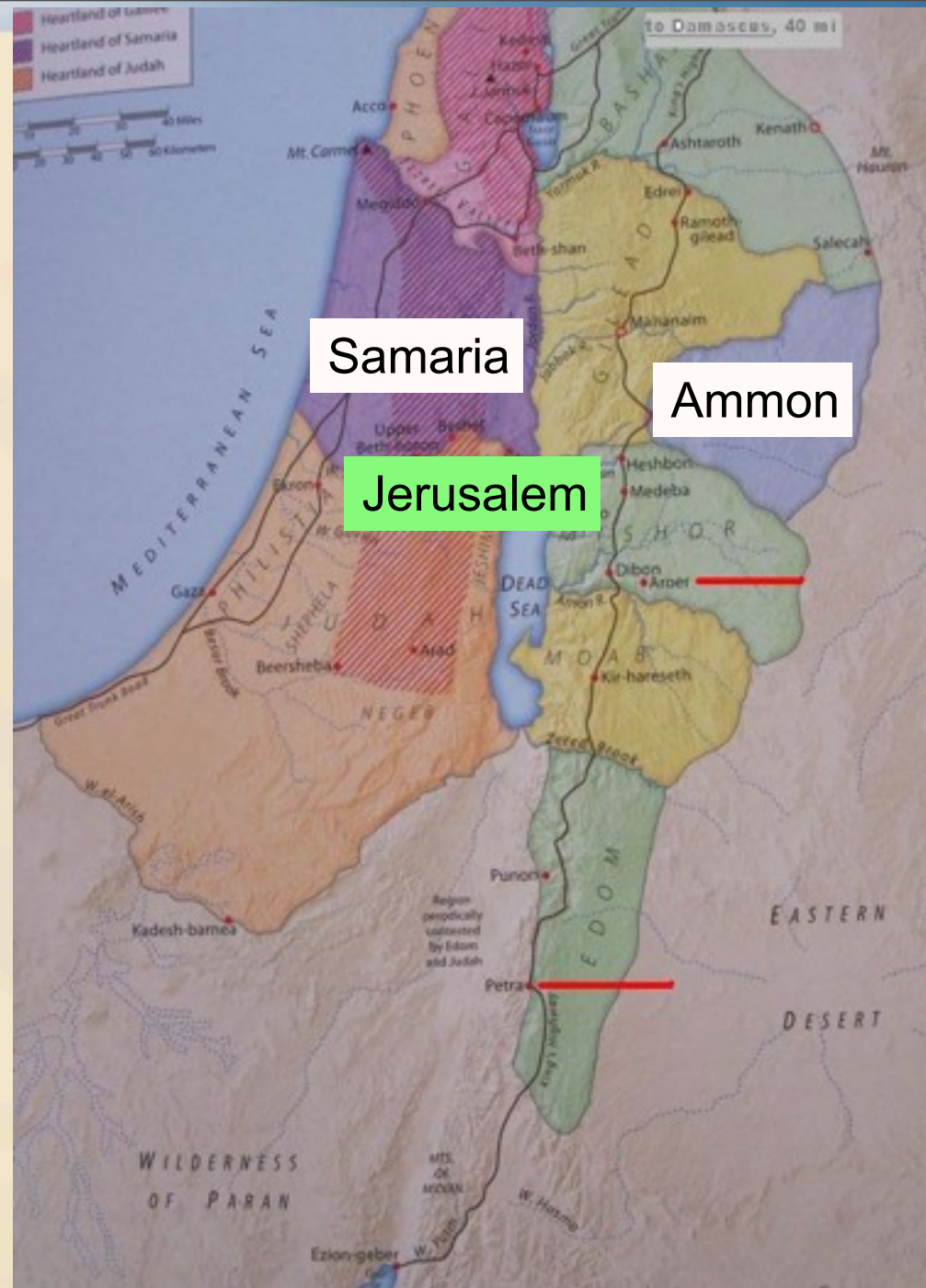
“But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.”

# Attack 1 (Neh 4:1-3)

*Who was there?*

Sanballat  
His associates  
Army of Samaria  
(Samaria)

Tobiah  
(Ammon)





## Attack 2 (Neh 4:7)

### *Who was there?*

Sanballat  
(Samaria)

Tobiah  
(Ammon)

Arabs

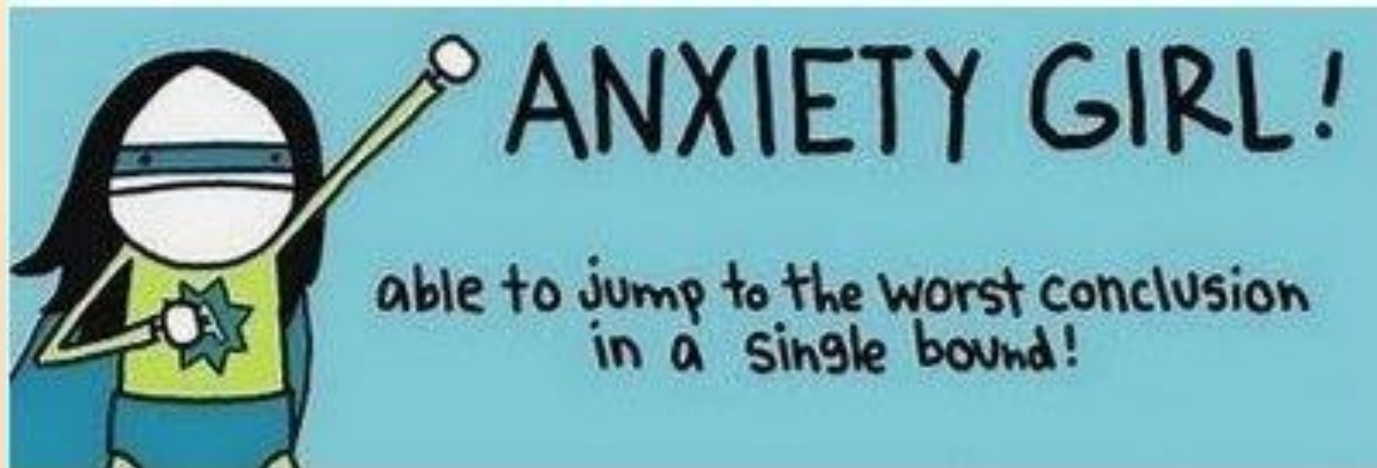
Ammonites

Men of Ashdod



# Attack #3 Complaints/Fear

Neh 4:10-23



**F** anticizing  
**E** xpectations  
**A** ppearing  
**R** eal



# Attack 3 Complaints/Fear

Neh 4:10-23

## Nehemiah's response



Weapons  
Family Groups  
Encouraged  
Kept Building

“Don’t be afraid”

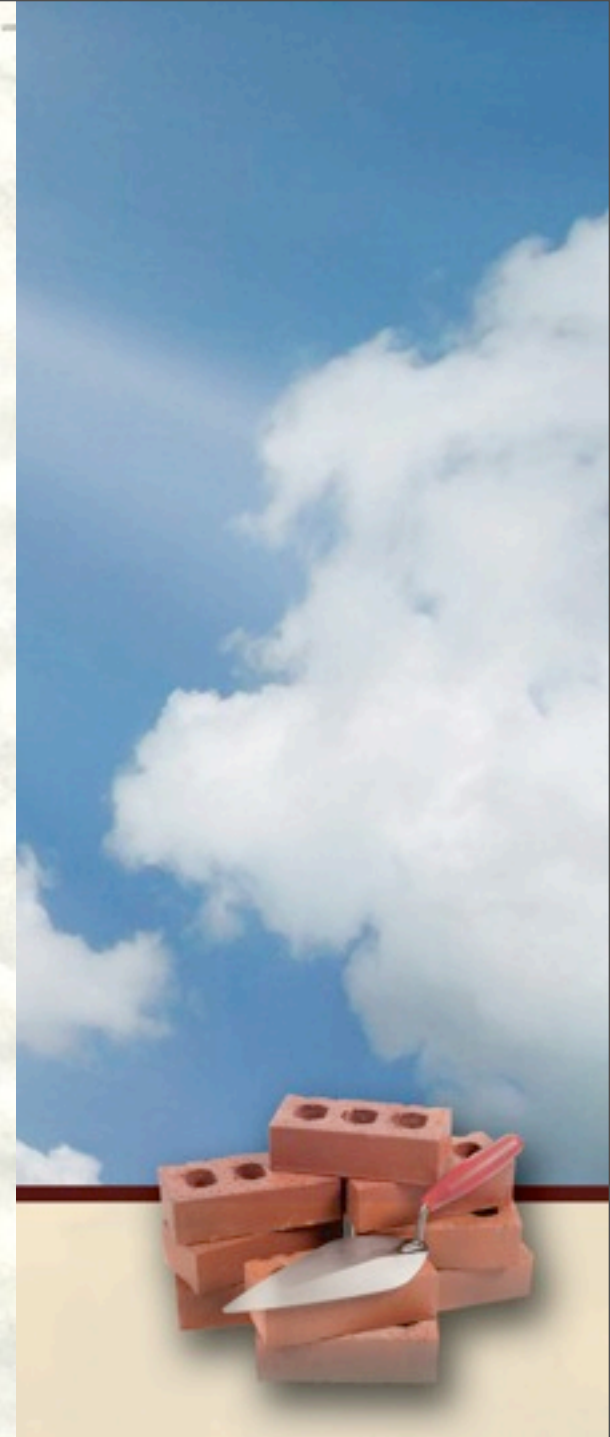
“Remember the Lord”

“Our God will fight for us!”

Exodus 14:13-14

“When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work.”

or: Kilimanjaro was first



# Attack 4 Diversion

Neh 6:1–4

## Nehemiah's Response



**Discerned  
Refused to go  
Kept Building**

**“I am doing a great work  
and I cannot come down.”**



# Attack 5 Rumors

Neh 6:5–9

## Nehemiah's Response



**Rebuked  
Discerned  
Prayed**

“Nothing like what you are saying is happening. You are just making it up out of your head.”

# Attack 6 Intimidation

Neh 6:10–14

## Nehemiah's Response



**Discerned  
Refused  
Prayed  
Kept Building**

“It’s as if Nehemiah said, ‘I am doing a great work, and I cannot come down, even to save my own life.’ “

**Intimidation**

**Refused**

**Prayed**

**Kept building**

**Rumors**

**Rebuked**

**Prayed**

**Kept building**

**Diversion**

**Refused**

**"I am doing  
a good work**

**and I cannot  
come down."**

**Complaints  
Fear**

**Weapons  
Family**

**Encouraged**

**Kept building**

**Threats**

**Prayed**

**Posted guard**

**Kept building**

**Ridicule**

**Prayed**

**Kept building**



“So the wall was completed ... in fifty-two days.

When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.”



Nehemiah 6:15-16



And the Egyptians  
said, "Let's get away  
from the Israelites!  
The Lord is fighting for  
them against Egypt."  
*Ex 14:25*



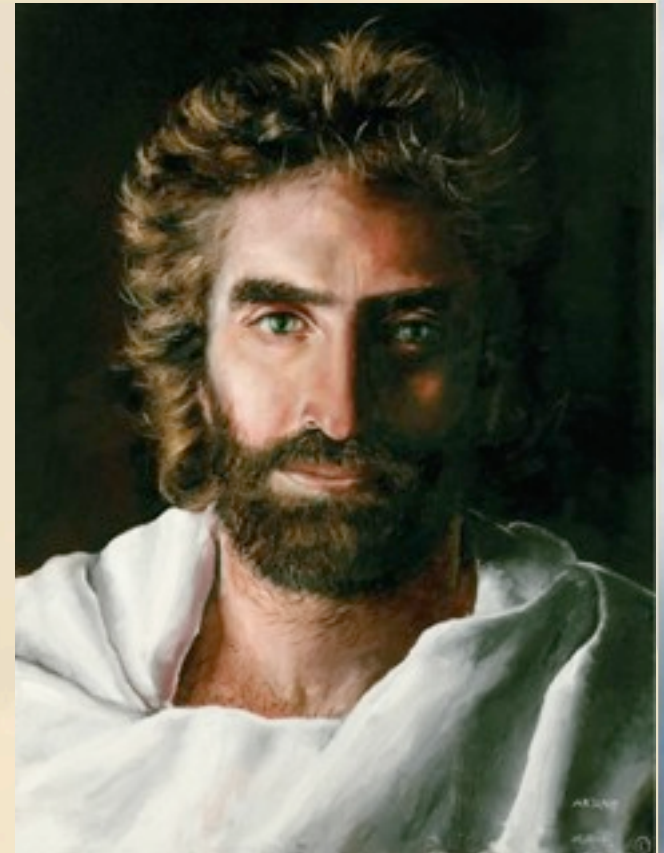
Now when (the) kings along the coast  
heard how the Lord had dried up the  
Jordan before the Israelites ..., their hearts  
melted and they no longer had the courage  
to face the Israelites. *Joshua 5:1*



# The Light of the World

## John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."





**Jesus said to us**

**“You are the light of the world.”**

Matthew 5:14



# Applying the Lesson in Your Life

*Is something standing in the way of your light shining in the world?*

Write Matthew 5:16 and reflect on it this week.



*Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works, and  
glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:16*