

Persevering in Trials

Nehemiah 4

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Esther & Nehemiah Share

1. Location

- Esther lives in the Citadel of Susa (Esther 2:5)
- Where the king's palace is (Esther 1:2)
- Nehemiah works in the king's palace in Susa (Neh. 1:1)

2. Relative Timing

- In the story of Esther, the king is named Xerxes (Esther 1:1)
- In the story of Nehemiah, the king is named Artaxerxes (Neh. 2:1)
- Most scholars believe Xerxes was the father of Artaxerxes

Nehemiah 2:4-6 (NIV)

The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?”
It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

Persevering in Trails Nehemiah 4

1. When learning of plots against them, Nehemiah instructs the people to reach out to God for help (4.4-5)
2. Nehemiah encourages them to keep on keeping on (4.6)
3. As things get more difficult, and more trials come, Nehemiah continues to reach out to God as he sets up day & night defenses for the people (4.9)
4. Nehemiah encourages the people to trust in the promises of God (4.14)

What does Nehemiah 4 teach us about Persevering in Trials

1. When trials come our way, we can reach out to God who is our help...(4.4-5)
2. ...Even as we keep on keeping on (4.6)
3. And as more trials come, set up our defenses as we continually lean on God (4.9)
 - Scripture, community of the faithful, supportive friendships & family, prayer, spiritual practices

What does Nehemiah 4 teach us about Persevering in Trials

4. Trust in/take encouragement from the promises of God (4.14)

- God is good all the time: Psalm 100:5 “For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; God’s faithfulness continues through all generations.”

- Nothing will separate us from the love of God:

Romans 8:38-39 “And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

What does Nehemiah 4 teach us about Persevering in Trials

4. Trust in/take encouragement from the promises of God (4.14)

- God's love can cast out fear:

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear"

- No matter what else happens, God will always be with us:

Matthew 28:20 "surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"