

SLAYING THE DRAGON OF RIDICULE
Sermon Outline — Nehemiah 4:1-6
Sermon Series: Nehemiah > Repair, Rebuild & Restore
Sunday, March 12, 2023
Kelly Stanley

- The Bible makes it clear that God's people will be mocked, ridiculed, suffer and persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ. Read Jesus' words in John 15:18, John 16:2, Luke 12:51-53, and Matthew 13:21. The Apostle Paul also says this in 2 Timothy 3:12 and 1 Corinthians 4:11-13. Anytime _____ advances, _____ opposes.

How Does God Define Our Enemy In Scripture?

1. _____ > this is the Hebrew word [שָׂטָן, satan – the Hebrew word means _____ of God & God's people (Job 1:6).
2. _____ > this is the Hebrew word [הִילֵל, Helel] and it means "_____." As you can tell, the name Lucifer does not look like the Hebrew name Halel. The reason is that when the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Latin, the closest equivalent was the Latin word "lucifero," which means "to shine" (Isa. 14:12).
3. _____ > this is the Greek New Testament word [diabo/lou, diabolou]. This is where we get our English word "diabolic." It means "_____." It refers to accusing God in front of God's people as to embarrass and shame God (Matt. 4:1).
4. _____ > this is the Greek New Testament word [Βεεζεβοῦλ, Beelzubub. It is a term that means "_____." or "_____." It is a term that refers to his ability to mastermind anything corrupt, filthy and sinful (Matt. 12:27).
5. _____ > this refers to satan's limited sphere of influence and authority over fallen humanity (John 12:31).
6. _____ > The power of darkness – Luke 22:53.
7. _____ > Ephesians 2:2.
8. The _____ – (John 8:44) Jesus' point here is that the devil is the originator of lying.
9. The _____ – 1 Thessalonians 3:5.
10. The _____ – 2 Cor. 4:4. This is a reference to satan's preeminence over sinful humanity and the world systems.
11. The _____ – Matthew 13:39.
12. _____ – John 8:44.
13. The _____ – 1 John 2:13.
14. The _____ – Revelation 12:9. In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, satan is referred to as the serpent; in the last book of the Bible, Revelation, he is referred to as this.
15. Your _____ — 1 Peter 4:8.
16. The _____ — 1 Corinthians 11:13-15. This is a reference to how satan hides behind the vocabulary of righteousness while at the same time attempting to deceive, manipulate and lead people into unrighteousness.
17. The _____ — Revelation 12:3. This is a reference to satan's desire to shed blood, his lust for war and killing and his power to intimidate and deceive.

How Does The Enemy of Our Soul Operate?

1. With _____.
 - + 1 Peter 5:8, "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour" (NLT).
 - The Greek New Testament word translated as "devour" is [καταπιεῖν, katapien]. It can mean to consume and eat. But it was also used metaphorically to mean to "_____" and "to _____."
2. With _____.

The Devil Has To Exist Within These Boundaries Set By God

- a. His power is _____. He is not omnipresent. He is not omniscient. And he is not omnipotent.
 - b. His influence is controlled by the _____ (see the Book of Job).
 - c. His _____ by God.
3. With _____.

The Different "Lures" The Devil Uses Against Us

- a. _____. He is not omnipresent. He is not omniscient. And he is not omnipotent

† Ephesians 6:11, "Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil" (NLT).

- The Greek New Testament word translated as "strategies" is [μεθοδίας, methodias]. It is where we get our English word "_____."

b. _____. He is not omnipresent. He is not omniscient. And he is not omnipotent

† 2 Corinthians 2:11, "... so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes" (NLT).

- The Greek New Testament word translated as "schemes" is [νοήματα, noemata] and it can also be translated as "_____."
- What was the lure the enemies opposing Nehemiah used against him? _____ that came in the form of _____.

What Was The Intent Of the Enemies Opposed to Nehemiah?

1. To convince everyone in rebuilding the wall to doubt they had the _____ to finish the task.

† Nehemiah 4:2, "Sanballat spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, 'What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?'" (NASB).

† 1 Samuel 17:42-43, "When the Philistine giant named Goliath saw David, he had disdain for David and mocked David. Why? He saw that David was nothing but a boy who was tanned and good-looking." ⁴³Goliath said to David, 'What is that stick you are carrying boy? Do you think I am dog that you can chase away?' And Goliath used the names of his Philistine gods to pronounce curses on David and his imminent death" (PAR).

† Acts 5:38-39, Gamaliel said to the Sanhedrin, "And so in this case, I tell you, do not take any action against these men. Leave them alone! If what they have planned and done is of human origin, it will disappear, ³⁹but if it comes from God, you cannot possibly defeat them. You could find yourselves fighting against God!" (GNT).

2. To convince everyone in rebuilding the wall to doubt they had the _____ to finish the task.

† Nehemiah 4:2b, "Do they think they can build the wall . . ." (NLT).

3. To convince everyone in rebuilding the wall to doubt they had the _____ to finish the task.

† Nehemiah 4:2c, "Can they offer sacrifices?" (NASB).

4. To convince everyone in rebuilding the wall to doubt they had the _____ to finish the task.

† Nehemiah 4:2d, "Will they finish up in a day?" (ESV).

5. To convince everyone in rebuilding the wall to doubt they had the _____ to finish the task.

† Nehemiah 4:2e, "Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" (ESV).

† Nehemiah 4:3, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall!" (ESV).

How Do You Slay The Dragon of Ridicule?

1. Nehemiah did not _____ against his opposers. _____ never finishes a project for God, but it usually builds _____ against God and God's people.

2. Nehemiah chose to _____ instead of _____.

† Nehemiah 4:4a, "Hear, O our God, for we are despised" (ESV).

† Nehemiah 4:4b-5, "May their scoffing fall back upon their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! ⁵Do not ignore their sin. Do not blot it out, for they have despised You in despising us who are building Your wall" (TLB).

- Nehemiah said nothing to his _____; instead, he said everything to his _____.

† Deuteronomy 32:25, "Vengeance is Mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly" (ESV).

3. Nehemiah _____ on repairing, rebuilding and restoring the wall.

† Nehemiah 4:6, "So we went on rebuilding the wall, and soon it was half its full height, because the people were eager to work" (GNT).