

## 2020 VISION OPPOSITION



### Key verse: Nehemiah 4:14 (NIV)

*“Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”*

### IS IT EASY TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

I love that famous verse about how it’s easy to be a Christian. You know the one where it says how all your plans will work out and no problem will ever phase you again? Do you know the one? Although, I’ve had trouble finding it in the bible. It must be there somewhere. I thought maybe it was in the Gospels?... No. Or maybe Ephesians?... No. Well, it must be in Psalms?... No. Actually, you know what? I don’t think its there! It doesn’t say that anywhere!

What does the bible say then? ‘For our struggle (what? struggle!) is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms’ (Ephesians 6:12, NIV). Being a Christian isn’t easy. At times it can be hard. At times you’ll have to fight!

So far we’ve seen Nehemiah receive his 2020 Vision that moved him from being the King’s cupbearer, to going home to become a builder. Well, now he’s rallied all the Israelites to start building. It’s at this point that Nehemiah and the Israelites start to receive opposition.

These two characters called Sanballat and Tobiah start mocking the workers. They were against Nehemiah’s Vision,

because they liked controlling the territory. But they were only mouthy when they were with their army mates. Typical bullies.

### INTERESTING FACT

After the victory of WW2 Japanese soldiers were still being found on Islands that they were commanded to defend. Although they were told to stand down they wouldn’t stop until their commanding officer came to relieve them. They’d lost the war but they were still holding the territory.



As the work continued these bullies got even angrier and decided to get physical. Nehemiah’s response was to pray and be on guard day and night. Have you noticed that its only when you start building your vision that you get opposition. Maybe it’s building your faith. Or maybe even a vision to see your family saved. When you take steps to follow God, that’s when the opposition will come. God never promised an easy life. Jesus spoke about this once when he said... ‘In this world you will have trouble.’ Wow, That’s depressing... But that’s not the end of the verse. ‘But take heart! I have overcome the world’ (John 16:33, NIV). Sometimes we might come under opposition but we don’t have to be afraid, remember the Lord, pray and be on guard. Our enemy has been defeated. Jesus has won the victory. But at times we’ll still have to battle to take hold of territory.

### SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- What is your vision for your family?
- What territory do you need to win back today?



### PRAYER

**Lord, you didn’t promise life would be easy. But you did promise to be with me. Help me to be brave under opposition and to keep building instead of giving up. Amen.**