



Before the THRONE

The Devotional

Volume 1

Books of the Law & History

Nehemiah 2:19-20

“But when Sanballat ... heard the plan *to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem*, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, “What is this thing that you *are attempting* to do? Will you rebel against the king?” Then I answered them, and said, “The God of Heaven will prosper us; therefore we His servants, will arise and build; but you have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem.” Nehemiah 2:19-20

Those who are serious in their determination to live out the Christian life will always face opposition. At times this opposition may come in the form of mockery, at other times it may be severe harassment – “Yea, all those that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12) But what is that to the believer? Being counted worthy to suffer for Jesus is one of the highest honours that can be afforded to the Christian. “... and when they called the apostles and had beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and *then they* let them go. And the *apostles* departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.” (Acts 5:40-41)

As the Holy Spirit perfects His work within your life, there will be regular opportunities along the way to either choose to follow Jesus and possibly suffer for those righteous choices, or to choose the easier way that please men but disappoint the Lord. Subtle persecution is aimed at your compromise. “Jesus wouldn’t want you to offend people with the way you’re acting and talking. You’re acting like you’re more “righteous’ that us, and that condemns us.” And so it goes...

Nehemiah, when he was verbally accused, didn’t return accusations back at Sanballat, rather he boldly affirmed his purpose and standing in God. Today, make the right choices – perhaps at some level Jesus will be pleased and yes, men may be offended