

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: STRATEGIES

The Strategies of Nehemiah

He took up the work of God (Neh. 2:6–9).

He prayed, acknowledging God’s sovereignty and noting the illegitimacy of his enemies (Neh. 2:20).

He prayed, asking God to take note of his reproach and to refuse to forgive his enemies (Neh. 4:4, 5).

He prayed and set a watch (Neh. 4:9), taking necessary precautions (Neh. 4:13), reminding people to fight for their families (Neh. 4:14).

He led the people to confess, repent, and make restitution (Neh. 5:1–19).

He showed singlemindedness (Neh. 6:3).

He refuted their slander (Neh. 6:8) and prayed for strength (Neh. 6:9).

He modeled righteousness (Neh. 6:11), received God’s discernment (Neh. 6:12), and prayed, asking God to remember them (Neh. 6:14).

He suggested precautions for protecting the gates (Neh. 7:3).

He expelled the household goods of the enemy (Neh. 13:8).

He contended with unrighteousness (Neh. 13:11, 17, 25, 28).

The Ploys of His Enemies

They ridiculed him (Neh. 2:19).

They mocked him (Neh. 4:1, 2).

They conspired to attack and create confusion (Neh. 4:7, 8).

They used oppression from within, the fruit of their own unrighteousness (Neh. 5:1–5).

They plotted to harm the leader (Neh. 6:1, 2).

They created a distraction (Neh. 6:4) and circulated slander to create fear (Neh. 6:5–7).

They developed an insider plot to discredit the leader (Neh. 6:10).

They used covert connections as Tobiah sent letters to frighten Nehemiah and desensitize the people (Neh. 6:19).

They established insider alliances; Eliahshib gave room to Tobiah (Neh. 13:4, 5).

They continued acts of unrighteousness (Neh. 13:10, 15, 16).

They used compromise, especially in intermarriage (Neh. 13:23–25).

Spiritual warfare begins when the enemy (Satan) perceives that someone is trying to seek God’s purposes or to protect the well-being of God’s people. Nehemiah drew the attention of his enemies, Sanballat and Tobiah, who were “deeply disturbed” when he began the work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. They employed a variety of strategies to divert Nehemiah from his task. These strategies of the enemy have been used through the generations, even until now. Nehemiah’s counterstrategies helped him to persevere and to finish his task. *See also Eph. 6:10–19; notes on Adversity (Acts 5); Perseverance (Rev. 14); Spiritual Warfare (Eph. 6); Temptation (Heb. 2).*

This Nehemiah Prayer Chart is from a resource that was not noted in my past notes.

1:4-11	After receiving bad news about the state of Jerusalem's walls	Recognized God's holiness. Asked for a hearing. Confessed sin. Asked for specific help in approaching the king.	Included God in Nehemiah's plans and concerns. Prepared Nehemiah's heart and gave God room to work.	How often do you pour out your heart to God? How often do you give him a specific request to answer?
2:4	During his conversation with the king.	"Here's where you can help God!"	Put the expected results in god's hands.	Giving God credit for what happens before it happens keeps us from taking more credit than we should.
4:4,5	After being taunted and ridiculed by Tobiah and Sanballat.	"They're mocking you, God. You decide what to do with them."	Expressed anger to God, but Nehemiah did not take matters into his own hands.	We are prone to do exactly the opposite-take matters into our hands and not tell God how we feel.
4:9	After threats of attack by enemies	"We are in your hands, God. We will keep our weapons handy in case you want us to use them."	Showed trust in God even while taking necessary precautions.	Trusting God does not mean we do nothing. Action does not mean we do not trust.
6:9	Responding to threats	"Oh, Lord God, please strengthen me!"	Showed Nehemiah's reliance on god for emotional and mental stability.	How often do you ask God for help when under pressure?
13:29	Reflecting on the actions of his enemies	Asked God to deal with the enemies and their evil plans.	Took away the compulsion to get revenge, and entrusted justice to God.	When did you last settle a desire for revenge by turning the matter over to God?
5:19;13:14,22,31	Reflecting on his own efforts to serve God.	"Remember me, God."	Kept clear in Nehemiah's mind his own motives for action.	How many of your actions today will be done with the purpose of pleasing God?

Leadership Principles Modeled by Nehemiah:

- Leaders have a sense of mission. Nehemiah 1:5
- Leaders leverage their power. Nehemiah 2:5
- Leaders conduct research. Nehemiah 2:12
- Leaders build community. Nehemiah 2:17-18
- Leaders adapt to adversity. Nehemiah 4:8-9
- Leaders resist underhanded politics/practices. Nehemiah 6:5-9
- Leaders serve people. Nehemiah 7:1
- Leaders celebrate often. Nehemiah 8:1

(Notes from: The Word In Life Study Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.)

This chronology is meant to give a rough overview of when the books of the Old Testament took place or were written. Due to the fact that some centuries change in the middle of a chapter and some prophets served in two different centuries, there is some repetition that takes place in the table below. The Psalms have been intentionally omitted because they were written over a period of many centuries by a number of different authors.

See also the [Chronology of the Prophets](#), the [Chronology of the Old Testament Kings](#), and the [Chronology of Latter Prophets and Intertestamental Period](#) for more information.

DATE (BC)	HISTORICAL AND POETICAL BOOKS:	PROPHETICAL BOOKS:
?-1500S	Genesis Job (life)?	
1400S	Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy Job (life/written)?	
1300S	Joshua Judges 1-3	
1200S	Judges 3-5	
1100S	Judges 5:31-10 Ruth	
1000S	Judges 11-21 1 & 2 Samuel 1 Chronicles 10-22	
900S	1 Kings 1-16 1 Chronicles 23 - 2 Chronicles 15 Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs Job (written)?	
800S	1 Kings 16 - 2 Kings 13 2 Chronicles 16-24	Joel Obadiah

700S	<u>2 Kings</u> 13-18 <u>2 Chronicles</u> 25-32	<u>Amos</u> <u>Hosea</u> <u>Isaiah</u> <u>Jonah</u> <u>Micah</u>
600S	<u>2 Kings</u> 19-24 <u>2 Chronicles</u> 33-36	<u>Hosea</u> <u>Jeremiah</u> <u>Daniel</u> 1 <u>Micah</u> <u>Nahum</u> <u>Habakkuk</u> <u>Zephaniah</u>
500S	<u>2 Kings</u> 24-25 <u>2 Chronicles</u> 36 <u>Ezra</u> 1-6	<u>Jeremiah</u> <u>Lamentations</u> <u>Ezekiel</u> <u>Daniel</u> <u>Haggai</u> <u>Zechariah</u>
400S	<u>Ezra</u> 7-10 <u>Nehemiah</u> <u>Esther</u>	<u>Malachi</u>

<https://www.understandchristianity.com/timelines/chronology-old-testament-books/>