

Hear, O our God!
Dealing with Opposition, Part One
Nehemiah 4:1-6
Stuart W. Bryan

I. Introduction

II. Facing Opposition

A. Sanballat's Rage

B. Nehemiah's Prayer

C. The People's Persistence

III. Those Troubling Prayers

A. A Broader Problem (cf. Ps 69:19-28; Jer 18:18-23)

An imprecatory prayer is one that calls down _____ upon the enemies of God.

B. Modern Opposition

C. Cursing a Fig Tree (1 Pet 2:19-24; Mk 11:20-26)

1. Be Removed & Cast into the Sea

Jesus is instructing the disciples how to pray for the overthrow of the _____, how to accomplish its destruction.

2. Forgive anything you have against anyone (Lk 9:51-56; Ro 12:17-21)

Jesus insists that there is absolutely no room for _____ vengeance in all of this. When we pray for the overthrow of God's enemies, we are praying for the overthrow of His enemies not our _____ enemies.

"We should pray that our enemies be converted and become our friends, and if not, that their doing and designing be bound to fail and have no success and that their persons perish rather than the Gospel and the kingdom of Christ. Thus the saintly martyr Anastasia, a wealthy, noble Roman matron, prayed against her husband, an idolatrous and terrible ravager of Christians, who had flung her into a horrible prison, in which she had to stay and die. There she lay and wrote to the saintly Chrysogonus diligently to pray for her husband that, if possible, he be converted and believe; but if not, that he be unable to carry out his plans and that he soon make an end of his ravaging. Thus she prayed him to death, for he went to war and did not return home. So we, too, pray for our angry enemies, not that God protect and strengthen them in their ways, as we pray for Christians, or that He help them, but that they be converted, if they can be; or, if they refuse, that God oppose them, stop them and end the game to their harm and misfortune." Martin Luther

IV. Conclusion