

# Nehemiah 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

## Analysis

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**And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.**

This verse within Nehemiah 4 addresses themes of opposition, perseverance, prayer and work, spiritual warfare. Opposition intensifies as the work progresses, requiring both spiritual response (prayer) and practical measures (armed defense). This passage demonstrates biblical principles applicable across both testaments—God's sovereignty combined with human responsibility, faith expressed through obedient action, and the necessity of both individual and corporate commitment to covenant faithfulness. Nehemiah models leadership that combines vision, prayer, courage, integrity, and perseverance amid sustained opposition.

## Historical Context

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Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. The 52-day wall completion represents remarkable achievement given opposition and limited resources. Excavations have confirmed portions of Nehemiah's wall and various gates mentioned in the text. The Persian period was crucial transitional time when Jewish identity shifted from monarchical nationalism to Torah-centered covenantal community. Without political independence, the people's cohesion depended on shared scripture, temple worship, and covenant obedience. This established patterns persisting

through the Second Temple period into New Testament times. Understanding this context illuminates Jesus's ministry among a people shaped by these reforms and challenges.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Nehemiah 4:11 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific contribution can you make to building up Christ's church in your local community?
3. How does understanding your work as part of God's larger purposes transform your approach to daily responsibilities?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר ו	צָר יֵנוּ	ל א	יָדְעוּ	וְל א	יִרְא ו
<b>said</b>	<b>And our adversaries</b>	H3808	<b>They shall not know</b>	H3808	<b>neither see</b>
H559	H6862		H3045		H7200

עַד	אֲשֶׁר	נָב וְא	אֶל	תּוֹכֵם	וְהִכָּנּוּ וְ	וְהִשָּׁבּ תָּנוּ	אֶת
H5704	H834	<b>till we come</b>	H413	<b>among</b>	<b>them and slay</b>	<b>to cease</b>	H853
		H935		H8432	H2026	H7673	

הַמְּלָאכָה:

**them and cause the work**  
H4399