

# Nehemiah 4 – Rebuilding with Opposition

## 《尼希米記》第4章 – 在阻擾中重建

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We were on holiday recently, and we were at the beach on one of the few days it wasn't raining. And one of my favourite things to do with the kids at the beach is to build sand castles.

我們最近在度假，有幾天沒有下雨，我們在海灘上。我最喜歡和孩子們一起在海灘上做的事情之一就是建造沙堡。

When it comes to techniques and strategies for sandcastle building, which we can argue about later if you have strong feelings, the first and most important thing to build is the wall. I need a strong defensive wall because I want to build close to the water, but I don't want the waves to destroy my creation.

當談到建造沙堡的技術和策略時，如果你有強烈的感情，我們可以稍後再討論，首先要建造的是牆。我需要一堵堅固的防禦牆，因為我想建在靠近水的地方，但我不希望海浪破壞我的創造。

Build the walls up. I've even started taking a full-sized shovel to the beach. But what always happens, there is always opposition. The waves do not stop. Just because I've built the walls doesn't mean the waves don't come.

把牆建起來，我甚至開始帶著一把全尺寸的鏟子去海灘。但是總是有反對的事情會發生。海浪不止。僅僅因為我已經建造了圍牆，並不意味著海浪不會來。

And the walls might stand for a couple of small waves. But then there's a big wave that floods everything. It goes around the walls and over, and there's squealing and yelling, and the kids are shouting too.

圍牆可能可以防禦幾個小浪。但隨後若有一個大浪就會淹沒了一切。它繞著圍牆翻來覆去轉了一圈，到處都是尖叫聲和吼叫聲，孩子們也在大喊大叫。

Everything has been destroyed into a sloppy wet mess. So, you start again.

一切都被毀得一團糟。所以你重新開始。

Get to the point where you just feel like giving up.

達到你只想放棄的地步。

Have you ever felt like this in life? Trying to make something, build something, try hard to grow as a disciple following Jesus, make a difference in the world for God, have a family going in the same direction loving God, or make an impact at work. But some waves just do not stop coming.

你人生中有過這樣的感覺嗎？試圖創造一些東西，建造一些東西。努力成長為跟隨耶穌的門徒，為上帝改變世界，努力讓家庭朝著愛上帝的方向前進，或在工作中產生影響。但海浪也不停地湧來。

There is an opposition that wants to knock it all over. Opposition comes from family, friends, and work.

有阻礙想要徹底推翻它。來自家人或朋友，工作的反對。

How do we respond to opposition?

我們如何回應阻擋？

Do we respond to opposition out of our strength or God's strength?

我們以出於自己的力量，還是出於上帝的力量去回應阻擾？

Are we tempted to think that the waves of opposition are too strong to fight against? Is it just easier to give up?

我們是否傾向於認為反對的浪潮太強大而無法對抗？放棄會不會是更容易？

We are in the book of Nehemiah, seeing that we have been built to build. God's people, exiled from Israel, have returned from Babylon and are seeking to rebuild. The focus is on rebuilding the city's walls and the temple to show the world how great God is.

我們在《尼希米記》中看到我們是為了建造而被建造。上帝的子民從以色列被流放，從巴比倫返回，並正在尋求重建。重點是重建城牆和聖殿，向世界展示上帝的偉大。

But there is opposition.

但面對不同的阻礙。

Today, we will see how Nehemiah and Israel respond to this external opposition, and we'll be challenged as we face opposition to trust in God.

今天，我們將看到尼希米和以色列如何應對這些外在的反對，和當我們面對反對我們信靠上帝的阻力時，將面臨的挑戰。

### 1. Opposition 阻擋

Verse 1 of chapter 4 shows the opposition.

第4章第1節顯示了所面對的阻擋。

*When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?"*

1 參巴拉聽見我們建造城牆就發怒，非常惱恨，並嗤笑猶太人。2 他對他的弟兄和撒瑪利亞的軍兵說：「這些軟弱的猶太人做甚麼呢？要為自己重建嗎？要獻祭嗎？要一日完工嗎？要使土堆裡火燒過的石頭再有用嗎？」

Sanballat was a governor of Samaria, which was formerly part of Israel. Sanballat is not just annoyed. He is angry and greatly incensed. Often we can think that someone is angry with us specifically, but his anger is not just directed at the people of Israel but is deeper.

參巴拉是撒瑪利亞的總督，撒瑪利亞以前是以色列的一部分。參巴拉不僅發怒，而且非常惱恨。通常我們可以認為有人特別生我們的氣，但他的憤怒不僅針對以色列人，而且更深。

Have a look at his accusations.

看看他的指控。

Will they restore the wall / offer sacrifices / finish in a day / bring stones back to life?

他們要修復城牆/要獻祭/在一天內完成/使石頭起死回生嗎？

The purpose of the building works was so that Israel could once again praise and worship God. Sanballat knows this. Are you going to build this so you can bring sacrifices? Sacrifices so you can praise God, worship him, make atonement and deal with your sin?

建造工程的目的是讓以色列人能夠再次讚美和敬拜上帝。參巴拉知道這一點，你們是否要重建，要獻祭？獻祭是為了讚美神，敬拜他，為了贖罪和處理你們的罪？

There is an undercurrent of Sanballat against God, not just the Israelites. But they take the opposition too.

參巴拉不僅僅是對以色列人，而且是對上帝有一股反對的暗流。但他們也接受反對。

He questions whether they can actually build it. You've got the wrong plan. You're using the wrong stones. You won't even finish what you've started.

他質疑他們是否真的可以建造它。你有錯誤的計畫，你使用了錯誤的石頭，你甚至不會完成你已經開始的事情。

Then Tobiah the Ammonite chimes in verse 3.

亞捫人多比雅在第3節插話。

*3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!"*

3 亞捫人多比雅在一旁說：「他們所修造的石牆，就是狐狸上去也必崩裂。」

Let's all stand around and mock how stupid Israel is for even trying to do this. Hard when opposition grows.

讓我們都站在一起嘲笑以色列試圖這樣做是多麼愚蠢。當反對聲增加時很難。

I've recently been watched a show called Welcome to Wrexham. About some American celebrities who buy a Welsh football team. And what happens when a team has a really good player? The opposition puts extra pressure on them. Instead of 1 person defending them, it's 2.

我最近看了一個叫《歡迎來到雷克瑟姆》的節目。關於一些購買威爾士足球隊的美國名人。當一支球隊擁有一名非常優秀的球員時會發生什麼？對手會給他們施加額外的壓力。不只是一個人去防守，而是兩個人。

Imagine if no one opposed rebuilding the walls and the temple. I wonder if that would almost dismiss the God of Israel. Instead, people are against it – because it is significant. Because they know this God has power.

想像一下，如果沒有人反對重建城牆和聖殿。我想知道這是否會幾乎使以色列的神不屑一顧。相反，人們反對它，是因為它很重要。因為他們知道這位神有大能力。

Opposition is not always a bad thing. It actually points out where something is going well.

反對並不總是一件壞事。它實際上指出了事情進展順利的地方。

For us, what opposition are we getting?

對我們來說，我們得到了什麼樣的阻擋？

Are you seeking to grow following God? There will be opposition.

你在尋求跟隨上帝成長嗎？會有阻礙。

When my kids see me reading my Bible, they don't ridicule and harass me. But it might be true for people in your family, so you feel you have to do it in secret.

當我的孩子看到我讀聖經時，他們不會嘲笑和騷擾我。但你家裡的人可能會，所以你覺得你必須秘密地做。

Are you seeking to make your life count and see other people's lives changed? There will be opposition.

你是否正在尋求讓自己的人生變得有意義，並看到其他人的生命改變？會有阻擋。

Jesus faced much opposition. Paul had much opposition. Christians and the Christian church have always faced opposition.

耶穌面臨許多對抗。保羅面臨很多阻擋。基督徒和基督教會一直面臨反對。

Some of it will be to have a softer Christian life. One is Christian in name only. You've said you don't want to get drunk anymore, but come out with us. Change your view of life and be like us. Soft opposition, peer pressure. Things that seem minor at the moment but snowball.

其中一些是為了過一種容易的基督徒生命，是一種只是名義上的基督徒。你說過你不想再喝醉了，但和我們一起出來吧。改變你的人生觀，去像我們一樣。軟反對，同儕壓力。當下看起來很小但會像滾雪球一樣的事情。

Cancel culture opposition from outside. Your God is dead. Going to church is a complete waste of time. Stop doing what you're doing.

取消文化是來自外在的反對。你的上帝已經死了。去教堂完全是浪費時間。停止做你正在做的事情。

Growth following Jesus, being close to Jesus, knowing him, and changing behaviour out of a desire to have obedience. Honour and please him. Serve him in the church. Sacrificially give. Tell others about Jesus.

跟隨耶穌成長，親近耶穌。認識他。出於對服從的渴望而改變行為。尊重並取悅他。在教會服侍他。犧牲的奉獻。告訴別人關於耶穌的事。

What would the Sanballat and Tobiahs of this world say?

這個世界的參巴拉和多比雅會怎麼說？

You can't. You shouldn't do that. You want to be pure – you can't do that. I know what you're like. God can't forgive you. I went to university with you. There's no way God could forgive you! You want other people to know Jesus – we all know that science has defeated God.

你不能。你不應該那樣做。你想要純潔—你不能那樣做，我知道你是什麼樣的。神不能饒恕你，我和你一起上大學，神不可能饒恕你！你想讓其他人認識耶穌—我們都知道科學已經打敗了上帝。

Yeah, Tobiah shouts, and you're the very worst, weakest Christian I've ever seen. I've seen more faithful and devout Muslims and Sikhs than you Christians.

是的，多比雅喊道，你是我見過最糟糕，最軟弱的基督徒。我見過的穆斯林和錫克教徒比你們基督徒更忠信和虔誠。

Just stop pretending now.  
現在就別裝了。

As a Christian, the question is not ‘will there be opposition? It is promised. But the question is – ‘how will we respond’?  
作為基督徒，問題不在於「是否會有反對」。這是已承諾了的。問題應是，「我們該如何應對？」

## 2. Response 應對

Nehemiah has been seeking to rebuild the walls and the temple to bring glory to God and restore the people to their country. And he’s been slammed on his plans and his God and their ability actually to finish what they’ve started.

尼希米一直在尋求重建城牆和聖殿去為神帶來榮耀，並恢復人民的國家。他的計畫和他的上帝以及他們真正完成他們已經開始的事情的能力都被抨擊了。

How will he respond?  
他會如何回應？

Firstly, in prayer.  
首先，禱告。

Verse 4  
第 4 節

*4 Hear us, our God, for we are despised.*  
4 我們的上帝啊，求你垂聽，因為我們被藐視。

Nehemiah doesn’t get defensive, ‘we’ll be fine. We can do it. We’re great!’ Or aggressive – ‘who do you think you are? What have you built.’

尼希米沒有自言自語的說，「我們會沒事的，我們能做到的。我們很棒！」或者咄咄逼的說，「你認為你是誰，你做了什麼。」

But he prays.  
他祈禱。

*4 Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.*

4 我們的上帝啊，求你垂聽，因為我們被藐視。求你使他們的譏諷歸於他們自己頭上，使他們在被擄之地成為掠物。5 不要遮掩他們的罪孽，不要使他們的罪惡從你面前塗去，因為他們在修造的人前面惹你發怒。

Nehemiah asks God to hear them and their pleas in their situation. Turn their insults back on them, and in modern terms, says, send them to hell. Don’t deal with their sin but pour out your full wrath on them because they are against you.

尼希米求神垂聽他們，以及他們對他們處境的懇求。使他們的譏諷歸於他們自己頭上，用現代的話來說，就是把他們送進地獄。不要遮掩他們的罪孽，而是將你的全部憤怒傾倒在他們身上，因為他們反對你惹你發怒。

Two really helpful things about this attitude when responding to opposition.  
這兩個態度在回應對抗阻擋時，真的很有幫助。

1. Pray
1. 祈禱

When you're angry and upset by opposition, turn to God in prayer. He knows our situation, and he is the one who has the power to save us.

當阻擋使你感到憤怒和不安時，請在禱告中轉向上帝。他知道我們的處境，唯有他是有能力去拯救我們。

2. Trust God to fight against the opposition.
2. 相信上帝必為我們爭戰。

God is the one who acts. Turn to him to see him work. Wait for him for justice or direction.  
上帝是那作工的。轉向他看他工作。等待他的正義或方向。

So their first response to the opposition was to turn in prayer to the one who can defeat every enemy.  
因此，他們面對對抗的第一反應是在禱告中轉向那能夠擊敗所有敵人的。

But their second response is to act.  
他們的第二個反應是採取行動。

Verse 6.  
第6節。

*6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.*

6 這樣，我們修造城牆，整個城牆就連接起來，到一半高，因為百姓一心做工。

This is really important because Nehemiah doesn't just go off half-cocked or unprepared. We're going to build the biggest and greatest wall ever. You'll see Sanballat. But the first step is prayer, and then they act.

這一點非常重要，因為尼希米不會半途而廢或毫無準備。我們將建造有史以來最大最偉大的牆，你會看到參巴拉。但第一步是祈禱，然後他們採取行動。

They also don't just pray and sit passively. They expect God to act, but they will keep the focus on obeying God and building the wall. And they do this with all their heart.

他們也不只是被動地祈禱和坐著。他們期望上帝採取行動，但他們也會繼續專注於順服上帝並建造城牆。他們全心全意地這樣做。

Jesus is the example here for us in responding to opposition. 1 Peter 2:21-23  
耶穌是我們應對阻擋的榜樣。《彼得前書》2:21-23

*Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.*

基督也為你們受過苦，給你們留下榜樣，為要使你們跟隨他的腳蹤。22 「他並沒有犯罪，口裡也沒有詭詐。」23 他被辱罵不還口，受害也不說威嚇的話，只將自己交托給公義的審判者。

The one who could rightly and justly defend himself and attack his opposition chose not to because he knew God would vindicate him. God justifies. He depends on God and stays focused on obeying. 那個可以正當公正地為自己辯護並反擊他的反對者的人選擇不這樣做，因為他知道最終上帝會為他申冤。神是公義的。他依靠上帝並專注於順服。

More opposition comes for Nehemiah and Israel, sending them back to prayer and action. 尼希米和以色列人面對更多的阻擋，使他們重新去祈禱和行動。

*7 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.*

7 參巴拉、多比雅、阿拉伯人、亞捫人和亞實突人聽見耶路撒冷城牆正在修造，破裂的地方開始進行修補，就非常憤怒。8 大家同謀要來攻打耶路撒冷，使城混亂。

Again, they don't stop because of someone else's threats and plans for evil. There's an interesting detail here about the regions of the people.

同樣，他們不會因為別人的威脅和邪惡計畫而停止。這裡有一個關於這些人所在的地區的有趣細節。

Sanballat's group, the Samaritans, were from the North. Arabs are from the south, people from Ashdod are from the west, and the Ammonites are from the east. They surround Jerusalem.

參巴拉的一黨，是來自北方的撒瑪利亞人。阿拉伯人來自南方，亞實突人來自西方，亞捫人來自東方。他們包圍了耶路撒冷。

God sometimes allows us to be surrounded. Paul says in 2 Corinthians, we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed. The word 'afflicted' could mean pressed in. As if being squashed by crowds – but not crushed.

上帝有時允許我們四面受敵被包圍。保羅在《哥林多後書》說，我們處處受困，卻不被捆住。「受困」可能意味著被壓。好像被人群壓扁——但沒有被壓垮。

God allows the furnace of opposition and suffering to be hot, painful, and challenging. That's what is happening to Nehemiah. His enemies have gone from jeering to plotting. The heat is being turned up. How will they respond?

上帝確實會讓反對和苦難的熔爐變得熾熱、痛苦和艱難。這就是發生在尼希米身上的事。他的敵人已經從嘲笑變成了密謀。熱量正在增加。他們將如何回應？

Verse 9

第9節

*9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.*

9 然而，我們向我們的上帝禱告，又因他們的緣故，就派人站崗，晝夜防備他們。

They take sensible precautions to make sure that they can keep going. They focus on God, who is their help and strength.

他們採取明智的預防措施以確保他們能夠繼續前進。專注於他們的幫助和力量的上帝。

Circumstances in our lives can be a mess. They can be like a heated furnace. There can be opposition and challenge all around.

我們生活中的情況可能一團糟。可以像一個加熱的熔爐。到處都可以有反對和挑戰。

But God is bigger than our opposition. He is bigger than our struggles. Bigger than our past. Bigger than our pain and hurt. He is bigger than those who mock you, jeer, and plot to hurt you. God is bigger than loss and sickness.

但上帝比我們的阻礙更大。比我們的掙扎更大。比我們的過去更大。比我們的痛苦和傷害更大。他比那些嗤笑你、嘲笑和陰謀傷害你的人更大。上帝比任何損失和疾病更大。

We stay focussed on Him.

我們要保持專注於祂。

Opposition to attending church, reading the Bible, or even giving to the church. It is easy to compromise your faith and feel the need to stop because of the pressure. But that is staying focussed on the enemy instead of the one who defeats the enemy.

面對去教會，或讀聖經，甚至奉獻給教會的阻擋。很容易在信心上妥協，因為壓力而感到需要停下來。但這就是專注於敵人，而不是能擊敗敵人的那位。

God's plan was for them to build the walls. They didn't change their plans based on negative criticism and feedback. They stayed focussed on the job that God had given them. As Taylor Swift sang, 'haters are gonna hate.' But I'm going to shake it off and obey God. I think that's how that song went.

上帝的計畫是讓他們建造城牆。他們沒有根據負面的批評和回饋改變他們的計畫。他們一心專注於上帝給他們的工作。正如泰勒·斯威夫特（Taylor Swift）所唱的那樣，「憎恨的人總會恨惡」，但我要擺脫它，服從上帝。我想那首歌就是這樣唱的。

### 3. Reality 現實

It seems all are ready, great and straightforward.

這似乎一切準備就緒，非常好，簡單明瞭。

There is opposition. But the people focus on God and obey him.

會有對擋。但是人們專注於上帝並服從他。

But life can often feel like two steps forward, one step back. Or one step ahead and three steps back. But life often feels like two steps forward, one step back. Or one step ahead and three steps back.

但生命往往感覺就像前進 2 步後退 1 步。甚至前進 1 步後退 3 步。

Because not everything is smooth sailing for Israel.

因為對以色列來說，並非一切都一帆風順。

Verse 10-12

第 10-12 節

*10 Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." 11 Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the*



work.” 12 Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

10 但猶大有話說：「扛抬的人力氣衰弱，瓦礫太多，我們自己不可能建造城牆。」11 我們的敵人說：「趁他們不知道，看不見的時候，我們進入他們中間，殺了他們，使工作停止。」12 那靠近敵人居住的猶太人十次從各處來見我們，說：「你們必須回到我們那裡。」

We're tired. There is so much work.  
我們累了。有這麼多的工作。

They are going to harm us and kill us.  
他們會傷害我們並殺死我們。

They are coming to attack us.  
他們會來攻擊我們。

So Nehemiah gets everyone together and strengthens them.  
因此，尼希米叫百姓聚集在一起，並鼓勵他們。

Verse 14.  
第 14 節

*“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.”*  
「不要怕他們！當記得主是大而可畏的。你們要為你們的弟兄、兒女、妻子、家園爭戰。」

Stand and fight because the Lord is awesome, and he fights for us!  
站起來戰鬥，因為主是大而可畏的，他必會為我們而戰！

And they back off. Verse 15. The enemies are frustrated because Israel isn't afraid of them but trusts in God.  
他們退下了。第 15 節說知道上帝破壞了他們的計謀，因為以色列人不怕他們，信靠上帝繼續各做各的工。

Verse 16 tells us that from then on, the work slows but continues because half of the men did the work and half were ready to defend the walls. Nehemiah encourages them to keep working and be prepared to fight and says in verse 20, ‘Our God will fight for us!’  
第 16 節告訴我們，從那時起工作放緩但繼續進行，因為工作的人一半做工，一半準備好保衛城牆。尼希米鼓勵他們繼續工作並準備好戰鬥，並在第 20 節中說，「我們的上帝必為我們爭戰。」

Obey God, follow him, even when there is opposition – because God is on your side. He will fight for you.  
服從上帝，跟隨他，即使在阻擋之中——因為上帝站在你這邊。他會為你而戰。

Brothers and Sisters. God is on our side. He has fought for us in Jesus. Not with weapons of war. But Jesus was armed with a cross. He didn't fight earthly enemies but death itself so we could follow him so that we might be built not into a wall but into the family of God.

弟兄姐妹們。上帝站在我們這邊。他在耶穌裡為我們而戰。不是用戰爭的武器。耶穌用了十字架。他不是與地上的敵人作戰，而是與死亡本身作戰。這樣我們就可以跟隨他。這樣我們就可以被建造，不是成為一道牆，而是被建造成神的家。

Life is not easy. There will be opposition to following God. There will be difficult struggles and hard days. But God has fought for us in Jesus so we can follow him.

生活是不容易的。跟隨上帝會遭到對擋。會有艱難的掙扎和艱難的日子。但是上帝在耶穌裡為我們而戰，使我們就可以跟隨他。

### Conclusion 結論

So, when there is opposition, know that it is good.

所以，當面對阻擋時，要知道它是好的。

Points out something good.

是指出一些好的東西的。

In the exercise world, there is something called DOMS. Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness. I remember digging fence post holes with Steve; the next day, the middle of my back was sore. Now, in one sense, that made me think – I never want to do that again.

在運動世界中，有一種叫做 DOMS 的東西。延遲性肌肉酸痛。我記得和史蒂夫一起挖柵欄柱洞，第二天，我的背部中間非常疼。現在，從某種意義上說，這讓我想——我再也不想這樣做了。

But that pain is actually helpful. It is pointing out – this muscle has had opposition, and if you want to keep doing that, it needs to tear to grow. And that's painful.

但這種痛苦實際上是有幫助的。它指出——這塊肌肉有過阻力，如果你想繼續這樣做，它需要撕裂才能生長。這很痛苦。

Pain and opposition are not always bad things for us.

痛苦和對抗對我們來說並不總是一件壞事。

It points out what is good – there is opposition because I'm reading the Bible! I should keep doing that! Even though it hurts.

它指出什麼是好的——因為我在讀聖經，所以有人反對！我應該繼續這樣做！雖然很痛。

Opposition and struggle show what is most important: will we depend on God? Or ourselves?

對抗和掙扎表明最重要的是，我們要依靠上帝嗎？還是我們自己？