

Chapter 4

Notwithstanding the enimies rage and oppofe againft the building of walles, 4. the Iewes build with one hand, and hold their fwordes in the other. Nehemias encoraget them, and the worke proceedeth.

And it came to paffe, when Sanaballat had heard that we builded the wal, he was very angrie: and being moued excedingly he scorned the Iewes, ² and fayd before his bretheren, and the multitude of the Samaritanes: What doe ^athe fillie Iewes? Wil the gentiles let them alone? Shal they facrifice and accomplifh in one day? Why, are they able to build vp the ftones out of the heapes of duft, that are burnt? ³ Yea Tobias alfo the Ammanite his neighbour fayd: Let them build: if a fox come vp, he fhall leape ouer their ftone wal. ⁴ Heare our God, becaufe we are had in difpife: turne the reproch vpon their head, and giue them into difpite in a Land of captiuitie. ⁵ Couer not their iniquitie, and let not their finne be put out before thy face, becaufe they haue mocked thy builders. ⁶ Therefore we built the wal, and ioyned together the whole vnto the halfe part: and the hart of the people was prouoked to worke. ⁷ And it came to paffe, when Sanaballat had heard, and Tobias, and the Arabians, and the Ammanites, and the Azotians, that the breach of the wal of Ierufalem was clofed vp, and the gates began to be ftopped, they were wrath excedingly. ⁸ And they were all affembled together, to come, and to fight againft Ierufalem, and to prepare embuifments. ⁹ And we prayed our God, and fet watchmen vpon the wal day and night againft them. ¹⁰ And Iudas fayd: The ftrength of him that carrieth is weakened, & the mortar

^a It was Gods prouidence that the enemies mocking at the reparation of Ierufalem did not fo furiously refift, til the worke was performed: fo fometimes heretikes fcoffe at the endeouours of poore prieftes laboring to reftore Catholique religion: but whether they fcoffe or rage, Gods holie worke procedeth and profpereth.

is very much, and we shal not be able to build the wal.
¹¹ And our enimies sayd: Let them not know, and let them be ignorant, til we come into the midst of them, and kil them, and make their worke to cease. ¹² And it came to passe, the Iewes that dwelt beside them, coming and telling vs ten times, out of al places from whence they came to vs. ¹³ I sette the people in a place behind the wal round about in order, with their fwordes, and speares, and bowes. ¹⁴ And I looked and rose vp: & I sayd to the princes and magistrates, and to the rest of the common people: Be not afrayd at their face. Remember our Lord is great and terrible, and fight for your bretheren, your fannes, and your daughters, and your wiues, and your houfes. ¹⁵ And it came to passe, when our enimies had heard that it was told vs, God defeted their counfel. And we returned al to the walles, euery man to his worke. ¹⁶ And it came to passe from that day, the halfe part of their yongmen did the worke, and halfe was ready to battel, and speares, & shields, and bowes, and cotes of mayle, and the princes behind them in al the house of Iuda, ¹⁷ of them that built in the wal, and that carried burdens, and that laded them: with one of his hands he did the worke, & with the other he held a fword: ¹⁸ for euery one of the builders was girded with a fword about his reynes. And they builded, and founded with the trumpet nere me. ¹⁹ And I sayd to the princes, and to the magistrates, & to the rest of the common people: The worke is great and broad, and we are seperated in the wal one far from an other: ²⁰ in what place foeuer you shal heare the found of the trumpet, thither runne together vnto vs: our God wil fight for vs. ²¹ And let our felues doe the worke: and let the halfe part of vs hold speares from the ryfing of the morning, til the starres appeare. ²² At that time also I sayd to the people: Let euery man with his seruant tarry in the middes of Ierusalem, and let there be courses among vs by day and night to worke. ²³ And I and my bretheren, and my seruants, and the watchmen, that were behinde me, did not put of our clothes: euery man was made bare only to wafhing.