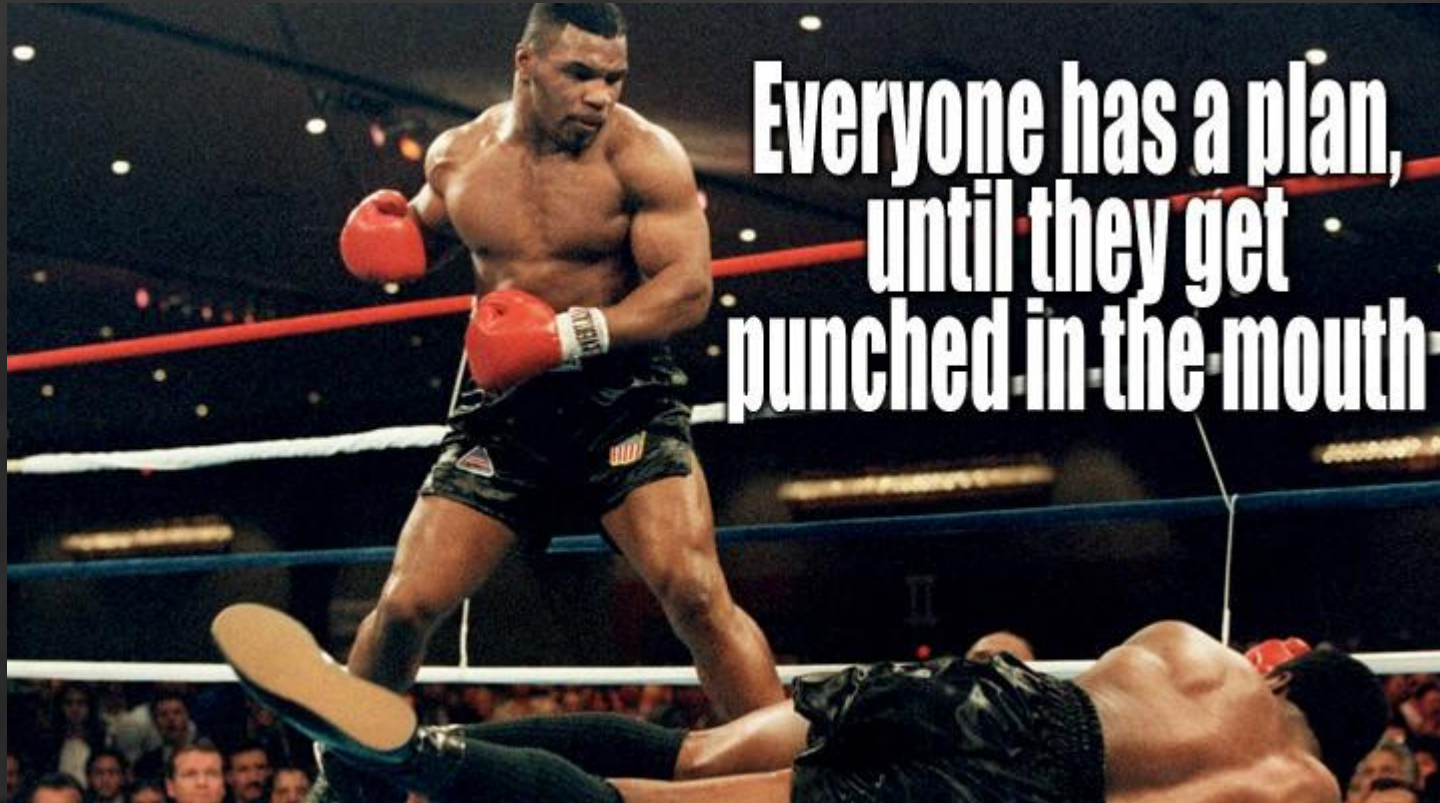


Me Against the World
When your plan comes under attack



Nehemiah 4:1-14

Mike Tyson famously said.....



How do we
overcome

Haters?
Doubters?
Threats?
Attacks?

Main Idea

When you take advantage of the opportunity to pursue your vision, opposition will arise to try to derail you from your destiny

Nehemiah 4:1-4

Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. 2 And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” 3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!” 4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives.

Nehemiah 4:5-9

5 Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. 6 So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

7 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. 8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it: 9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

Nehemiah 4:10-14

10 In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." 11 And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." 12 At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." 13 So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. 14 And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

In the midst of the work

Sanballet had a problem
Nehemiah's vision for Jerusalem
Was a threat

People are going to have a problem
with your progress



Sometimes people don't try to hold you down until they notice
you trying to get up

The enemy's battle plan

Ridiculed

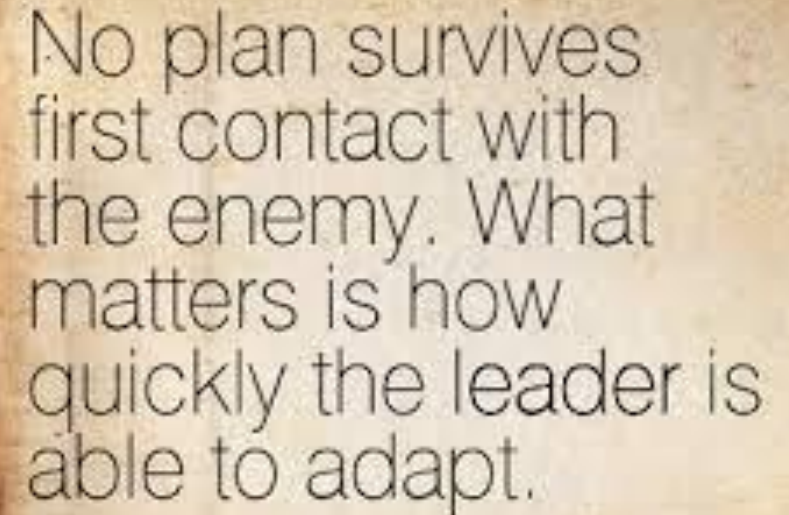
“What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day?”

Mocked

“what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”

Attacked

“they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it”



No plan survives first contact with the enemy. What matters is how quickly the leader is able to adapt.

meerville.com

Tim Harford

The result (v. 10) – “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.”

Satan wants to



Crush your confidence
By planting seeds of doubt
That grow into forests of fear and
fields of worry

A harvest of defeat

Nehemiah isn't having it

He didn't retaliate with words

Luke 6:28 – bless those who curse you

James 3:10 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

Put on your armor

v.9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

**NOT
TODAY,
SATAN.
NOT
TODAY.**

The worst way to fight your enemy is outside of the will of God in your own strength

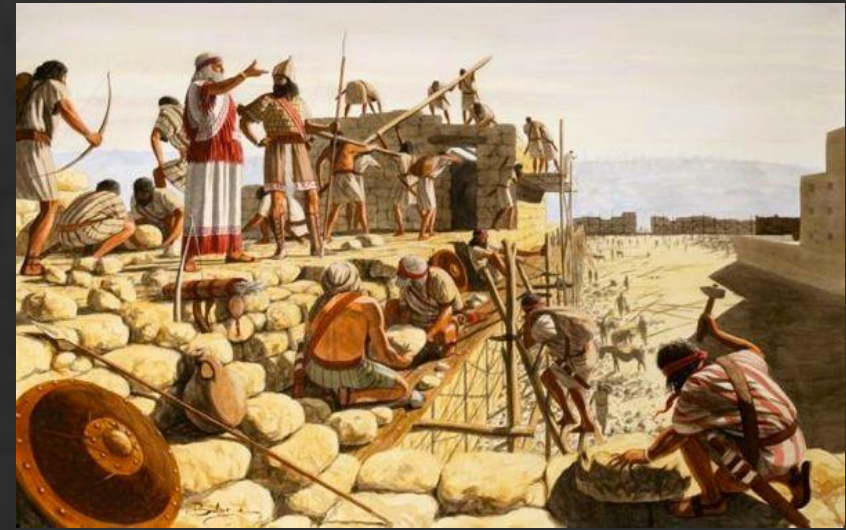
How Nehemiah overcame

Make adjustments

I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

Give yourself a pep talk

“...said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”



Just because

You've got favor

You've got a plan

When you launched a plan
Satan started plotting
Despite your opposition

You're an overcomer

DOESN'T

MEAN

You won't have to fight

You won't have problems

**STRENGTH
DOESN'T COME FROM
WHAT YOU CAN DO.
IT COMES FROM
OVERCOMING
THE THINGS YOU
ONCE THOUGHT YOU
COULDN'T.**