

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 6

¹ Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had built the wall, and *that* there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not set up the doors on the gates), ² that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together in the villages in the plain of Ono." But they *were* plotting to do me harm. ³ So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, and I shall not be able to come down, lest the work should cease; as soon as I have finished it, I will come down to you." ⁴ And they sent to me *again* with the same request, and I sent them *word* accordingly. ⁵ Then Sanballat sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. ⁶ And in it was written, "It has been reported among the Gentiles that you and the Jews are planning to revolt. Therefore you are building the wall, and you will be a king to them. ⁷ And moreover you have appointed prophets to yourself, that you might dwell in Jerusalem as a king over Judah; and now these words will be reported to the king. Now then, come, let us take counsel together." ⁸ And I sent to him, saying, "It has not happened according to these words, *even* as you say, for you frame them falsely out of your own heart." ⁹ For all were trying to alarm us, saying, "Their hands shall be weakened from this work, and it shall not be done." Now therefore I have strengthened my hands.

¹⁰ And I came into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the Son of Mehetabel, and he was shut up; and he said, "Let us assemble together in the house of God, in the midst of it, and let us shut the doors of it; for they are coming by night to slay you." ¹¹ And I said, "Who is the man that shall enter into the house, that he may live?" ¹² And I observed, and behold, God had not sent him, for the prophecy was a fable *devised* against me: ¹³ and Tobiah and Sanballat had hired a multitude against me, that I might be frightened, and do this, and sin, and become to them an ill name, that they might reproach me.

¹⁴ Remember, O God, Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their deeds, and the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets who tried to alarm me.

¹⁵ So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ And it came to pass, when all our enemies heard *of it*, that all the nations round about us feared, and great alarm fell upon them, and they knew that it was of our God that this work should be finished.

¹⁷ And in those days letters came to Tobiah from many nobles of Judah, and those of Tobiah came to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were bound to him by oath, because he was son-in-law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and Jehohanan his son had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah for a wife. ¹⁹ And they reported his words to me, and carried out my words to him: and Tobiah sent letters to terrify me.