

Dealing with Distractions Nehemiah 6

I. Plotting Against Nehemiah – 6:1-4

1. Enemies focus on Nehemiah – 1
Security is set against any enemy attack
Unity is restored among the Jews
As a result the work of building walls is resumed
There are no breaks in the wall – except at gates
2. Enemies call for a conference – 1-2
Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem, & other enemies
"Come let us meet together in plain of Ono"
This place is about 23 miles from Jerusalem
Nehemiah suspected a plot "to do him harm"
3. Nehemiah's response - 3
He sent a messenger rejecting the invitation
"I am doing a great work and cannot come"
Even if not a plot to harm it would slow the work
"Why should the work stop while I leave it"
4. They try to reschedule 4 times – 4
Nehemiah gives the same response each time

II. The Open Letter – 5-9

1. Fifth time comes with an open letter – 5
This is added to get him to come to meet
2. You need to answer accusations – 6-7
You and Jews intend to rebel – reason for wall
You want to become king of the Jews
You have set up prophets to proclaim you
King will hear reports of a king in Judah
You need to come so we can talk about this
3. Nehemiah rejects their offer – 8
No truth in this - you made it all up
4. Nehemiah sees through their plot – 9
Sees it as a way to frighten him
Distract him & his people from the work
He prays, asks God to strengthen his hands

III. Hide in the Temple – 10-14

1. Jewish prophet warns Nehemiah – 10
There is a plot to kill you – probably at night
We can find safety in the Temple
2. Nehemiah sees through prophecy – 11-13
Rejects warning to seek refuge
God did not send him with this message
Tobiah & Sanballat had hired him
They wanted to make him afraid
They wanted to turn him from obeying God
They wanted to defame and discredit him
3. Nehemiah commits it all to God – 14
God, you deal with Tobiah and Sanballad
Deal also with Prophetess & other prophets
Those who seek to make me afraid

IV. Wall is Completed – 15-19

1. Wall is finished in 52 days – 15
2. Great testimony to neighbors – 16
Enemies & nations around them were afraid
They fell greatly in their own esteem
They knew this was done with God's help
3. Work done in spite of distractions -17-19
Jewish nobles & Tobiah communicated
They were connected by inter-marriage
They told Nehemiah good things of Tobiah
They told Tobiah what Nehemiah said
Led to Tobiah's letters to Nehemiah to
make him afraid