

**Nehemiah's Battle
within**
Nehemiah 6:1-7:3

Nehemiah's Opposition

- Degrade

¹ Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, ²saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, "What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they're doing?"

[Nehemiah 4:1-2](#)

Nehemiah's Opposition

- Degrade – “He flew in a rage and mocked the Jews...”
- Destroy

¹¹ Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what's happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.”

Nehemiah 4:11

Nehemiah's Opposition

- Degrade – “He flew in a rage and mocked the Jews...”
- Destroy – “...we will swoop down on them and kill them...”

¹ Sanballot, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained – though we had not yet set up the doors and the gates.

Nehemiah 6:1

⁹ “Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers.

Matthew 24:9

¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits...

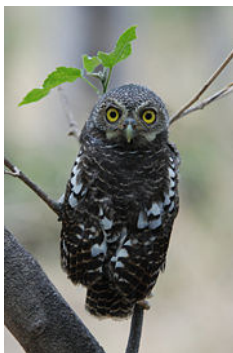
Ephesians 6:12

² So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me...

Nehemiah 6:2

Nehemiah's Opposition

- Degrade – “He flew in a rage and mocked the Jews...”
- Destroy – “...we will swoop down on them and kill them...”
- Distract





...³ so I replied by sending this message to them: "I am engaged in a great work, so I can't come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?"

Nehemiah 6:3

⁴ Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply.

Nehemiah 6:4

⁵The fifth time, Sanballat’s servant came with an open letter in his hand...

Nehemiah 6:5

Nehemiah’s Opposition

- Degrade – “He flew in a rage and mocked the Jews...”
- Destroy – “...we will swoop down on them and kill them...”
- Distract – “Four times they sent the same message...”
- Disgrace

⁶And this is what it said: “There is a rumor among the surrounding nations, and Geshem tells me it is true, that you and the Jews are planning to repel and that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king.

⁷ He also reports that you have appointed prophets in Jerusalem to proclaim about you, 'Look! There is a king in Judah!' You can be very sure that this report will get back to the king, so I suggest that you come and talk it over with me."

Nehemiah 6:6-7

⁸ I replied, "There is no truth in any part of your story. You are making up the whole thing."

Nehemiah 6:8

⁹ They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination.

Nehemiah 6:9

¹⁰ Later I went to visit Shemaiah son of Delaiah and grandson of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home. He said, "Let us meet together inside the Temple of God and bolt the doors shut. Your enemies are coming to kill you tonight."

Nehemiah 6:10

¹¹ But I replied, "Should someone in my position run from danger? Should someone in my position enter the Temple to save his life? No, I won't do it!"

Nehemiah 6:11

Nehemiah's Opposition

- Degrade – "He flew in a rage and mocked the Jews..."
- Destroy – "...we will swoop down on them and kill them..."
- Distract – "Four times they sent the same message..."
- Disgrace – "There is a rumor..."
- Deception

¹² I realized that God had not spoken to him, but that he had uttered this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

Nehemiah 6:12

¹³ They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me.

Nehemiah 6:13

¹⁴ Remember, O my God, all the evil things that Tobiah and Samballat have done. And remember Noadiah the prophet and all the prophets like her who have tried to intimidate me.

Nehemiah 6:14

⁴ Then I prayed, "Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land!"

⁵ Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in front of the builders."

Nehemiah 4:4-5

¹⁵ So on October 2 the wall was finished – just 52 days after we had begun.

Nehemiah 6:15

¹⁶ When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realize this work had been done with the help of our God.

Nehemiah 6:16

¹⁷ During those fifty-two days, many letters went back and forth between Tobiah and the nobles of Judah. ¹⁸ For many in Judah had sworn allegiance to him because his father-in-law was Shecaniah son of Arah,

and his son Jehohanan was married to the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹They kept telling me about Tobiah's good deeds, and then they told him everything I said. And Tobiah kept sending threatening letters to intimidate me.

Nehemiah 6:17-19

¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18

¹ After the wall was finished and I set up the doors and the gates, the gatekeepers, singers, and Levites were appointed.

Nehemiah 7:1

² And I gave the responsibility of governing Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, for he was a faithful man who feared God more than most.

Nehemiah 7:2

³ I said to them, “Do not leave the gates open during the hottest part of the day. And even while the gatekeepers are on duty, have them shut and bar the doors.

Appoint the residents of Jerusalem to act as guards, everyone on a regular watch. Some will serve at sentry posts and some in front of their own homes.”

Nehemiah 7:3

Discussion Questions

- Describe a time you were made fun of or harmed because you were a Christian.
- What are some of the distractions in your life that keep you from fulfilling your calling?
- What are you willing to do about them?

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever been the victim of rumors and gossip?
- What was the result?
- What has been the greatest betrayal you have had to deal with?
- Have you turned it over to God?
