

# Let's Worship God

122nd-27th July 2019  
Nehemiah





## **Monday - Nehemiah 6:5-9 - The Opinions of Others**

When the seeming conciliatory invitations to meet were rejected by Nehemiah, Sanballat resorted to his more normal tactics of lies and threats. It is often the case that when people wish to attack something they use the vague and unspecific 'everyone says' because that cannot be substantiated. What Sanballat alleged was clearly false and absolutely contrary to what Nehemiah was actually doing. They accused him of rebuilding the walls as an act of rebellion against the very king that had sent him to rebuild the walls. Everything that Nehemiah had done was in response to the call of God, and in dependence upon God, and he had made great personal sacrifices to demonstrate that he was not doing what he was doing for any personal glory or advancement.

Having stated the substance of the accusations, Sanballat then threatens to bring the accusations to the attention of the king unless Nehemiah is willing to meet and discuss the situation.

It is interesting to note the reaction of Nehemiah to the accusations and the threats. Although he did tell Sanballat that he was wrong and was making up the allegations, he did not seek to answer them in detail for he knew that the only thing that would satisfy Sanballat would be to give in to him, and Nehemiah was not going to do that! Nehemiah knew that the threats were made in order to make him afraid, but he was not going to succumb, but rather seek the strength of the Lord to overcome. v. 9.

Christians must never be paralysed by fear of what people say; Alan Redpath put it well, 'No man can lead a work of God if he allows himself to be governed by what other people think. He is to secure help, fellowship, prayer, advice, and he is foolish not to take it; but if his ultimate decisions are based on popular opinion he is going to fail'.

### **Questions**

1. What was Nehemiah accused of doing?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that we would not let others sway us from doing right.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

They perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.  
Nehemiah 6:16b

**Praise: Psalm 150 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## **Tuesday - Nehemiah 6:10-14 - Resolute**

Not only did Nehemiah have to withstand the opposition of enemies, he was also subjected to deceitful counsel from those he considered friends. The relationship he had with Shemaiah appears to be one of cordiality and friendship for Nehemiah visited him in his home, and Shemaiah seemed to have a real concern for his welfare. Here we see the subtlety of Satan; Nehemiah had rejected every open approach made to get him to stop the work, and so now an attempt is made by deceit to trick him into giving up.

The suggestion of Shemaiah seems very plausible - if people were truly coming to kill Nehemiah it may have seemed sensible to hide in a place of refuge. The response of Nehemiah is a rebuke to all who would be put off from doing the work of the Lord because of the fear of man.

a. He knew that God had given him a work to do and had preserved him in the doing of it, and there was no way that he was going to run and hide in order to preserve his own life. He knew that he was immortal until his work was done.

b. He was given discernment. God revealed to him not only that Shemaiah was a false prophet in the pay of Sanballat, but also the purpose for which he had been hired. If Nehemiah had gone to the Temple the story would have been spread about that he was a coward and only concerned to save his own skin.

c. He prayed that God would deal with those who opposed the work, not only from Tobiah and Sanballat but also from those religious figures who should have been the ones most supportive of the work.

So Nehemiah resisted all attempts to stop the work, 'I cannot come down' (6:3), 'I will not go in' (6:11). 'God give us grace to be as resolute, in the task appointed us.' (James Philip).

### **Questions**

1. What did Nehemiah "friend" tell him to do?
2. Why did Nehemiah refuse?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that we would be resolute in following the Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

They perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. Nehemiah 6:16b

**Praise: Psalm 1 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



### **Wednesday - Nehemiah 6:15-16 - Job Done**

The statement in verse 15 is truly remarkable! It only took Nehemiah fifty-two days to rebuild walls that had been in ruins for one hundred years. It wasn't that nobody was aware that a problem existed; it was simply that nobody was willing to do anything about it. It was not until a man came who did more than wish that Jerusalem had walls, 'he grieved, he ached, he prayed, he planned, he asked boldly, he went, he fought, he encouraged, he stood strong, he saw the job through to completion'. (David Guzik)

Here there is a demonstration of what God can do through those who are committed to Him. God was pleased to use Nehemiah to deal, in less than two months, with a situation that had existed for one hundred years. Although the wall was completed in fifty-two days it must never be forgotten that when Nehemiah was first made aware of the situation in Jerusalem, he prayed for four months before the plan of action was put in place. God's work often requires hard physical effort, but it will never be successfully concluded without prayer. Those who had tried unsuccessfully to prevent the work being carried out were quite disheartened when they saw that all their efforts had been in vain. What an encouragement it is for God's people to see those who try to undermine the work of God being frustrated and discouraged! Perhaps the greatest of all encouragements for Nehemiah was that even his enemies recognised that God had been at work, and when God works, nothing and no-one can prevent it. It is so important that any work or outreach that is planned by the church should be done in total dependence upon the Lord. People may see some great project carried out and be impressed, but it is only when man works under the direction of God and for the honour and glory of God, that there can be any expectation of seeing God work, and it is only when God works that the enemy is discouraged.

### **Questions**

1. How long did it take for the wall to be rebuilt?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that God builds His Church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

They perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.  
Nehemiah 6:16b

**Praise: Psalm 2 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# NEHEMIAH

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## Thursday - Nehemiah 6:17-19 - Wrong Priorities

One of the most difficult things for spiritual leaders to face is half-heartedness and compromise from within. There is a staggering example of this in verses 17 to 19. The very nobles of Judah who had committed themselves to the work of building were, at the same time, in communication with one of the men who was seeking to stop the work v. 17.

In chapter 3:4, 30 Meshullam, son of Berechiah v. 18, is mentioned as helping with the work of rebuilding, indeed, he appears to have been willing to do more than many others, and yet he was maintaining contact with Tobiah, no doubt passing on information to him about how the work was progressing. It is hard to reconcile how he could be dedicating himself to work on the wall whilst corresponding regularly with a man who was attempting to destroy the work!

It seems that the reasons for this treacherous behaviour was that there were family ties between Meshullam and Tobiah, and that many of the nobles had binding financial and commercial relations with Tobiah which meant they were 'bound by oath' to him. It is a stark reminder of how easily the work of God can be undermined when family and financial concerns take priority over commitment to the work of the Lord.

James Philip makes a very pertinent and helpful comment when he writes, 'The lessons of this chapter are very relevant for the spiritual life. Perhaps the chief is that we should note just how deeply penetrated the work of God can be with the influence of the evil one, and how very necessary it is for those who would do the Lord's work effectually to be able to discern and 'smell out' the devil's wiles, and expose them, and roundly challenge them in the Lord's name'.

## Questions

1. What was Meshullam doing?
2. Why were the nobles compromising in this way?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would not put finances or family before God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

They perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.  
Nehemiah 6:16b

**Praise: Psalm 3 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# NEHEMIAH

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## Friday - Nehemiah 6:17-19 - A Spiritual War

When people are involved in the work of the kingdom, it is absolutely essential that they are focused and have clear vision about what they are doing. It seems clear that the nobles in Jerusalem had no idea how deadly Tobiah and his allies were to the work of God. Nehemiah had realised that there could be no possible compromise with those who had tried so many different ways to undermine the work that God had sent him to do. The nobles could see some advantages to having a better relationship with Tobiah, and they attempted to convince Nehemiah that Tobiah was not such bad person, 'they reported his good deeds before me'. Perhaps they thought that if there were a little softening of Nehemiah's stance and some kind of co-operation with Tobiah the opposition would cease and the work would be able to proceed. What they completely failed to comprehend was the spiritual nature of the battle. This was not just a minor dispute between two people on how things should be done, this was a conflict between those who were seeking to be obedient to God and to do His work, and those who wanted to destroy the cause of God.

This demonstrates how easy it is for the work of the Lord to be penetrated by the influence of the evil one. There is a great need for spiritual discernment to understand and identify those things that are dangerous to the life of the church and the witness of the individual. The desire to be friendly with everybody and never to upset or annoy anybody can lead to the work of the Lord being compromised. Of course the believer is to seek to live at peace with all men, but that can never be at the expense of truth and faithfulness to the calling of God.

## Questions

1. How was Tobiah described to Nehemiah?
2. What is the danger of not wanting to upset anyone?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray for our Session as they seek to make Godly decisions.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

They perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.  
Nehemiah 6:16b

**Praise: Psalm 4 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**





### **Saturday - Acts 5:17-29 - Fear and its Cure**

The short sentence at the end of verse nineteen is worthy of careful consideration for it identifies one of the greatest hindrances to the progress of the work of God: 'Then Tobiah sent letters to frighten me'.

We have no idea what the letters contained or what the nature was of the threats that they obviously contained, but what is absolutely clear is the purpose of the letters. They were sent to cause Nehemiah to become so fearful that he would stop the work. Why Tobiah thought that a threatening letter would have a greater effect than the threats already made is hard to understand, but the important thing to be aware of is that the threat of harm or danger is a constant tactic of the evil one to hinder the work of the gospel.

There are many fears that the devil uses to try to prevent Christians from doing the work of the Lord; there is the fear of rejection, the fear of failure, the fear of opposition or persecution, or the fear of unpopularity. The Scripture is very aware of the paralysing nature of fear, it tells us that 'the fear of man brings a snare' Prov. 29:25, but in the same verse it reminds us of the antidote to fear, 'whoever trust in the Lord will be safe'. Nehemiah had evidently learned the lesson that was to be taught to believers in the New Testament; 'God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind' 2 Timothy 1:7 and 'There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment' 1 Jn. 4:18.

It was this trust and love that enabled the apostles to ignore the threats of imprisonment and beatings from the Sanhedrin and boldly declare 'we must obey God rather than men'. Acts 5:29.

### **Questions**

1. What did they try to do to Nehemiah?
2. What is the answer to fear?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

They perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. Nehemiah 6:16b

**Praise: Psalm 5 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

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