



1

<b>Bible Study Schedule May – Jul 2021</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Study Title</b>	<b>Scriptures</b>
5/5/2021	Depending on God	Nehemiah 1
5/12/2021	The Planning Process	Nehemiah 2
5/19/2021	Working Together	Nehemiah 3
5/26/2021	Opposition from the Outside	Nehemiah 4
6/2/2021	Opposition from Within	Nehemiah 5
6/9/2021	Facing Intimidation	Nehemiah 6
6/16/2021	Family History	Nehemiah 7
6/23/2021	Revival	Nehemiah 8
6/30/2021	Confession & Commitment	Nehemiah 9 – 10
7/7/2021	Break	No Study
7/14/2021	Big Decisions	Nehemiah 11
7/21/2021	Service & Integrity	Nehemiah 12
7/28/2021	Love That Challenges	Nehemiah 13

2

## This Week's Lesson – June 9, 2021

### Nehemiah: The Courage to Face Opposition

#### Lesson 6:

#### Facing Intimidation

#### Nehemiah 6



3

### Introduction to Nehemiah

**Author:** Traditionally, Nehemiah. The book may have been the sequel to the Book of Ezra.

**Date of Writing:** 445 - 420 B.C.

**Purpose of Writing:** Chronicles Israel's return from Babylonian captivity and the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem.

**Practical Application:**

- To experience the spiritual revival of the Israelites (Neh. 8:1-8), we must begin with God's Word.
- Believers should have genuine compassion for others.
- Oftentimes, prayer must also be followed up with action in order to see God's will come to pass.



Nehemiah - Governor  
Of Jerusalem

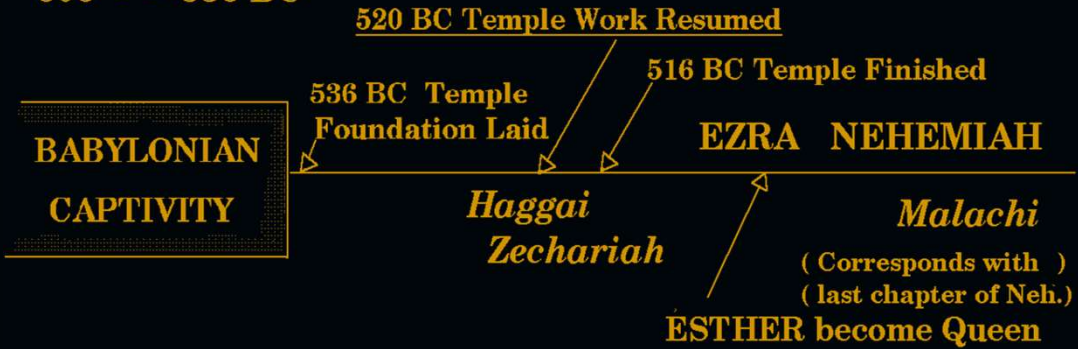


4

# Overview Of Nehemiah

## RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY

606 - - 536 BC



5

# Overview Of Nehemiah 6



Nehemiah Enticed by Sanballat, Tobiah & Geshem To Leave the Work



Nehemiah Completes The Building of Walls



6

# Read Nehemiah 6

7

1. Nehemiah believed that they were “scheming to harm [him]” (6:2). What do you think their scheme might have been?

- **To Obstruct Him:** They wanted him leave (a day’s journey) – to prevent him from overseeing the project.
- **To Outnumber Him:** “Let us meet” planning to ambush him at this obscure village in Ono.
- **To Outwit Him:** Previously they were hostile, angry, enemies now, they want to “meet together”

*“In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” II Cor. 2:11-13 (NIV)*



8

2. In 6:5-7, how did Nehemiah's enemies try to frighten him into meeting with them?

- **Continual Intimidation:** The enemies made 5 attempts (vv. 4 – 5) to try and scare Nehemiah to stop the work.
- **False Accusation:** They told lies about Nehemiah to goad him into fear, anger and recklessness.
- **Subtle Infiltration:** They faked being “friends” to get him to come down from the great work of the Lord.



*“...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matt. 16:18 (NKJV)*

9

3. In 6:9, how did Nehemiah get the courage to continue his work in the face of the threat (compare 1:4-5,8-10)?

- **Reflecting On His Prayer To The Lord:** He remembered how the Lord has answered his prayers previously.
- **Remembering The Promise Of The Lord:** God promised to bring His people back to the land He gave them.
- **Relying On The Power Of The Lord:** To finish a “God-project” it is going to take God’s power. That power is available to him/us for the asking...



*“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” Phil. 1:6 (NKJV)*

10

4. What was Shemaiah's warning in 6:10? What was he trying to convince Nehemiah to do?

His enemies hired Shemaiah, to propose a spiritual "shut-In" to protect him from would-be nighttime assassins.

**Points To Ponder:**

Nehemiah saw two flaws in Shemaiah's so-called "prophecy":

- First, God would hardly ask Nehemiah to run when the project on the walls was nearing completion.
- Second, no true prophet would ask someone to violate God's Law. Only priests were allowed in the sanctuary (Num. 3:10; 18:7)



11

5. In 6:11, Nehemiah gave two responses in refusing Shemaiah. What do his responses reveal about his character?

- **His Godly Relationship:** Right relationship with God enables Nehemiah to know who and whose he is.
- **His Godly Reverence:** Nehemiah's chief concern is the worship of God – in his thoughts, speech, and actions.
- **His Godly Resolve:** He is resolved to obey God – no matter the cost or opposition.



*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*  
Phil 4:13 (NKJV)

12

6. How would you explain the factors that led to the realization on the part of Israel's neighbors mentioned in 6:16?

**Factors To Focus On:**

- **Speed Of The Progress:** Completed in just 52 days (shorter than it took for Nehemiah to travel there...)
- **Success Of The Project:** The enemies attacks could not stop God's project – they were fighting a losing battle!
- **Supernatural Power:** The enemies and nations, realized the success of the project was due to the power of God!



*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matt 5:16 (NKJV)*

13

7. How do the circumstances of verses 17-19 make keeping his objectives clear important for Nehemiah?

- **Opposition From Contemporaries:** Their fellow Jews who were intertwined with their enemies via family relationships.
- **Temptation To Compromise:** Members of God's family kept encouraging Nehemiah to compromise with the enemy.
- **Intimidation That is Continual:** Even after success, the enemy still tries to discourage the leaders of God's people.



*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” I Cor 15:58 (NKJV)*

14

8. What do you expect by way of opposition in the job you are doing for the Lord?

Opposition We Can Expect:

- **Assassination Plots (6:1–4):** When the enemies find that they cannot kill God's work they will attack the people doing it.
- **Slander (6:5–9):** The enemy will try goad us into quitting or un-Christlike behavior by telling lies about us to others.
- **Treachery (6:10–14):** Our enemies will try to destroy our credibility by luring us with temptation to sin and compromise.



15

8. How can we better face that opposition?

- Don't wait for people to change their minds about their opposition/compromise.
- Remember God's purpose, power and promise to provide.
- Know that we have a great work to do, and get to it.
- Know the that work is not about attacking "Tobiah's".
- Leave the: "Tobiah's" alone, as long as they aren't attacking the work of God.
- Be willing to let it go and let God take care of it.



16

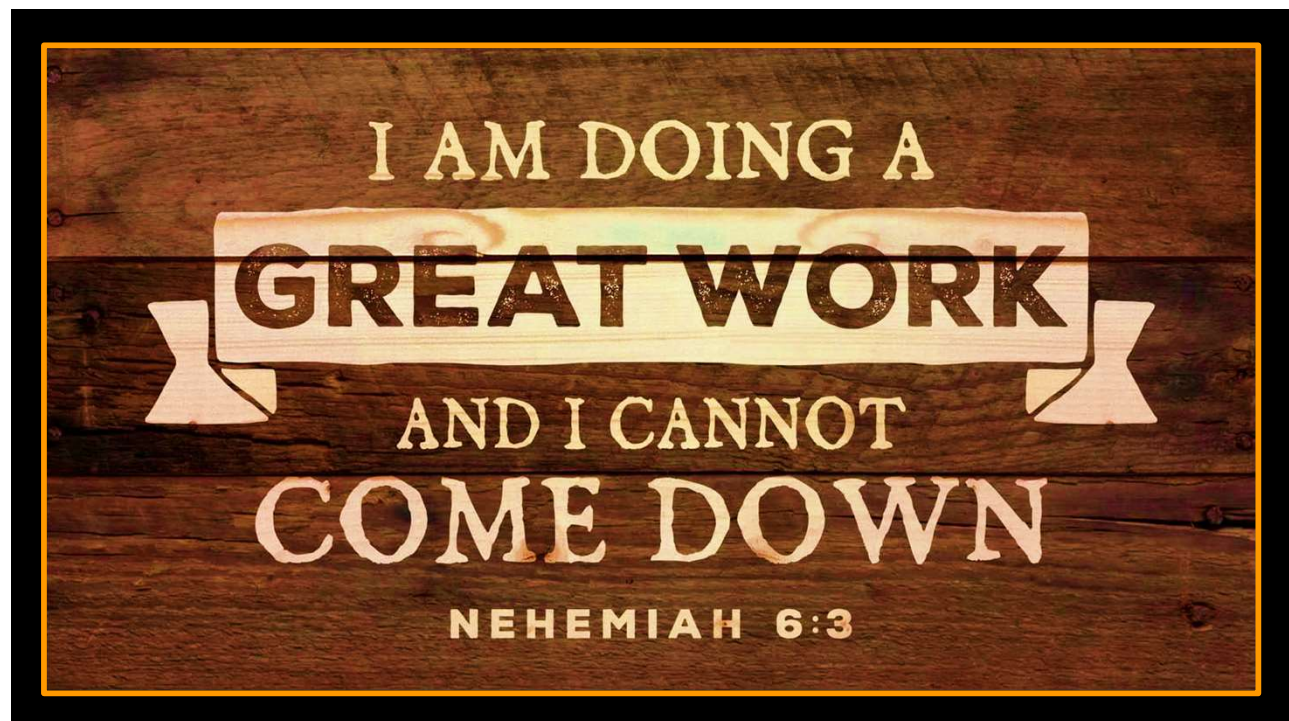


### Keys For Living

- The closer we get to the fulfillment or completion of our God-given tasks, the more intense the attacks of the enemy will become.
- Staying focused on God's Word and Will for our lives is critical to overcoming the distractions and setbacks from the enemy.
- As we persevere through the distractions and the obstacles to fulfill God's purpose, those around us will recognize that the Hand of the Lord is upon us.



17



18