

Message: Finish Strong
Scripture: Nehemiah 6

Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies found out that I had rebuilt the wall and that not gaps remained— though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. Nehemiah 6:1 (NLT)

THE CLOSER YOU GET TO DOING WHAT GOD WANTS DONE
THE HARDER YOUR ENEMY WILL FIGHT TO STOP YOU

YOUR ENEMY'S STRATEGY

1. YOUR ENEMY WILL TRY TO DISTRACT YOU.

So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono." Nehemiah 6:2 (NLT)

• YOUR RESPONSE: I'M NOT COMING DOWN.

But they were scheming to harm me; so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" Nehemiah 6:2-3

2. YOUR ENEMY WILL TRY TO DISCREDIT YOU BY:

SPREADING RUMORS.

The fifth time, Sanballat's servant came with an open letter in his hand, and 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 rebel and that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king... 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 6:5-6, 7b (NLT)

TEMPTING YOU TO COMPROMISE.

(Shemaiah) said, "Let us meet together inside the Temple of God and bolt the doors shut. Your enemies are coming to kill you tonight."... 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. They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me. Nehemiah 6:10, 12-13 (NLT)

• YOUR RESPONSE: I'M NOT GIVING UP.

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 (NLT)

So on October 2 the wall was finished- just fifty-two days after we had begun. When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God. Nehemiah 6:15-16