

## Title: Persevering In The Great Work

- 1) Be Aware Of The Nature Of Ridicule
  - 2) Expect Intimidation Tactics
  - 3) Be Diligent To Curb Discouragement
  - 4) Have Faith That Overrides Fear
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**Scripture:** [Nehemiah 6](#)

### Conspiracy Against Nehemiah

**6** Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, <sup>1a</sup>Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and *that* there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), <sup>2</sup> that Sanballat and <sup>1a</sup>Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together <sup>1b</sup>among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm.

<sup>3</sup> So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"

<sup>4</sup> But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.

<sup>5</sup> Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand. <sup>6</sup> In it *was* written:

It is reported among the nations, and <sup>1a</sup>Geshem says, *that* you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king. <sup>7</sup> And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, "There is a king in Judah!" Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together.

<sup>8</sup> Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart."

<sup>9</sup> For they all *were trying to* make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done."

Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

<sup>10</sup> Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who *was* a secret informer; and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the <sup>1a</sup>temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you."

<sup>11</sup> And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who *is there* such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!" <sup>12</sup> Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he

pronounced *this* prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. <sup>13</sup> For this reason he *was* hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so *that* they might have *cause* for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

<sup>14</sup> My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid.

## **The Wall Completed**

<sup>15</sup> So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth *day* of Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup> And it happened, when all our enemies heard *of it*, and all the nations around us saw *these things*, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.

<sup>17</sup> Also in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and *the letters of* Tobiah came to them. <sup>18</sup> For many in Judah were pledged to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shechaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah. <sup>19</sup> Also they reported his good deeds before me, and reported my <sup>19</sup> words to him. Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.