

The Enemy's Plot

6:1 **N**ow it came about when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab, and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and *that* no breach remained in it, ^aalthough at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates, ² that Sanballat and Geshem sent *a message* to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together at ¹Chephirim in the plain of ^aOno.” But they were planning to ²harm me. ³ So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?” ⁴ And they sent *messages* to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way. ⁵ Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand. ⁶ In it was written, “It is reported among the nations, and ¹Gashmu says, that ^ayou and the Jews are planning to rebel; therefore you are rebuilding the wall. And you are to be their king, according to these reports. ⁷ “And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning ¹you, ‘A king is in Judah!’ And now it will be reported to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together.” ⁸ Then I sent *a message* to him saying, “Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are ^ainventing them ¹in your own mind.” ⁹ For all of them were *trying* to frighten us, ¹thinking, “²They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done.” But now, ^a*O God*, strengthen my hands.

10 And when I entered the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, ^awho was ¹confined at home, he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you, and they are coming to kill you at night.” **11** But I said, “^aShould a man like me flee? And could one such as I go into the temple ¹to save his life? I will not go in.” **12** Then I perceived ¹that surely God had not sent him, but he uttered *his* prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. **13** He was hired for this reason, ^athat I might become frightened and act accordingly and sin, so that they might have an evil report in order that they could reproach me. **14** ^aRemember, O my God, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these works of theirs, and also Noadiah ^bthe prophetess and the rest of the prophets who were *trying* to frighten me.

The Wall Is Finished

15 So ^athe wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of *the month* Elul, in fifty-two days. **16** And it came about ^awhen all our enemies heard *of it*, and all the nations surrounding us saw *it*, they ¹lost their confidence; for ^bthey recognized that this work had been accomplished ²with the help of our God. **17** Also in those days many letters went from the nobles of Judah to Tobiah, and Tobiah’s *letters* came to them. **18** For many in Judah were bound by oath to him because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah. **19** Moreover, they were speaking about his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. Then Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.

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^a Neh. 3:1, 3

¹ Another reading is, one of *the villages*

^a 1 Chr. 8:12

² Lit., *do evil to me*

¹ In v. 1 and elsewhere, *Geshem*

^a Neh. 2:19

¹ Lit., *you, saying*

^a Job 13:4; Ps. 52:2

¹ Lit., *from your heart*

¹ Lit., *saying,*

² Lit., *Their hands will drop from*

^a Ps. 138:3

^a Jer. 36:5

¹ Lit., *shut up*

^a Prov. 28:1

¹ Lit., *and live*

¹ Lit., *and behold God*

^a Neh. 6:6

^a Neh. 13:29

^b Ezek. 13:17

^a Neh. 4:1, 2

^a Neh. 2:10; 4:1, 7

¹ Lit., *fell exceedingly in their own eyes*

^b Ex. 14:25

² Lit., *from our God*

ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.