### Nehemiah

## Chapter 6

1Well when SanBalLat, TobiJah, Gesham the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies heard that I was finishing the wall, they became quite dispirited.  
  
However, the doors hadn’t been set in the gates yet.  
  
2Then SanBalLat and Gesham sent me [a letter] that said:  
  
 ‘Come and meet with us in one of the towns in the plains of Ono!’  
  
But because they were just planning to [kill] me, 3I sent messengers to them that said:  
  
 ‘I still have a tremendous amount of work to do, and I can’t stop right now, because that would bring the work to a halt.  
  
 ‘I’ll come and see you after it’s finished.’  
  
4Well they sent me 4 more messages after that, but I just kept giving them the same reply. 5Then SanBalLat sent his servant a 5th time, who opened the letter and read it to me.  
  
6It said:  
  
 ‘Geshem told me (and it’s being rumored among the nations) that you’re planning to rebel, and that’s why you and the Judeans are building the wall… So you can become their king.  
  
 7‘For you’ve appointed your own prophets to proclaim throughout JeruSalem that you’re now the king of Judah! So, tell the king that these words aren’t true… Come here and let’s discuss the matter!’  
  
8Well, I sent a reply that said:  
  
 ‘None of these things have happened, and you’re lying from your heart about this… 9All you’re really trying to do is frighten us.  
  
 ‘You’re saying:  
  
 ‘If we worry them enough, we can stop the work so it won’t be completed!’  
  
 ‘However, now I’m more determined than ever to get it done!’  
  
  
10Then later, when I went to the house of ShemaiAh (son of DalaiJah and grandson of MeHetaBeel), he acted like he was very worried, and he said to me:  
  
 ‘We must all gather in the middle of the Temple of God [for safety] and lock its doors, for they’re coming to murder you tonight!’  
  
11But I asked him:  
  
 ‘Which man must I run from?  
  
 ‘And who could possibly make me run for my life into the Temple?  
  
 12‘I’m not going to do that!’  
  
And it was then that I realized that {Look!} God really hadn’t sent him.  
  
Rather, his ‘prophecy’ was just part of a plot against me, for he’d been hired by TobiJah and SanBalLat 13to scare me into doing something that would cause me to sin and give me a bad reputation, so they could thereafter have something bad to say about me.  
  
14O my God,  
  
Remember these things that TobiJah, SanBalLat, the prophetess NoAdiJah, and the rest of the prophets have done to frighten me!  
  
  
15Well, we finished the wall on the 25th day of the month of Elul, after 52 days!  
  
16And when our enemies heard about it, they and all the nations roundabout became extremely fearful, because they realized that it was our God who had brought the work to a completion.  
  
17Then I found out that during the entire time, several important men of Judah had been sending messages to TobiJah, and that he’d been sending messages back to them, 18because many in Judah had sworn allegiance to him, since he was the son-in-law of ShechaniJah (son of Arah), and his son JoHanan had married the daughter of MeshulLam (son of BarAchiJah).  
  
19So he’d been using these connections to his advantage when he was writing to me... For, everything that I said was being reported back to him, and the letters from TobiJah were just sent to frighten me.