

SUPERBOOK

"Nehemiah"

Episode #308

Recording Draft

11-14-12

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Written by
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TAKEAWAY - Do the Job God gave you and don't pay attention to mockers.

FADE IN:

EXT. CITADEL OF SUSAN - DAY

CAMERA SLOWLY takes in an ESTABLISHING SHOT...

INT. CITADEL OF SUSAN - DAY

Hanani stand by a window. Nehemiah hurries to him. They speak in hushed tones so as not to be overheard in the palace.

1 NEHEMIAH
My brother, what can you tell me
about the Jews who escaped
captivity in Babylon? And how are
things going Jerusalem?

2 HANANI
Those captives who have come back
are having all kinds of troubles.
They are terribly disgraced.

PUSH IN ON NEHEMIAH

3 HANANI (CONT'D)
Jerusalem's walls are broken down
and its gates have been burned.
(Nehemiah 1:3 NLT).

He sits down and cries.

4 NEHEMIAH
(Weeping) - Lord God of heaven, I
am your servant, so please have
mercy on me. (Nehemiah 1:6 CEV)

MATCH DISSOLVE TO

EXT. JERUSALEM - FOUNTAIN GATE - NIGHT

CAMERA PULLS OUT FROM NEHEMIAH'S EYE We FIND Nehemiah is
riding a donkey around the city's destroyed walls.

5 NEHEMIAH (V.O)
I, my family and the rest of your
people have sinned by choosing to
disobey you and the teachings of
Moses. (Nehemiah 1:6-7)

Three men walk behind him. Nehemiah stops and Dismounts
as he surveys the ruins all around him.

6 NEHEMIAH (V.O) (CONT'D)
But you also said we could return
to you and start obeying you.
Then you would bring us back to
the place where you have chosen to
be worshiped. (Nehemiah 1:9 CEV).

Nehemiah squats down and picks up a burned stone that has
fallen from the desecrated wall.

7 NEHEMIAH (CONT'D)
Please answer my prayer. (Nehemiah
1:10 CEV).

CLOSER ON NEHEMIAH - a tear forms in the corner of his
eye. PUSH in on burned stone in his hands. Off the
darkened stone we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JERUSALEM - VALLEY GATE - NIGHT

Nehemiah stands by his donkey, on a broken section of the
wall, speaking to a small crowd of PRIESTS, NOBLES,
OFFICIALS and other JEWS. (Nehemiah 2:17 NKJV).

8 NEHEMIAH
God has granted my prayer and let
me return here to Jerusalem. Just
as he has let your tribes return.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE WALLS - WITH A VIEW IN

SHEMIAH is with SANBALLAT, the governor of Samaria and TOBIAH, the Ammonite official.

9 SHEMAIAH
Governor Sanballat, Nehemiah is
stirring up the people, saying
they can rebuild the wall of
Jerusalem.

Sanballat brandishes a LETTER (clay tablet).

10 SANBALLAT
I know. He gave me this letter
from the king granting him safe
passage to Judah.

CLOSER ON SANBALLAT - his eyes full of anger as he reads.

11 SANBALLAT (CONT'D)
(scoffing)
It even says I am to give him
timber for this crazy idea.

WIDER - favoring Tobiah.

12 TOBIAH
If he succeeds, and they rebuild
the wall and gates, we will lose
control of the city.

Sanballat steps forward with a keen eye and watches the
O.C. Action.

SANBALLAT'S POV

ANGLE CROWD - intently listening, nodding.

13 NEHEMIAH (V.O.)
Come, let us rebuild the wall of
Jerusalem so that we won't
continue to be in disgrace!
(Nehemiah 1:17-18 NKJV).

The crowd murmurs at first - is it even possible?

14 CROWD
(murmuring interest)

BACK ON SANBALLAT

15 SANBALLAT
He is a dreamer. A few might
listen to him but not...

Shemaiah moves in and cuts him off.

16 SHEMAIAH
They already are, Sanballat!

Suddenly, a CHEER goes up O.S. They turn to look

17 CROWD
<murmur has built to a rousing pre-
CHEER walla>

ANGLE FAVORING NEHEMIAH AND THE CROWD

Sanballat steps IN CALLING OUT...

18 SANBALLAT
(mocking)
What are you doing? Are you
rebellling against the
king?(Jeremiah 2:19 CEV)

ON NEHEMIAH

19 NEHEMIAH
The God of heaven will give us
success! As God's servants we
will start building. But you will
have no share, right, or claim in
Jerusalem. (Jeremiah 2:19 CEV)

20 CROWD
<CHEER>

TRACKING CLOSE ON SANBALLAT AND TOBIAH as they whirl and
angrily move out of the city.

21 SANBALLAT
I promise you, Tobiah, Nehemiah
will *never* complete this task.
(Nehemiah 2:10 NKJV)

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT ONE

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

Part classroom, part lab with beakers and chemicals on
shelves. Chris and Gizmo set up an experiment.

Both wear safety goggles. Chris light pushes a button and ignites the bunsen burner. Gizmo is pours purple liquid back and forth between two beakers.

CLOSE ON GIZMO - pouring the chemical into a beaker. He looks up and speaks to someone OFF.

22 CHRIS
I'm not sure I can do this, Mrs.
Crawford.

WIDER - MRS. CRAWFORD, the science teacher (REUSE Science Teacher from episode 203) heads out.

23 MRS. CRAWFORD
You can this, Chris. I have faith
you. And Gizmo.

Mrs. Crawford exits as Joy approaches the open door with her backpack on. She has overheard and stops at the door.

24 JOY
What exactly does Mrs. Crawford
think you two Einsteins can do?

25 CHRIS
She's got a teacher's meeting and
she wants me tutor a couple of
students.

26 JOY
You? Tutor who?

27 CHRIS
Yeah me. Tutor Todd and Benjie.

FAVOR GIZMO

He picks up a spoon and stirs the purple liquid in one of the beakers.

28 GIZMO
Yes! They told Mrs. Crawford that
with a little extra help they
think they could have "bright
futures in science!"

The sound of SKATEBOARDS scraping the floor. Joy looks O.C. at unseen students approaching down the hall.

29 TODD AND BENJIE (O.C.)
(laughing and goofing)

30 JOY
Yeah, and uh... good luck with
that.

She ducks away from the door and heads off just as .
TODD (reuse) and BENJIE (Philippino) both skateboard in
and around the desks in the room.

31 BENJIE
We're ready, Professor Nerd, sir.

They skateboard up to the bunsen burner on the table.
Gizmo stands beside it with the beaker with spoon
sticking out. Benjie takes the beaker from him.

32 BENJIE (CONT'D)
Hey, what's for dinner.

33 CHRIS
Come on, guys. The class is
chemistry not cooking.

34 BENJIE
What the difference?

Benjie lifts the spoon from the liquid to inspect it.
Gizmo grabs the beaker and spoon away.

35 GIZMO
In chemistry you never lick the
spoon.

36 BENJIE
Oooo, science talk. I just felt
my I.Q. go up.

Gizmo rolls his eyes and shakes his head.

37 GIZMO
Yet another child left behind.

Todd suddenly raps a fist on top of Gizmo's head and his
top hatch pops open.

38 TODD
Hey, let's see what happens if
this chemical compound is dumped
inside a talking tin can.

Gizmo throws a forefinger in the air,

39 GIZMO

Excuse me. You mock us for helping, and you undoubtedly have a lifetime of other bad decisions ahead of you. Allow me to interrupt this one.

Just then, Chris swoops in and grabs the beaker away.

40 GIZMO (CONT'D)

Quit it, Todd! You wanna fry his circuits?!

41 TODD

Okay!

42 BENJIE

(mocking tone)

You heard the professor! No frying! This isn't cooking class!

TODD AND BENJIE

<LAUGH>

CHRIS

Come on, Gizmo. These two don't want to learn. We're outta here.

WIDER - Chris and Gizmo for the door.

43 TODD

Aw Quantum. We're just having fun.

44 BENJIE

Come back! We'll sing the periodic chart!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

CAMERA TRACKS BACKWARDS as Chrs and Gizmo charge towards camera. We hear todd and Benjie singing the periodic chart, fading in the BG.

45 TODD AND BENJIE (O.C.)

Boron and carbon and calcium, cobalt, and radium, zinc, titanium too. Silver and tungsten and iron and lead. Strontium, calcium...

WIPE TO:

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER - AFTERNOON

As Chris and Gizmo exit the school and storm down the front steps. Joy rushes up.

46 JOY
Wow. They must have been fast learners.

CLOSER ON GIZMO AND CHRIS - turning to Joy.

47 CHRIS
I tried to help them and all they did was make fun of me, Joy! I don't need this!

48 JOY
Chris, come on. A little mocking and teasing you blow your top?!

49 CHRIS
I got just two things to say! I quit!

50 JOY
That's one thing.

51 CHRIS
OKAY JOY! I'M BETTER AT SCIENCE THAN MATH!

<THE SUPERBOOK SOUND EFFECT> is heard.

CLOSE UP ON SUPERBOOK as it rises from Joy's pocket.

52 CHRIS, JOY & GIZMO
Superbook!

WIDER SHOT: The kids are pulled into the light effect.

53 CHRIS
Perfect time for a trip. Get me out of here, Superbook!

54 CHRIS, JOY & GIZMO
Whoaaa....

INT. SUPERBOOK VORTEX - CONTINUOUS

Chris, Joy and Gizmo fly along.

55 SUPERBOOK

I am taking you to meet a man who
overcame mocking and danger to
complete an important task God.

EXT. JERUSALEM WALL - DAY

The kids and Gizmo land near a section of the ruined
wall, rubble all around them. Gizmo's screen lights up.

56 JOY

Where are we, Giz?

57 GIZMO

According to my geo sensors, we
have landed in ancient Jerusalem.

58 CHRIS

Or what's left of it...

The kids look up to see --

ANGLE NEHEMIAH AND HANANI - Hanani reading from a list.

59 HANANI

The high priest Eliashib will
rebuild the Sheep Gate. Joida and
Meshulla will restore the Ancient
Gate. (Nehemiah 3:3 CEV).

ANGLE KIDS AND GIZMO - watching the brothers.

60 GIZMO

They must be doing major repairs.

61 JOY

It sure could use a makeover.

WIDER ANGLE - as Nehemiah and Hanani approach the trio.

62 NEHEMIAH

Let's see, which part of the wall
were you three assigned to repair?

Hanani checks his list.

ANGLE FAVORING JOY - covering.

63 JOY

Ah... we're probably not on that
list. We're new here.

64 CHRIS
Chris, Joy and Gizmo.

WIDER FAVORING NEHEMIAH - who smiles at them.

65 NEHEMIAH
Nehemiah. And truth be told, I
haven't been here long myself.

ANGLE FAVORING KIDS - impressed.

66 CHRIS
And you're already running the
place? You must have major
connections.

67 NEHEMIAH
I suppose you could say that.

Nehemiah looks out across the broken down wall. We see a
good view of it in daylight.

68 NEHEMIAH (CONT'D)
God sent me to repair this wall
and bring my people back to Him.

69 JOY
God? Okay, I'd say that's about
as good as connected as you can
get.

70 CHRIS
You said you were sent here? From
where?

ANGLE FAVORING NEHEMIAH

71 NEHEMIAH
Well... I was a servant in Persia
for King Artaxerxes when my
brother, Hanani, told me about the
terrible state of Jerusalem.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BANQUET HALL - COURT OF KING ARTAXERXES - DAY

Nehemiah serves the KING and QUEEN wine.

72 NEHEMIAH (V.O.)
I prayed to God to help me
convince the king to let me come
here.

As he speaks, WE SEE but do not hear him kneel before the king and ask permission to leave his service.

73 NEHEMIAH (V.O.)
The king could have become angry,
but God touched his heart.

The king kindly puts a hand on Nehemiah's shoulder.

END FLASH BACK

EXT. JERUSALEM - DAY

The group, as before. Except now WORKERS are arriving with tools to repair the wall and nearby gate.

74 NEHEMIAH
He granted me permission and even
sent soldiers with me. (Nehemiah
2:2-6 CEV)

ANGLE KIDS

Gizmo whirls toward the wall his screen lighting up taking measurements.

75 GIZMO
Well, it looks like you could use
some help! And it appears we will
need four beams and seventy-three
stones to fix this particular
section of wall.

ANGLE FAVORING NEHEMIAH - who is delighted.

76 NEHEMIAH
Then this is yours to repair. If
all my workers are as smart as you
we will complete our job in no
time.

Suddenly they hear DERISIVE LAUGHTER OFF and turn.

77 SANBALLAT (V.O.)
<DERISIVE LAUGHING>

ANGLE SANBALLAT AND TOBIAH as they approach.

78 SANBALLAT
You, Nehemiah? What do you know
about rebuilding a city?
(calling to workers)
You are all wasting your time.

ANGLE TOBIAH - points to a part of the wall mid-repair.

79 TOBIAH
Look at the wall they are
building! Why, even a fox could
knock over this pile of stones!
(Nehemiah 4:2-3 CEV).

Tobiah pushes a stone and a whole section of recently repaired wall collapses.

CLOSER ANGLE - Nehemiah he closes his eyes and prays quietly. Chris and Joy watch.

80 NEHEMIAH
Hear us, our God, for we are being
mocked. May their scoffing fall
back on their own heads, and may
they themselves become captives in
a foreign land! Do not ignore
their guilt. Do not blot out their
sins, for they have provoked you
to anger here in front of the
builders. (Nehemiah 4:4-5)

Sanballat grows angry because Nehemiah is not reacting to his taunts but is praying instead. He lean into Nehemiah.

81 SANBALLAT
You're a fool. You will never
complete this wall!

WIDER ANGLE

Sanballat and Tobiah exit. Nehemiah turns to the workers.

82 NEHEMIAH
Sanballat is trying to stop us
from taking our city back. But
are we going to let him?

ANGLE WORKERS - they suddenly stand more upright.

83 WORKERS
NO!! (into a cheer)

ANGLE WORKERS - returning to their work, energized.

ANGLE CHRIS AND JOY - as they get back to work.

84 JOY
(impressed)
Did you see how Nehemiah stood up
to those men?

85 CHRIS
Yeah... well... it helps to have a
whole nation on your side.

86 JOY
A nation or no nation. It's about
what you do, Chris.

Joy heads off as Chris thinks about this.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JERUSALEM - OUTSIDE THE CITY WALL - DAY (TIME LATER)

Sanballat and Tobiah watch as men on the wall toil away.

87 TOBIAH
Look at them. Working just as
hard as before. Nehemiah seems to
be inspiring all the Jews.

88 SANBALLAT
Before they know what's happening,
we will swoop down on them and
kill them and end their work."He
cannot inspire them if he is dead.
(Nehemiah 4:11 NLT)

As the men head off REVEAL --

GIZMO AND CHRIS BEHIND A STACK OF RUBBLE

They've got an arm full of stones.

89 CHRIS
Whoa... did you hear that? Come
on!

They drop the stones and take off.

EXT. JERUSALEM - ANOTHER PART OF THE WALL - DAY

Joy works with Nehemiah making mortar from mud.

90 JOY
I haven't played with mud since I
was a little kid. I forgot how fun
it was!

Suddenly Chris and Gizmo rush IN, out of breath.

91 CHRIS
Nehemiah! Gizmo and I just
overheard Sanballat plotting to
attack!

CLOSE ANGLE - Nehemiah. He nods grimly.

92 NEHEMIAH
I know. At least ten others have
warned me of this coming attack.
But where... and when?

Suddenly, a man yells from the wall.

93 MAN (V.O.)
Soldiers approaching!

ANGLE TOP OF WALL - where the MAN points to the plain
beyond.

ANGLE BEHIND NEHEMIAH AND THE KIDS

They look through a break in the wall to see a GROUP OF
SOLDIERS riding toward them lead by Sanballat and Tobiah.

ANGLE GIZMO - shrinking down.

94 GIZMO
Retreat!

He scurries behind a pot.

ANGLE NEHEMIAH, JOY AND CHRIS

Nehemiah calmly watches the oncoming soldiers as Chris
watches, nervous.

95 CHRIS
Soldiers against carpenters. I
don't like our odds.

96 NEHEMIAH
Don't be afraid of the enemy.
Remember the Lord, who is great
and glorious. (Nehemiah 4:14 NLT).

CLOSER ANGLE ON CHRIS AND JOY - wide-eyed, scared.

ANGLE SOLDIERS - charging toward the wall.

FADE OUT.

ACT TWO

EXT. OUTSIDE JERUSALEM WALL - DAY

Sanballat, Tobiah and the soldiers on horseback race toward the wall.

EXT. - INSIDE WALL -

Chris, Joy, and Nehemiah watch, wide-eyed.

97 CHRIS
Nehemiah, I was thinking, maybe we
should, you know, run now?

ANGLE FAVORING GIZMO BEHIND POT

98 GIZMO
Good idea!

The pot starts to back away.

ANGLE FAVORING NEHEMIAH - who turns to a MAN behind him.

99 NEHEMIAH
Signal the men!

The man pulls out a ram's horn and blows it loudly.

WIDE ANGLE WORKERS ALONG THE WALL - they hear the
<TRUMPETING>.

CLOSER ANGLE TWO MEN - who put down their tools and reach
under a cloth and pull out swords and shields.

ANGLE ON ANOTHER THREE MEN - who are putting on armor and
brandishing bows and arrows.

WIDER ON WALL - where half the men are showing weapons.
The others keep working.

ANGLE CHRIS, JOY, AND GIZMO - Gizmo pops up and sees the
armed men.

100 GIZMO
Okay, so maybe we don't run.

101 JOY
If anyone's gonna run, it's gonna
be Sanballat.

EXT. JERUSALEM - OUTSIDE WALL - CONTINUOUS

Sanballat, Tobiah, and the soldiers come to a sudden
halt.

ON SANBALLAT AND TOBIAH as they scan the wall that is now
heavily guarded.

102 TOBIAH
(under his breath)
We're outnumbered. Look!

POV

SLOWLY PAN the wall under construction... but higher than
we have yet seen it. The workers stand shoulder to
shoulder with weapons ready.

CAMERA DROPS PUSHES IN BETWEEN TWO WORKERS WITH SWORDS
and the camera jibs down behind the wall, continuing
along and more workers come and go, continuing to build
and make bricks. Nothing will stop them.

CLOSE ON THE KIDS

They look out - waiting - wondering what Sanballat will
do.

CLOSE ON NEHEMIAH

He looks out - waiting - KNOWING what they will do.

ON SANBALLAT

He hesitates a beat... and then calls angrily to his men.

103 SANBALLAT
Fall back! Fall back!

ANGLE WIDENS as Sanballat, Tobiah and the soldiers
retreat.

CLOSE ON SANBALLAT - who stops and turns back for a
moment, giving Nehemiah an ominous "I'll be back" look.
Then he turns and charges away.

EXT. JERUSALEM - WALL - CONTINUOUS

Chris, Joy, and Gizmo cheer.

104 KIDS
<CHEER>

105 CHRIS
That was awesome! You really
showed them, Nehemiah.

CLOSER ON NEHEMIAH

106 NEHEMIAH
Show no fear. That is the only
way to deal with men like
Sanballat.

He turns to the WORKERS close by.

107 NEHEMIAH (CONT'D)
We must work quickly! As long as
there are open gates, we are
vulnerable to attack!

ANGLE GIZMO - quickly picking up bricks.

108 GIZMO
Well then by all means, let's get
these gates closed!

FAVORING CHRIS - as he leans over to Joy.

109 CHRIS
Not only does this guy stand up to
bullies, he has a plan to defeat
them.

CLOSE ON CHRIS - as he takes that in.

EXT. JERUSALEM - DAY - LATER

CLOSE ON GIZMO - placing a mud-formed brick onto the arm-
platter in his opened stomach. There is already one
brick on the arm platter.

110 GIZMO
So, what I am thinking is that if
we manufactured our own perfectly
scaled bricks, the wall would go
up much faster.

The chest plate closes.

111 JOY
Gizmo, we can't use bricks in the wall of Jerusalem.

112 GIZMO
Just wait... It is almost a hundred degrees outside and over five hundred inside!

THUD-THUD he taps his chest. A beat... then <DING> His chest pops open and the arm-platter extends with two perfectly baked bricks. The arm flicks and the pops as the bricks flip up in the air. Gizmo catches one in each hand.

113 GIZMO (CONT'D)
Step right up. Get your bricks here! Hot and fresh!

Gizmo turns and places them on a section of the wall.

ANGLE FAVORING CHRIS AND GIZMO as Chris helps Gizmo hoist another brick into his stomach.

114 CHRIS
Gizmo, we're wasting time with this. We should all get back to the stones and finish before Sanballat and his soldiers come back.

ON GIZMO - eyes widen, reacting to this thought.

115 GIZMO
No! No! Give me a chance! I can turn the heat up and cook twice as fast.

Gizmo crams two more bricks into the his "oven" and SLAMS it shut. He suddenly begins to comically overheat. His body expands and steam begins to <SHUSSHH> out of his joints. His chest door <THWAPS> opened and closed as flames shoot out around the edges. His face plate displays a Yule log Burning and <CRACKLING> loudly, while a steam whistle shoots out of the top of his head and gives a long <STEAM WHISTLE SFX>.

116 JOY
GIZMO!

WIDER ANGLE

Chris and Joy grab two jars and dump water all over Gizmo. He drops to a sitting position and steam rises off his body but he has calmed.

117 GIZMO
(unnngghh)

His chest plate drops open with a <KLUNK>, Smoke rises. The chest arm slowly slide out displaying two small, incredibly toasted bricks that continue to smoulder.

118 CHRIS
Giz, are you okay?

Long beat...

119 GIZMO
(slow, pinched and effort filled)
Uh.... huh...

120 JOY
Do you want more water?

Long beat...

121 GIZMO
Ungh... uh...

They help him up and start to escort him O.C.

122 GIZMO (CONT'D)
I must... make... more bricks.

Walking off... Gizmo's feet drag... his body is still smoking from the joints.

123 JOY
Yeah. Give us a minute to turn on the part of my brains that think that's a good idea.

They exit frame.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT SANBALLAT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Camera eases in...

INT. SANBALLAT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sanballat and Tobiah sit at a table in a dimly lit room.

124 SANBALLAT
My spy tells me Nehemiah has
completed the wall. He only has
the gates to hang.

Tobiah pounds his fist on the table in anger.

125 TOBIAH
He must be stopped.

Sanballat leaps up in anger.

126 SANBALLAT
You don't think I know that?!

He strides to the window and leans on the sill - arms
stretched before him - weary with the failures.

127 SANBALLAT (CONT'D)
I've sent Nehemiah four messages
trying to lure him into the Ono
Valley... to kill him! (ref
Nehemiah 6:2)

ON TOBIAH at the table - looking at Sanballat's back.

128 TOBIAH
But each time, he's seen through
your trap. The man has no fear.

ANGLE ON SANBALLAT as he smiles, evil, - having a
thought.

129 SANBALLAT
No fear of us perhaps.

Turning, Sanballat's face is lit by a hanging oil lamp,
giving him an especially sinister look.

130 SANBALLAT (CONT'D)
But every man fears the king.

OFF Sanballat scheming.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JERUSALEM - HORSE GATE - DAY

Chris, Joy, Gizmo, and Nehemiah watch as WORKERS hang a large gate/door on one of the openings.

131 NEHEMIAH
God has truly blessed our work.

132 JOY
Just goes to show, determination
and perseverance pays off.

Gizmo indicates the doors.

133 GIZMO
And forget those loudmouth
mockers. There is no way they can
possibly get through that gate!

WIDER ON NEHEMIAH - as Shemaiah approaches Nehemiah and shows him a letter. (clay tablet)

134 SHEMAIAH
I have an urgent message for you
from Sanballat.

CLOSER ON NEHEMIAH - reading, he frowns.

ANGLE CHRIS AND JOY - noticing Nehemiah's expression.
They shoot each other a worried look.

135 JOY
Bad news?

CLOSE ON NEHEMIAH

136 NEHEMIAH
A rumor is going around among the
nations that we are rebuilding the
wall and planning to rebel...
because I want to be their king.
(ref. Nehemiah 6:5-7)

ANGLE CHRIS, JOY, GIZMO looking concerned.

137 JOY
But that's not true.

ANGLE NEHEMIAH

138 NEHEMIAH
No. I am doing this for my people.
(re letter)
(MORE)

NEHEMIAH (CONT'D)

It says when the Persian king
hears this he will want my head.

ANGLE FAVORING CHRIS as he kicks the dirt.

139 CHRIS

Sanballat won't stop at anything.
Face it, guys like him always win.

ANGLE - the WORKERS hanging the gate have stopped and are
now nervously gathered around.

140 WORKERS

<NERVOUS WALLA>

ANGLE FAVORING A FEW OF THE WORKERS IN THE CROWD

141 WORKER #1

Maybe we can defend ourselves
against a few soldiers, but not
the entire Persian army!

142 WORKER #2

If they kill Nehemiah, what will
they do to us?

ANGLE ON NEHEMIAH - determined. He holds up the letter.

143 NEHEMIAH

None of this is true! (Nehemiah
6:8 CEV) I don't believe the king
is against us. He gave me his
blessing.

144 WORKER #1

But what if Sanballat is telling
the truth? What then?

Nehemiah climbs a scaffold as he says...

145 NEHEMIAH

Our enemies are trying to frighten
us and keep us from our work. But
I ask God to give me strength.
(Nehemiah 6:9 CEV)

ANGLE ON THE WORKERS

146 WORKERS

<Building walla - NEHEMIAH'S
RIGHT! THIS IS OUR CITY! etc.>

CLOSER ON NEHEMIAH - turning to look down at Shemaiah.

147 NEHEMIAH
 Shemaiah, deliver our response to
 Sanballat. The work continues!

He picks up a stone on the scaffold and puts in place on
 the wall top.

ANGLE ON THE WORKERS

148 WORKERS
 <CHEERS>

Shemaiah runs off.

ANGLE CHRIS, JOY, AND GIZMO watching Nehemiah, impressed,
 as all the workers move past and get back to work.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SANBALLAT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sanballat and Tobiah are with Shemaiah who has delivered
 Nehemiah's response. Sanballat, fuming with anger, flips
 a table over.

149 SANBALLAT
 The gall of this man!

150 TOBIAH
 We should have killed him when he
 first came to us.

151 SANBALLAT
 It is not too late!

SANBALLAT TURNS TO SHEMAIAH

152 SANBALLAT (CONT'D)
 Nehemiah trusts you.

153 SHEMAIAH
 Almost like a brother.

CLOSE ON SANBALLAT - smiling at this. He places a hand on
 Shemaiah's shoulder and speaks slowly... pointedly...

154 SANBALLAT
 Succeed at this task and you will
 be a very rich man.

Sanballat pulls out a bag of coins.

WIDER ON GROUP

They watch and listen... As Sanballat drops money
Shemaiah's hand, the coins glisten in the candle light.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. JERUSALEM WALL - LATE AFTERNOON

Chris, Joy and Gizmo walk along the wall, inspecting the
completed edifice.

155 JOY
Everyone has done great job.

ANGLE GIZMO AND SCREEN - doing an infrared scan.

156 GIZMO
Yes, I detect no internal
structural flaws what-so-ever.

157 CHRIS
(amazed)
And they did all of this in just
fifty-two days.

CAMERA ANGLES AWAY to take in a stretch of the wall and
we see Nehemiah walking to a Shemaiah's House, about a
block away. (Shemaiah's House needs a front window that
is open so the kids can see inside.)

158 JOY (O.C.)
Hey, there's Nehemiah! Come on.

The kids ENTER THE SHOT and head towards Nehemiah.

EXT. SHEMAIAH'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Nehemiah approaches and enters the house.

159 NEHEMIAH (O.C.)
Shemaiah, I have not seen you for
days.

The kids race up and approach the window.

INT. SHEMAIAH'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

160 NEHEMIAH
The wall is completed and...

Nehemiah stops and notices Shemaiah is looking worried. Shemaiah rises and paces away from Nehemiah. (not near the window because the kids will be approaching and peeking in)

161 NEHEMIAH (CONT'D)
What is it?

Shemaiah turns.

162 SHEMAIAH
Nehemiah, we must leave here right now.

163 NEHEMIAH
What?

Shemaiah moves quickly to Nehemiah, grasping his arms for emphasis.

164 SHEMAIAH
Let's hurry to the holy place of the temple and hide there. We will lock the temple doors, because your enemies are planning to kill you tonight." (Nehemiah 6:10 CEV).

Nehemiah frees himself as he says...

165 NEHEMIAH
Why should someone like me have to run and hide in the temple to save my life? I won't go. (Nehemiah 6:11 CEV).

166 SHEMAIAH
You must go. God has sent me to save you.

ON NEHEMIAH - thinking a beat. His brow furrows, then he looks up, eyes wide. (Praying - hearing from God)

ON THE KIDS

Chris furrows his brow.

167 CHRIS
What's he doing? Why doesn't he go with him?

Joy and Gizmo shake their heads, confused.

BACK ON SHEMAIAH AND NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah he slowly lowers his gaze and looks at Shemaiah.

168 NEHEMIAH
No, Shemaiah. I don't think God
had anything to do with this.

169 SHEMAIAH
What do you mean?!

NEHEMIAH AND SHEMAIAH - as Nehemiah grabs him.

170 NEHEMIAH
Tobiah and Sanballat have paid you
to trick me and frighten me into
doing something wrong because you
wanted to ruin my good name.
(Nehemiah 6:13 CEV).

CLOSE ON SHEMAIAH'S FACE - eyes wide, scared.

171 SHEMAIAH
I do not know what you mean...

Nehemiah leans IN close to Shemaiah.

172 NEHEMIAH
Go. Out of my sight!
(then he prays)
Remember, O my God, all the evil
things that Tobiah and Sanballat
have done.

ANGLE ON THE KIDS

They react.

173 NEHEMIAH (O.C.) (CONT'D)
And remember Noadiah the prophet
and all the prophets like her who
have tried to intimidate me.

BACK ON NEHEMIAH AND SHEMAIAH

174 SHEMAIAH
You're making a mistake.

175 NEHEMIAH
No, you made the mistake. And God
will not forget this.

Nehemiah storms out of the house.

EXT. SHEMAIAH'S HOUSE

The kids hurry up and Shemaiah turns, shaken and goes quickly inside his house. The kids join Nehemiah.

176 CHRIS
Whoa... Nehemiah, how'd you know
he was a traitor?

177 NEHEMIAH
God told me in that moment. - But
come. Locking me in the temple was
only part of Sanballat's plan.

178 GIZMO
What is the other part?

179 NEHEMIAH
To get inside our wall and take
back the city.

They hurry off.

EXT. JERUSALEM - GATE - DAY

Nehemiah and the kids rush up to the of the gates, whose doors are open. MEN stand nearby, casually talking.

CLOSER ANGLE ON NEHEMIAH AND VIEW THROUGH GATE - we see SOLDIERS riding toward the gate.

180 NEHEMIAH
Sanballat is coming! Close the
gates.

ANGLE DOORS - as the men move quickly to shut and secure the doors of the gate.

EXT. JERUSALEM - OUTSIDE WALL - CONTINUOUS

Sanballat and his soldiers ride up to the gate just as the door <SLAMS> shut.

181 SANBALLAT
This isn't the only gate in the
wall. Hurry!

As they ride off.

EXT. JERUSALEM -CONTINUOUS

Nehemiah turns to one of the men.

182 NEHEMIAH
Alert the gate keepers! Every
gate in Jerusalem must be closed!

ANGLE FAVORING MAN - who raises a horn to his lips and blows.

EXT. JERUSALEM - OUTSIDE THE CITY WALL - CONTINUOUS

Sanballat and his men ride up to another gate but it closes as they approach. <SLAM>

ON SANBALLAT - looking angry. He listens to the sound of the <HORN BLOWING> and <DOORS SLAMMING> all around. Sanballat looks up at the top of the wall where he sees --

ANGLE TOP OF WALL - Nehemiah, Hanani, Chris, Joy, Gizmo and other MEN look down at Sanballat and cheer.

183 ALL
<CHEER>

ANGLE SANBALLAT - frustrated, furious, he turns his horse around and gallops away, followed by his men.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WATER GATE - DAY

A CROWD is gathered by a wooden platform. DISCOVER the kids watching as Nehemiah speaks.

184 NEHEMIAH
Now that the tribes have returned
to Jerusalem, we must recommit
ourselves to God.

He turns to Ezra.

185 NEHEMIAH (CONT'D)
Ezra. Will you read the law that
the Lord has given his people?

CLOSER ANGLE NEHEMIAH AND EZRA - as Nehemiah hands Ezra the Book of the Law.

186

ANGLE PLATFORM - Ezra climbs onto it.

187 EZRA
Amen! Amen! This is the law of
Moses! (Nehemiah 8:1-2 CEV).

ANGLE NEHEMIAH AND KIDS - Nehemiah turns to them.

188 NEHEMIAH
Today the spiritual life of our
people is reborn.

Nehemiah looks toward Ezra as he reads from the Book.

189 EZRA
See, I have set before you today
life and good, death and evil...
(Deuteronomy 30:15-16 NKJV)

Ezra's voice DISSOLVES INTO AND BECOMES NEHEMIAH'S VOICE

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WATER GATE - LATER

Nehemiah speaks to the crowd.

190 NEHEMIAH
(NLT) Go and celebrate with a
feast / and share gifts of food
with people who have nothing
prepared. (NKJV) For this day is
holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow,
for the joy of the Lord is your
strength. (NKJV Nehemiah 8:10-16)

As Nehemiah gives the speech above, we see the following:

SERIES OF DISSOLVES:

EXT. JERUSALEM - NEAR TEMPLE - DAY

PEOPLE prepare for the Festival of Shelters

EXT. ROOFTOPS - DAY

PEOPLE construct booths

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY - DAY

WOMEN prepare food

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY

MEN gather wood and branches from leafy trees.

EXT. JERUSALEM - NEAR PLATFORM - DAY

As Nehemiah finishes his speech, the kids watch. Chris turns to Joy.

191 CHRIS

You know, if Nehemiah could stand up when people mocked him, I think I can handle a couple of troublemakers in science class.

Suddenly, they are enveloped by SUPERBOOK'S LIGHT.

192 GIZMO

Oh... we are going home. Hehehe! This is excellent. No more brick making for meeeeeeeeee!

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

todd and Benjie skateboard still around the room when Chris and Gizmo enter.

CLOSER ANGLE as the troublemakers skate IN.

193 TODD

Oh, look. It's Captain Science and the tin can.

Gizmo stands up taller and Chris stands his ground.

194 CHRIS

You two want to flunk science and go to summer school?

todd and Benjie exchange a LOOK.

CLOSER ON CHRIS - grabbing their skateboards.

195 CHRIS (CONT'D)

I didn't think so.

WIDER ON SCENE - Benjie reaches for his board.

196 BENJIE
Hey, give us our boards.

197 CHRIS
I will. But I need to show you
something first.

Benjie and Todd trade a puzzled look.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Chris and Gizmo have attached a metal tube to the back of each skateboard.

198 CHRIS
Okay, hand me the solution we just
made.

WIDER TO REVEAL - Todd and Benjie, wearing aprons, rubber gloves and protective goggles each hold a beaker of solution. They hand the beakers to Chris and Gizmo.

CLOSER ON CHRIS AND GIZMO - as they pour the solution into the tube, then place the skateboards on the ground.

WIDER ANGLE - as they turn to Todd and Benjie.

199 CHRIS (CONT'D)
Okay, guys. Time to try out your
new rocket skateboards.

Gizmo's screen lights up showing the periodic table.

200 GIZMO
Propelled by fuel we made with a
little help from the periodic
table.

Todd and Benjie step onto their boards.

ANGLE FAVORING CHRIS - as he pours something from another beaker into each of the tubes.

201 CHRIS
Now we just mix and --

WIDER ON GROUP - BANG! As the skateboards are propelled by the small explosion from each tube.

202 TODD AND BENJIE
Whoa!! Cool! Amazing!

WIDER ON YARD - as they roll around the yard, around lunch tables, trash cans and a kiosk, doing loops and twirls. (NOT SPEEDING - BUT PROPELLED NON THE LESS)

CLOSE ON Todd - having a blast.

CLOSE ON Benjie - doing loops.

ON CHRIS AND GIZMO - as Todd and Benjie finish their spin by skating up to our duo.

203 TODD
Better living through chemistry!
That was awesome.

204 BENJIE
Science rules! Show us how to
make more, Quantum.

205 CHRIS
You'll pay attention?

206 GIZMO
And no singing!!

MUSIC COMES UP - They sit down on their boards as Gizmo's chest opens and the arm extends handing the guys Notebook and Pens. They take them and start taking notes. Gizmo produces a blackboard from his chest and Chris begins scrawling chemistry equations.

FADE OUT