

# Nehemiah 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

## Analysis

---

**But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,**

This verse within Nehemiah 4 addresses themes of opposition, perseverance, prayer and work, spiritual warfare. Opposition intensifies as the work progresses, requiring both spiritual response (prayer) and practical measures (armed defense). Jerusalem's wall (chomah, חֹמָה) provided security, dignity, and testimony to God's faithfulness. This passage demonstrates biblical principles applicable across both testaments—God's sovereignty combined with human responsibility, faith expressed through obedient action, and the necessity of both individual and corporate commitment to covenant faithfulness. Nehemiah models leadership that combines vision, prayer, courage, integrity, and perseverance amid sustained opposition.

## Historical Context

---

Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. The 52-day wall completion represents

remarkable achievement given opposition and limited resources. Excavations have confirmed portions of Nehemiah's wall and various gates mentioned in the text. The Persian period was crucial transitional time when Jewish identity shifted from monarchical nationalism to Torah-centered covenantal community. Without political independence, the people's cohesion depended on shared scripture, temple worship, and covenant obedience. This established patterns persisting through the Second Temple period into New Testament times. Understanding this context illuminates Jesus's ministry among a people shaped by these reforms and challenges.

## Related Passages

---

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

---

1. How does Nehemiah 4:7 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific action or attitude change does this verse call you to make in your walk with God?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

## Interlinear Text

---

וַיְהִי י	שָׁמַע ע	כְּאֲשֶׁר ר	סַנְבַּלַּט	וְטוֹבְיָהּ	
H1961		H834			
	heard		But it came to pass that when Sanballat	and Tobiah	
	H8085		H5571	H2900	
וְהָעֲרָבִים	וְהָעַמּוֹנִים	וְהָאַשְׁדּוּדִים	כִּי	עָלָתָהּ	
and the Arabians	and the Ammonites	and the Ashdodites	H3588	H5927	
H6163	H5984	H796			
אֲרוּכָה	לְחֹמֹת	יְרוּשָׁלַם	כִּי	הָיָה לֹ	הַפְּרָצִים
were made up	that the walls	of Jerusalem	H3588	began	and that the breaches
H724	H2346	H3389		H2490	H6555
לְהִסָּתֵם	וַיִּחַר	לָהֶם	מְאֹד:		
to be stopped	wroth	H0	then they were very		
H5640	H2734		H3966		

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Nehemiah 2:10** (Parallel theme): When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

**Nehemiah 4:1** (Parallel theme): But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

**Revelation 12:17** (Parallel theme): And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

**Acts 5:33** (Parallel theme): When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

**Jeremiah 25:20** (Parallel theme): And all the mingled people, and all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines, and Ashkelon, and Azzah, and Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod,

**Amos 1:13** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border:

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)