

# Nehemiah 6:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)

## Analysis

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**Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)**

This verse within Nehemiah 6 addresses themes of deception, completing the work, steadfastness, discernment. Enemies shift tactics from open opposition to subtle deception, requiring spiritual discernment to complete the wall in 52 days. The construction work (banah, בָּנָה) symbolizes restoring what sin and judgment destroyed. Jerusalem's wall (chomah, חֹמָה) provided security, dignity, and testimony to God's faithfulness. City gates were strategic both defensively and administratively, controlling access and serving as centers of commerce and justice. 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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does Nehemiah 6:1 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific contribution can you make to building up Christ's church in your local community?
3. How does understanding your work as part of God's larger purposes transform your approach to daily responsibilities?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי י	נִשְׁמָע ע	כְּאֶשֶׁר ר	לְסַנְבַּלֵּט	וְטוֹבְיָהּ	
H1961	H834	heard	Now it came to pass when Sanballat	and Tobiah	
	H8085		H5571	H2900	
וּלְגֵשֶׁם	הָעֲרָבִי	וְלִי תֵר	אֹיְבֵינוּ	כִּי	בְנִי יְתִי
and Geshem	the Arabian	and the rest	of our enemies	H3588	that I had builded
H1654	H6163	H3499	H341		H1129
אֶת	הַ חוֹמָה	וְלֹא	נִוְתַר	בָּהּ	פָּרִץ
H853	the wall	H3808	left	H0	and that there was no breach
	H2346		H3498		H6556
גַּם	עַד	הַעֵת	הַיָּא	דִּלְתוֹת	לֹא
therein (though	H5704	at that time	H1931	the doors	H3808
H1571		H6256		H1817	
					I had not set up
					H5975
בְּשַׁעְרֵיהֶם:					
upon the gates					
H8179					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 2:19** (Parallel theme): But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?

**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.

**Nehemiah 3:3** (Parallel theme): But the fish gate did the sons of Hassenaah build, who also laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.

**Nehemiah 3:1** (Parallel theme): Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.

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