

# Nehemiah 6:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

## Analysis

**And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.**

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. 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

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

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Nehemiah 6:12 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

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בְּנֵבוֹאָה	כִּי	שָׁלַחׁ	וְ	אֱלֹהִים	לֹא	יְהֹוָה	הָ	אֲזָכָר	יְהָה
<b>And lo I perceived</b>				<b>that God</b>		<b>had not sent</b>		<b>this prophecy</b>	
H5234	H2009	H3808		H430		H7971	H3588	H5016	
שָׁכְרָן	וְסַנְבָּלָת	עַל	וְעַזְבָּנִי	הָ	תּוֹבִיא	אֶת	רְ	דָּבָר	
<b>him but that he pronounced</b>		H5921	<b>against me for Tobiah</b>		H2900		H5571	<b>had hired</b>	H7936
H1696									

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 13:22** (Parallel theme): Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life:

