

Nehemiah 6:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

Analysis

That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 6:2 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

וְשָׁלַח	סַנְבַּלַּט	וְגֶשֶׁם	אֵלַי	לְאָמֹר	לְךָ הֵ
sent	That Sanballat	and Geshem	H413	unto me saying	H1980
H7971	H5571	H1654		H559	
וְנִפְגַּעְנוּ	יַחְדָּם	בְּכִפְיֵי יָם	בְּבִקְעָה	אוֹנוֹ	וְהַמָּה
let us meet	together	in some one of the villages	in the plain	of Ono	H1992
H3259	H3162	H3715	H1237	H207	
חָשְׁבוּ	לַעֲשׂוֹת	לִי	רָעָה:		
But they thought	to do	H0	me mischief		
H2803	H6213		H7451		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:12 (Parallel theme): The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

1 Chronicles 8:12 (Parallel theme): The sons of Elpaal; Eber, and Misham, and Shamed, who built Ono, and Lod, with the towns thereof:

Nehemiah 11:35 (Parallel theme): Lod, and Ono, the valley of craftsmen.