

# Nehemiah 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;

## Analysis

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**Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;**

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

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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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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Nehemiah 6:5 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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וַיִּשְׁלַח	אֶל י	סַנְבַּלַּט	כְּדָר	הֵן ה	פַּעַם
<b>Then sent</b>	H413	<b>Sanballat</b>	<b>unto me in like manner</b>	H2088	<b>time</b>
H7971		H5571	H1697		H6471
הַחֲמִישִׁית	אֶת	בְּעַר ו	וְאֵת רֶתֶת	פְּתוּחָהּ ה	בְּיָדוֹ:
<b>the fifth</b>	H853	<b>his servant</b>	<b>letter</b>	<b>with an open</b>	<b>in his hand</b>
H2549		H5288	H107	H6605	H3027

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