

What Discourages Our Enemies?

And when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard *about it*, it was very displeasing to them that someone had come to seek the welfare of the sons of Israel. Neh. 2:10

Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. Neh. 4:1

Now it came about when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. And all of them conspired together to come *and* fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it. Neh. 4:7-8

So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. And it came about when all our enemies heard *of it*, and all the nations surrounding us saw *it*, they lost their confidence; for they recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. Neh. 6:15-16

How Does the Enemy Attempt to Discourage Us?

But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard *it*, they mocked us and despised us and said, "What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" Neh. 2:19

²And he spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy *men* of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore *it* for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?" ³Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* near him and he said, "Even what they are building-- if a fox should jump on *it*, he would break their stone wall down!" Neh. 4:2-3

1. "You're too weak; you'll never make it."
2. "You are selfish. You are all alone."
3. "You can't please God. He won't accept you."

4. "You're so messed up, it will take forever for you to get fixed."
5. "You're life is wrecked beyond repair. Nothing can be done now."
6. "You aren't really getting any better, and whatever meager progress you have made won't last. You are going to fall apart under the least little pressure."

^{6:1}Now it came about when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab, and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and *that* no breach remained in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates, ²that Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono." But they were planning to harm me. ³So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" ⁴And they sent messages to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way. Neh. 6:1-4

⁵Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand. ⁶In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel; therefore you are rebuilding the wall. And you are to be their king, according to these reports. ⁷"And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, 'A king is in Judah!' And now it will be reported to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together." ⁸Then I sent *a message* to him saying, "Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are inventing them in your own mind." ⁹For all of them were trying to frighten us, thinking, "They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done." But now, *O God,* strengthen my hands. Neh. 6:5-9