

Nehemiah Ch6

Rebuilding Despite Conspiracy

SES 26 August 2023

Nehemiah 5:9

[9] So I said, “The thing that you are doing is not good. **Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?**

Nehemiah 6:1-2

[1] Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), [2] Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono.” **But they intended to do me harm.**

Nehemiah 6:10-11

[10] Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night.” [11] But I said, “Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in.”

Nehemiah 6:15-19

[15] So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. [16] And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. [17] Moreover, in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them. [18] For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah: and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as his wife. [19] Also they spoke of his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid.

***What* are we rebuilding?**

***Whose* work are we doing?**

Matthew 6:33

[33] *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,* and all these things will be added to you.

Psalm 127:1

**[1] Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.**

**Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.**

1 John 2:15-17

[15] Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. [17] **And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

How do we regard conspiracies?

Conspiracies Almost, Always Certain!

Matthew 12:9-14

[9] He went on from there and entered their synagogue. [10] And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him. [11] He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? [12] Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” [13] Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. [14] But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

John 15:18-20

[18] “If the world hates you, **know that it has hated me** before it hated you. [19] If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, **but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.** [20] Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ **If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

Matthew 16:16-18

[16] Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” [17] And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. [18] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1 John 4:4

[4] Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, **for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**

John 14:12

[12] “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

How then shall we act when opposed, conspired against?

We seek God, we pray, we discern, persevere and work!

Prayer isn't mainly about asking for things or situations resolved!

Prayer is all about asking for God's kingdom to come, His will to be done and for us to discern and be part of the advance of His kingdom!

Prayer is about waiting, stilling, travailing, pressing forward!

Prayer builds faith, brings hope, prayer makes us experience God's power!

1 Thessalonians 5:17

[17] pray without ceasing

What if we don't seem to experience conspiracies against what we are "doing for God"?

We must worry when the enemy isn't bothered about what we are doing.

Many of the men and women of God recorded in the Bible faced enemies and conspiracies in their lives living for God. We dare not hope a different fate from theirs: *it may mean we are focused wrongly!*

Whose walls are you rebuilding?

How will you persevere and triumph through Jesus when faced with all manners of conspiracy?

Will you persevere in prayer?

Nehemiah 4:20b - ... our God will fight for us”