



Steadfast in our Assignment

Nehemiah 6:1-16

Recap of Nehemiah

Chapter 1

- Nehemiah hears about the state of Jerusalem and begins a fast and pray for Jerusalem.



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- Nehemiah hears about the state of Jerusalem and begins a fast and pray for Jerusalem.

Chapter 2

- Nehemiah is commission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- The first enemies appear...

Recap of Nehemiah

Chapter 1

- Nehemiah hears about the state of Jerusalem and begins a fast and pray for Jerusalem.

Chapter 2

- Nehemiah is commission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- The first enemies appear...

Chapter 3

- The people are galvanized into action and start the work of rebuilding the walls.

Recap of Nehemiah

Chapter 4

- The enemies seek to stop the work through discouragement and violence.
- Nehemiah arms those rebuilding to defend themselves

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Chapter 5

- The people struggle to do the work not only because they were poor, but also because they were exploited by their fellow Jews.
- Nehemiah convinced the wealthy to return what they had taken and to consider the welfare of their fellow Jews.

The Threats in Nehemiah 6



Disable



Demoralize



Discredit

Threat #1 – Disabling Nehemiah

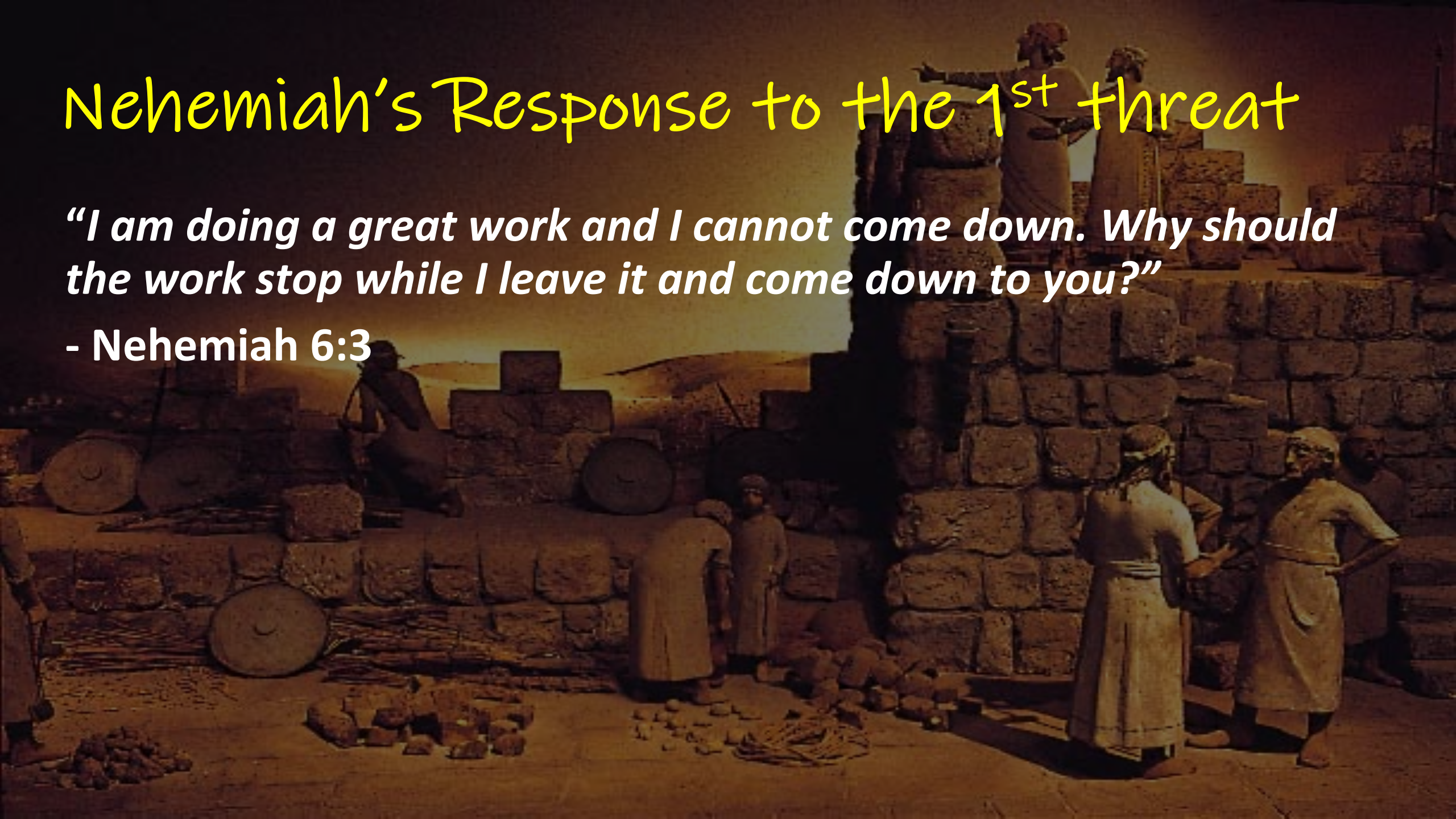
*“6 Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates),² Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono.” **But they intended to do me harm.**”* – Nehemiah 6:1-2



Nehemiah's Response to the 1st threat

"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?"

- Nehemiah 6:3



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"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?"

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Nehemiah's response to the threat was to
prioritize his God given assignment



Do you know
your God-given
assignment?

Threat #2 – Demoralizing Nehemiah

*“⁶ It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, **that you and the Jews intend to rebel**; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports **you wish to become their king**. ⁷ And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, ‘There is a king in Judah.’ And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together.”* – Nehemiah 6:6-7



Threat #2 – Demoralizing Nehemiah

“For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.”

– Nehemiah 6:9



Nehemiah's response to the 2nd threat

*“⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, “No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind.”⁹ For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.” **But now, O God, strengthen my hands.**”*

- Nehemiah 6:8-9



Nehemiah looked
to the Lord for help

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?

² My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

Threat#3 – Murdering Nehemiah?

*“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.**”*”

– Nehemiah 6:10

BELIEVE

Nehemiah's Response to the 3rd threat

But I (Nehemiah) 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 6:11

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Threat #3 Exposed – Discrediting Nehemiah

*“¹² And I understood and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³ For this purpose he was hired, **that I should be afraid and act in this way and sin, and so they could give me a bad name in order to taunt me.**”*

- Nehemiah 6:11

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Exemplary

Serving as a pattern; commendable;
deserving to be proposed for imitation;



How should we respond to threats?

- 1. Prioritize our God-Given Assignment***
- 2. Look to the Lord for help***
- 3. Be Exemplary in our Christian Conduct***

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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. - Nehemiah 6:15-16