

## **Nehemiah 6:1-19 – Study Leader’s Questions**

1. *How do Sanballat and friends change tactics? Think of Sanballat and friends as a type of Satan. What do we learn about our enemy from their behaviour?*
2. *Why did Nehemiah reject their plan and say ‘Oh no’! to Ono?*
3. *Was Nehemiah being too suspicious of his enemies’ motives, or is he being sensible taking appropriate caution in the face of real danger? What reasons did he give (Nehemiah 6:3)?*
4. *How can Nehemiah’s conduct be harmonised with passages that say we should teach and save the lost?*
5. *Why did Sanballat and friends repeat their invitation so many times?*
6. *How can focusing on a great work keep us from distraction?*
7. *What is our great work?*
8. *What is the significance of an unsealed letter’ (Nehemiah 6:5)? What was the content of this letter (Nehemiah 6:6-7)? Did Sanballat really care about the king’s well-being? What was his real goal?*
9. *How did Nehemiah respond to this accusation (Nehemiah 6:8)?*
10. *What was Sanballat’s plan for stopping Nehemiah (Nehemiah 6:10)? How did Nehemiah respond (Nehemiah 6:11)? Why had this man given this warning (Nehemiah 6:12-13)?*
11. *What was the end result of the people’s work (Nehemiah 6:15)?*
12. *What can we learn about following God from this chapter?*

## Nehemiah 6:1-19 – Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther* pp 61-74, 244-263 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 701-702 for detailed comments.

1. *How do Sanballat and friends change tactics? Think of Sanballat and friends as a type of Satan. What do we learn about our enemy from their behaviour?*

They acted in Nehemiah 6:2 like the inhabitants of Gibeon after God had given victory to the children of Israel at Jericho and Ai. ***“They did work wilily.”***

***“And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy. And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us”*** Joshua 9:3-6.

A request for a meeting, Nehemiah 6:2 or a proposal for a league is the same tactic, i.e. let's get together. In this case, the intended result, as Nehemiah discerned, was ***“mischief”*** as befell Abner, Amnon and Amasa when they agreed to meet with their opponents, 2 Samuel 3:27, 13:28, 29, 20:8, 9, 10. Nehemiah had an advantage, however, in that he would have been aware not only of the above events recorded in scripture but also that a similar ecumenical-style tactic had been tried 90 years before.

***“Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel; Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither”*** Ezra 4:1-2.

Nehemiah rightly rebuffed them just as Zerubbabel did. Observe that both Zerubbabel and Nehemiah stick with the objective of continuing with the Lord's work, as in 1 Corinthians 15:58.

***“But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us”*** Ezra 4:3.

***“And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?”*** Nehemiah 6:3.

1 Corinthians 15:58 should be memorised, especially since the Lord Jesus Christ has given the victory, 1 Corinthians 15:57.

***“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”***

As Paul shows, and as the above scriptures exemplify, the Devil's tactics consist of wiles, they don't change, they always aim either by affliction or temptation to distract the believer from following God's will and doing God's work and to get him to conform to this world. In sum, ***“by any means”*** 2 Corinthians 11:3 the Devil seeks to overwhelm:

## **SATAN THE DEVIL**

*“...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” 1 Peter 5:8*



***“Someone in the trench said, “THE DEVIL’S COMING!””***

– German soldier, September 15<sup>th</sup> 1916, the battle of the Somme

From the BBC Documentary:

*The Great War - The Devil is Coming (Episode Thirteen (!)) Part 4/4*

See [www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=9Wnx9MCmI48](http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=9Wnx9MCmI48).

Observe that ministry of God’s man is key, whether Zerubbabel, Nehemiah or Timothy.

*Resisting the Devil’s Wiles*

***“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”***  
Ephesians 6:11.

***“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices”*** 2 Corinthians 2:11.

*Resisting the Devil’s Afflictions and Temptations*

***“And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain. But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:”*** 1 Thessalonians 3:2-6.

*Resisting the Devil's Distractions*

***“But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away...And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction”* 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, 35.**

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Books of First and Second Corinthians* pp 154-158. Beware that the Devil will use *good and legitimate things* e.g. home, family, work, possessions, finances, health etc. to distract the believer's mind from God and the 1611 Holy Bible e.g. find time to cut the grass *after* the Bible study is finished!

*Resisting the Devil's Conformity*

***“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”*** Romans 12:2.

In the end, the Devil only wants the Christian to adopt conformity because it will erase the difference between the saved and lost and forestall that which Paul refers to as ***“first of all”*** namely ***“the gospel which I preached unto you”*** 1 Corinthians 15:1, 3 and ***“the ministry of reconciliation”*** 2 Corinthians 5:18. See *Question 7*. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1503.

2. *Why did Nehemiah reject their plan and say ‘Oh no’! to Ono?*

Nehemiah 6:2 states ***“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.”***

He knew it was a set-up for the reasons given under *Question 1*. See also Jeremiah 41:1-9 for another example of the results of supposed peace overtures.

***“Now the pit wherein Ishmael had cast all the dead bodies of the men, whom he had slain because of Gedaliah, was it which Asa the king had made for fear of Baasha king of Israel: and Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with them that were slain”*** Jeremiah 41:9.

Nehemiah no doubt also knew Psalm 55:21, referring to Judas and the Antichrist and therefore the Devil, along with his ***“false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ...his ministers also...transformed as the ministers of righteousness”*** 2 Corinthians 11:13, 15 in order to ***“by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple”*** Romans 16:18, noting Satan in Romans 16:20. Psalm 55:21 reads as follows.

***“The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.”***

Evidently Mohammed tried to join in with the Jews in his area by pretending he was a new Jewish prophet and praying facing Jerusalem. The Jews weren't taken in by his deception and rejected him. Being an authentic role model for his followers, Mohammed then killed the local Jews and stole their land. He directed all his 'prayers' toward Mecca from then on. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1148, commenting on Daniel 6:10.

3. *Was Nehemiah being too suspicious of his enemies' motives, or is he being sensible taking appropriate caution in the face of real danger? What reasons did he give (Nehemiah 6:3)?*

Nehemiah 6:3 states ***“And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?”***

Nehemiah was not being suspicious but sensible in the light of Joshua 9:3-6, 2 Samuel 3:27, 13:28, 29, 20:8, 9, 10, Ezra 4:1-3, Jeremiah 41:1-9. See *Questions 1, 2*.

Nehemiah's reasons for refusal were that he was not about to be distracted from his work and that he was no doubt aware that, the wisdom and resolve of Zerubbabel and the other leaders notwithstanding, interaction with ***“the people of the land”*** i.e. foreigners, see Ezra 4:1-3, had frustrated God's work in the past e.g. like excessive EU regulations and bureaucracy is crippling the UK's economy, with a loss of £300,000,000,000 a year.

See [www.eutruith.org.uk/eu200bn.html](http://www.eutruith.org.uk/eu200bn.html).

***“Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia”*** Ezra 4:4-5.

The nearest equivalent to Nehemiah 6:3 for Britain today with respect to the foreign EU would be as follows.

*Dear Bruxelles*

*Bog off.*

*As ever*

*England*

In November 2011, Prime Minister David Cameron wrote out Philippians 4:8, 9 from the 1611 Holy Bible.

See [www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/nov/11/bible-according-to-david-cameron](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/nov/11/bible-according-to-david-cameron).

In December 2011, Prime Minister David Cameron took a strong, if temporary stand against Europe by means of a veto to block a Europe-wide treaty.

See [www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/dec/09/david-cameron-blocks-eu-treaty](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/dec/09/david-cameron-blocks-eu-treaty).

The prime minister, though it was temporary, experienced what Jonathan did in 1 Samuel 14:27, 29.

***“But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.”***

***“Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.”***

In the light of 1 Timothy 2:1, 2, therefore, pray that the prime minister gets back to the King James Bible honeycomb according to Ephesians 1:17-19.

***“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.”***

4. *How can Nehemiah's conduct be harmonised with passages that say we should teach and save the lost?*

The harmony is achieved by **"rightly dividing the word of truth"** 2 Timothy 2:15.

Nehemiah is confronting **"the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin"** Ezra 4:1 and **"our enemies"** Nehemiah 4:15, 5:9, 6:1, 16. Their aim is set out in Nehemiah 6:9, along with Nehemiah's response.

**"For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands."**

God answered Nehemiah's prayer and **"So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days"** Nehemiah 6:15.

Completion of God's work had to take precedence over teaching and saving the lost, who in Nehemiah's case were **"the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin"** and **"our enemies."**

The question then arises with respect to the statement of the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:44.

**"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"**

Matthew 5:44 did have Old Testament application in Exodus 23:4-5 as well as in New Testament times.

**"If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him."**

However, the Lord Jesus Christ could be as abrupt as Nehemiah when dealing with individuals who opposed His work.

**"The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected."**

Paul urged reconciliation to God 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, see *Questions 1, 7* but resistance to **"the enemies of the cross of Christ"** Philippians 3:18.

**"Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil; the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words"** 2 Timothy 4:14-15.

**"A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself"** Titus 3:10-11.

(This is hardly 'sharing the sweet spirit of Christ' but it is scripture, in the Pauline Epistles, the central Biblical body of doctrine for the Body of Christ. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1234.)

In sum, the approach is determined by the response to **"the word of reconciliation"** 2 Corinthians 5:19, whether **"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth"** 2 Timothy 2:25 or **"rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith"** then **"after the first and second admonition reject"** Titus 1:13, 3:10-11.

5. *Why did Sanballat and friends repeat their invitation so many times?*

They tried, unsuccessfully, to apply Proverbs 25:15.

**“By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.”**

**“By the grace of God”** 1 Corinthians 15:10, the Christian can apply Proverbs 25:15. The New Testament equivalent is in Luke 11:8, 18:5. See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Book of Proverbs* pp 561-562.

**“I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.”**

**“Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.”**

The lesson for the Christian is to persist in prayer, as the Lord urges in Luke 18:7-8.

**“And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily...”**

Note the following with respect to George Mueller.

See *Renew Your Passion to Pray for the Lost, 5 Thoughts from George Mueller*.

See [www.shadesofgrace.org/2010/04/29/5-thoughts-from-george-mueller/](http://www.shadesofgrace.org/2010/04/29/5-thoughts-from-george-mueller/).

*“Pastor Charles R. Parsons, in an hour interview with George Mueller towards the close of his life, asked him if he spent much time on his knees. Mueller replied, “I have been praying every day for fifty-two years for two men, sons of a friend of my youth. They are not converted yet, but they will be! How can it be otherwise?”...*

*“Mr. Mueller went to Heaven praying firmly in faith, thanking God in advance, for the salvation of those for whom he was praying. Within months of his passing, the last friend on his prayer list was converted. **God answers prayer!**”*

See also [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_M%C3%BCller](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_M%C3%BCller).



George Mueller 1805-1898

6. *How can focusing on a great work keep us from distraction?*

By focusing on finishing the work, 2 Timothy 4:7

**“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:”**

By focusing on glorifying God, Romans 15:6

**“That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

By focusing on the foundation for future generations, 1 Corinthians 3:10

**“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.”**

7. *What is our great work?*

Our great work is *“the ministry of reconciliation.”*

*“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.*

8. *What is the significance of an unsealed letter’ (Nehemiah 6:5)? What was the content of this letter (Nehemiah 6:6-7)? Did Sanballat really care about the king’s well-being? What was his real goal?*

An unsealed letter can be read by others besides the intended recipient. Contrast Isaiah 29:11.

*“And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:”*

The letter contained accusations of an intended uprising by the Jews and usurpation of kingly power by Nehemiah, which would be reported to King Artaxerxes, Nehemiah 2:1.

Sanballat was trying to arrange a ‘Jimmy Hoffa’ type meeting, see Nehemiah 6:2 and *Question 2*. See also [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy\\_Hoffa#Disappearance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Hoffa#Disappearance).

*James Riddle “Jimmy” Hoffa* (born February 14, 1913 – disappeared July 30, 1975, [declared legally dead](#) July 30, 1982) was an American [labor union](#) leader.

*Hoffa was involved with the [International Brotherhood of Teamsters](#) [lorry drivers] union as an [organizer](#) from 1932 to 1975. He served as the union’s General President from 1958 to 1971. He secured the first national agreement for [teamsters’](#) rates in 1964, and played a major role in the growth and development of the union, which eventually became the largest single union in the United States, with over 1.5 million members during his terms as its leader.*



Jimmy Hoffa 1913-1975

*Hoffa, who had been convicted of [jury tampering](#), attempted [bribery](#), and [fraud](#) in 1964, was imprisoned in 1967, sentenced to 13 years, after exhausting the appeal process. It was not until mid-1971 that he officially resigned the Teamsters’ presidency, an action that was part of a [pardon](#) agreement with U.S. president [Richard Nixon](#), in order to facilitate his release later that year. Nixon blocked Hoffa from union activities until 1980 (which would have been the end of his prison term, had he served the full sentence). Hoffa attempted to overturn this order and to regain support.*

*Hoffa was last seen in late July 1975, outside the Machus Red Fox, a suburban [Detroit](#) restaurant...*

Hoffa tried to regain his former power and influence in the Teamsters union, which provoked “immense resistance” leading, in turn, it appears, to his eventual disappearance.



### ***Disappearance***

*Hoffa disappeared at, or sometime after, 2:45 pm on July 30, 1975, from the parking lot of the Machus Red Fox Restaurant in Bloomfield Township, an affluent suburb of Detroit. According to what he had told others, he believed he was to meet there with two Mafia leaders—Anthony Giacalone and Anthony Provenzano. Provenzano was also a union leader with the Teamsters in New Jersey, and had earlier been quite close to Hoffa. Provenzano was a national vice-president with IBT from 1961, Hoffa's second term as Teamsters' president.*

*When Hoffa did not return home that evening, his wife reported him missing. Police found Hoffa's car at the restaurant but no sign of Hoffa himself or any indication of what happened to him. Extensive investigations into the disappearance began immediately, and continued over the next several years by several law enforcement groups, including the FBI. However, the investigations did not conclusively determine Hoffa's fate. For their part, Giacalone and Provenzano were found not to have been near the restaurant that afternoon, and each denied they had scheduled a meeting with Hoffa.*

*Hoffa was declared legally dead in 1982, on the seventh anniversary of his disappearance, when he would have been aged 69.*

### ***Recent Events***

*...On June 16, 2006, the Detroit Free Press published in its entirety the so-called "Hoffex Memo", a 56-page report the FBI prepared for a January 1976 briefing on the case at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Although not claiming to conclusively establish the specifics of his disappearance, the memo indicates that law enforcement's belief is that Hoffa was murdered at the behest of organized crime figures who deemed his efforts to regain power within the Teamsters to be a threat to their control of the union's pension fund. The FBI has called the report the definitive account of what agents believe happened to Hoffa.*

*In November, 2011, in a book by Adrian Humphreys titled *The Weasel: a Double Life in the Mob*, the former driver of Jimmy Hoffa and a mob associate Marvin "The Weasel" Elkind stated that Hoffa is buried in the foundations of the GM HQ in Detroit, Michigan.*

The Sanballat Mafiosos no doubt intended as the outcome of the projected meeting, Nehemiah 6:7, that in the event that he would not conform, see *Question 1*, Nehemiah be buried in an equivalent location, very likely the foundations of the wall that he was building.

Nehemiah 6:10 would then have been true to that extent, at least with respect to evil intent.

***"...for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee"***

9. *How did Nehemiah respond to this accusation (Nehemiah 6:8)?*

Nehemiah called the liar a liar and again refused any meeting.

***"Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart"*** Nehemiah 6:8.

The equivalent ministry for the Christian is Ephesians 5:11.

***"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."***

A good example is [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/) *Emails from Bible 'correctors.'*

10. *What was Sanballat's plan for stopping Nehemiah (Nehemiah 6:10)? How did Nehemiah respond (Nehemiah 6:11)? Why had this man given this warning (Nehemiah 6:12-13)?*

Sanballat sent a hireling, Nehemiah 6:12, to play on the intended victim's fear, such as Sanballat perceived it, wrongly as it turned out, but with a view to enticing Nehemiah to sin by entering the temple so that "***an evil report***" or smear campaign could be generated against him in order to subvert God's work on the wall.

The intended sin would have been trespass into the sanctuary. King Uzziah sinned in this respect, in addition to attempting to burn incense against the law.

***"And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God"*** 2 Chronicles 26:18.

The hireling, Shemaiah, was a priest, Nehemiah 12:36, 42, in his case in the pay of the mob.

Note Job 2:4, showing that Sanballat was Satan's man.

***"And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life."***

Sanballat trusted in the first part of Proverbs 29:25, Nehemiah the second, being God's man. That was how, in prayer Nehemiah 6:14, he responded.

***"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe."***

Nehemiah's security was that of Proverbs 18:10, again accessed through prayer, Nehemiah 6:14.

***"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."***

2 Peter 2:15 describes Shemaiah and his motives, though he was mercifully spared Balaam's fate, Numbers 31:8.

***"Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;"***

Judas is a similar case, Matthew 26:14-15.

***"Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver."***

It should be noted that Paul warns twice about the dangers of "***false brethren***" 2 Corinthians 11:26, Galatians 2:4. See again [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/) *Emails from Bible 'correctors.'*

They will usually advocate 'toleration' that leads to ecumenism, Laodicea and luke-warmness that the Lord hates, Revelation 3:15, 16, 17, 18, 19, also because it is eventually Romeward-bound. See *All Roads Lead to Rome?* by Michael de Semlyen, Dorchester House Publications. See:

[www.biblecentre.org/truth testimony/1997\\_Vol\\_4/1/aeb\\_book\\_review\\_all\\_roads\\_lead\\_to\\_rome.htm](http://www.biblecentre.org/truth testimony/1997_Vol_4/1/aeb_book_review_all_roads_lead_to_rome.htm).

See also *Queen of All* by Jim Tetlow et al.

See:

[www.spiritual-research-network.com/queen\\_of\\_all\\_tetlow\\_oakland\\_myers.html](http://www.spiritual-research-network.com/queen_of_all_tetlow_oakland_myers.html).

11. *What was the end result of the people's work (Nehemiah 6:15)?*

See *Question 4*. In addition to answering Nehemiah's prayer, the Lord honoured the efforts of the workers on the wall.

**"So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days"**  
Nehemiah 6:15.

Nehemiah 6:15 is really a fulfilment of Isaiah 14:24, 27.

**"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:"**

**"For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?"**

None did, for the wall of Jerusalem. None will, for **"the work of the Lord"** that remains to be done, as Paul exhorts in 1 Corinthians 15:58. See *Question 1*.

**"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."**

12. *What can we learn about following God from this chapter?*

The word **"God"** occurs 5 times in this chapter, Nehemiah 6:9, 10, 12, 14, 16. Each occurrence has at least one lesson for following God.

*Trust God for Strength*

**"...Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands"** Nehemiah 6:9.

*Trust God for Safety*

**"...and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple"** Nehemiah 6:10.

Safety is in a Person, not a place, see Proverbs 18:10 and *Question 10*. See also Proverbs 21:31 **"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD."**

*Trust God for Discernment*

**"And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him"** Nehemiah 6:12.

Nehemiah's perception was most likely the same as Ahijah's.

**"And the LORD said unto Ahijah, Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her son; for he is sick: thus and thus shalt thou say unto her: for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself to be another woman"** 1 Kings 14:5.

The Christian must exercise himself consistently in **"the word of righteousness"** Hebrews 5:13 in order to achieve discernment.

**"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil"** Hebrews 5:14.

*Trust God for Righteous Judgement*

**"My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear"** Nehemiah 6:14.

Note the following scriptures, from King David and the apostle Paul.

**"...the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether"** Psalm 19:9.

***“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord”*** Romans 12:19. See 2 Timothy 4:14-15, *Question 4* and remarks on resisters of the Gospel.

*Trust God for Victory*

***“And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God”*** Nehemiah 6:16.

Note Paul’s exhortations, spiritually matching Nehemiah 6:16 with respect to ***“What hath God wrought!”*** Numbers 23:23.

***“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”*** 1 Corinthians 15:57.

***“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place”*** 2 Corinthians 2:14.