

Study Guide

Nehemiah Chapters 6 & 7

Big Idea: Close the gates!

1. In Nehemiah 6:1-14, we find the intimidation tactics of the enemy. It is important to understand our adversary. Read the passage and discuss the following ways Satan attacks us:

a. Unholy Alliances (v. 1-4)

Share a time when an unholy alliance took you in the wrong direction? Discuss the following statement: *Life is a battleground rather than a playground.*

b. Shameful Accusations (v.5-9)

Notice the accusations and the "open letter" for all to see. How does Satan use shame in our lives to intimidate us and try to stop us from working for God? How can we learn from Nehemiah's response?

c. Bad Advice (v.10-14)

Satan knows our desires and sends bad advice to get us to make concessions. How do we easily talk ourselves into making compromises? Once again, how can we learn from Nehemiah's response?

2. Read Nehemiah 6:15-16. The wall is finished!

According to Colossians 2:15, "*He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*"

According to Chip Ingram, Invisible War. "*We don't fight for victory, we fight from victory!*" How does the finished work of Christ on the cross change the way we do battle?

3. Read Nehemiah 7:1-4.

The wall is completed, but the gates need to be guarded. What does Nehemiah do, to assure protection for the city? What role do we play in protecting ourselves and our families from the attacks of the enemy?

Message Slides

Image:

"You either need inspiration or desperation to make changes in your life."

Steve Sabol

>on mouse click<

GRAPHIC

Stop and Pray

Be Honest with Yourself

Ask for Help
Let go of power and control
Close the Gates!

Big Idea- Close the Gates!

Introduction- The Invisible War (Nehemiah 6:1)

"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),"

I. Understand your Enemy (v.2-14)

A. Unholy Alliances (v.2-4)

Lucifer (bright and morning star) comes as an Angel of Light.

²Sanballat 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. ³And 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 to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

Come and let us meet together

2 Cor. 11:13-14

"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

B. Shameful Accusations (v. 5-9)

Satan (adversary)- Accuser of the brethren

⁵In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. ⁶In it was written, "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. ⁷And 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."⁸Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for

you are inventing them out of your own mind.” 9For 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.

C. Bad Advice (v.10-14)

The Tempter- twists perfectly good desires

¹⁰Now 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.” ¹¹But 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.” ¹²And 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. ¹³For 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.¹⁴Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid.

Submit/Resist

James 4:7

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Understand the Enemy

A. Unholy Alliances (Angel of Light)

B. Shameful Accusations (Accuser)

C. Bad Advice (Tempter)

>on mouse click<

Big Idea- Close the Gates

The Wall Is Finished- see image

II. Rest in the Finished Work (Neh. 6:15-16)

¹⁵So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶And 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.

>add on mouse click<

Jesus:

“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”
Col. 2:15

III. Manage the “Gates” (7:1-4)

Now when the wall had been built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, ²I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many. ³And I said to them, “Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot. And while they are still standing guard, let them shut and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their guard posts and some in front of their own homes.” ⁴The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt.

Big Idea- Close the Gates!