



Nehemiah-Patterns for Spiritual Warfare

The Book of Nehemiah contains powerful patterns for spiritual warfare. When God calls us to build for Him, the enemy will try to stop us before we even begin. It could be the wall of Jerusalem, a church, a ministry, a relationship, even a marriage. The Book of Nehemiah has some clear biblical patterns to show us how the Lord wants us to function during these battles. This book will also give you the wisdom and the discernment needed to know how the enemy will disguise his attack in another form and can instruct us how to pray effectively during these times.

Now it came to pass when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem, the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it..... That Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, Come, let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. Nehemiah 6:1-2

Only the doors, the last little detail, had not been completed and yet the enemies of God came to stop the work from being finished. Nehemiah discerns that they are coming for mischief and not to make peace. When we're beginning to fulfill the purposes of God, the strategies of the enemy get more and more subtle. At the beginning we saw that Sanballat and Tobiah came very straightforwardly by mocking Nehemiah and the Jews. Then they came again with a subtler attack and again they came in the name of peace to have a meeting. We see this in the Eastern Med right now as Islamic Turkey is calling Greece to come to negotiations. First, they came brazenly and mockingly with their research ship protected by their warships that crossed over into Greek waters to stop the agreement with Israel and Cyprus. Greece is making wise maritime deals also with Egypt and Italy and the enemy sees that this plan is going forward. Just like in Nehemiah chapter 6, the leaders of Turkey, particularly Erdogan are now coming and saying, "We want to meet with you. We want to have negotiations." I believe as Nehemiah, "But they were doing me mischief." The motives are not pure. Beloved, we need discernment even as we come to the finishing touches of building for God. We need more discernment than we had at the beginning.

Nehemiah very wisely and confidently answers:

"And I sent messengers to them saying, 'I am doing a great work so I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and come down to you?'" Nehemiah 6:3

These are very wise words, beloved. As Greece and Cyprus continue to make wise and faithful deals with Israel, Egypt and Italy to cooperate in promoting the building of the largest natural gas pipeline in the world, we declare the same thing:

"Why should the work cease? It's a great work. Why should it cease? Why should we leave this work in the natural and in the Spirit, and come down to meet with the enemies of God when their purpose is NOT to do good?" God, give us discernment in this hour about the strategies of the enemy in these end times before the breakthrough comes, before the great things of God get manifested on the earth, before the coming of the Lord!

Like the enemy, Sanballat does not give up! He sends his servant with the same tactic 5 times, with an open letter to Nehemiah that charges the man of God with deception. He can't cause the work to stop in the guise of false peace so he begins to lie.

He says, *"It's reported among the heathen that you and the Jews are thinking to rebel for which cause you are building the wall that you may be their king according to these words."*

The enemy is doing the same thing, beloved, in the Eastern Med. He's charging the Greeks/Cypriots with mischief as they lawfully make negotiations with Egypt and Italy to settle their differences so that progress can be made in this region for the good of all and for peace in the region.

Nehemiah responds to the enemy:

"There are no such things going on as you are saying. But you are feigning them out of your own heart." This is what the enemy will do when you are obeying the Lord and doing a great work for God and like Nehemiah, you need to expose him saying, "You are lying and you are making these things up out of your own heart."

Nehemiah discerns that the enemy is trying to make the people afraid so that the work will cease, so that their hands will be weakened from the work so that the wall will not be completed. Nehemiah cries out to God, *"Once again now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands."*

The enemy wants to weaken our hands and our prayers, and he wants to put fear in our hearts so that our obedience will cease and the work will fail. Like Nehemiah, we need to cry out to God, "Therefore, O God, strengthen our hands, strengthen our prayers."

The enemy makes his most subtle final attack against Nehemiah before the completion of the wall. Shemiah, a priest-prophet figure says to Nehemiah, *"Let us meet together in the house of God WITHIN the temple and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay you; yea, in the night will they come to slay you"* (Nehemiah 6:10).

It sounds like Shemaiah is trying to protect God's servant, but Nehemiah receives even greater discernment from the Lord. The enemy is trying to get Nehemiah who is not a priest, to disobey God by entering the place where by law, he is not permitted to go. It's a set up! He wants Nehemiah to enter within the temple lawlessly so that he will be struck down by the Lord!

In verse 11 Nehemiah cleverly says to the enemy, *"Should such a man as I flee? Should I run away? And who is there being as I am who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in."*

In verse 13 it says, *“He (Shemaiah) was hired for this that I should be afraid and go into the house of the Lord and sin that they may have reason for an evil report, that they might reproach me.”* The whole strategy here, beloved, was to get Nehemiah to sin against his God. In the end, when all else fails, this is what the enemy will do. If he can’t stop us in his devious ways, he will use the holy things of God to reproach God's people and destroy our reputation. But Nehemiah saw through the enemy's subtlety and called again upon the name of the Lord.

“My God, think upon Tobiah and Sanballat, according to their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets that would put me in fear.” God's servant releases everything into God's hands finally saying, *“Lord, you deal with it...”*

Nehemiah 6:15 says, “So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days.” In verse 16, it says, *“And it came to pass that when all our enemies heard and all the heathen that were about us saw these things that the wall was finished, that it was completed, they were cast down in their own eyes for they perceived that this work was done by the Lord.”*

Beloved, when we are doing God's will, He will provide the necessary discernment to rout the enemy and finish the work He is calling us to. We desire to see the enemies of God cast down in the Eastern Med. We want to see the completion of the Highway of Paul to the Jew first and to the Greek (Romans 1:16). We desire a higher level of relationship and union where there will be no Jew nor Greek, but the Messiah will fill us all in all (Galatians 3:28). We desire to see Yeshua made known in this region through us and around us. We will not cease this work. The enemies of God will be defeated and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior will be glorified in the region of the Bible lands.

Greta Mavro