

Through Hidden Opposition: Strength

Nehemiah 6:1–9



Week Eight

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Nehemiah 6:1–9

OVER THE MOUNTAIN

In chapter 4 Nehemiah encountered external opposition to his leadership over repairing the walls of Jerusalem. He then saw another obstacle when his own people halted the work due to social injustice in chapter 5. Like a bad rash, Sanballat, Tobiah, and their coconspirators are back in chapter 6, presenting additional complications! This time around, they do not attack Nehemiah directly but scheme a plot to get rid of him altogether.

If you see parallels, fear not; you are not seeing double. The pattern of the book of Nehemiah is a Hebrew chiasm (like an arch, or mountain). Chapter 4 is linked with chapter 6 about opposition. Later on, we will see chapter 3 linking with chapter 7 on organization; chapter 2 with chapter 8 on revival; and chapter 1 with chapter 9 on prayer. A chiasm leads up to the apex of the mountain, which tends to be the climax, or the most important focus of the narrative. In this case, the apex was chapter 5, which we studied last week. Ultimately, who does chapter 6 allude to? This week, we go down the mountain and retrace the themes that we saw on the way up.



Write out Nehemiah 6:1–9 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out Nehemiah 6:1–5. You may also write the passage in your own words, outline it, or mind map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases



Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

What should the Christian's response to personal attack be? To what extent are you responsible for how you are viewed by those around you?



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After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?



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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Prov. 16:28; 17:9; 18:8
James 4:11
2 John 1:7-11



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Nehemiah 6:1-9?

Review your memorized verse from Nehemiah 6:1-9.



Meditate on Nehemiah 6:1–9 again and look for Jesus in the passage.



What parallels do you see between Jesus' response to temptation and Nehemiah's response?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?



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Review your memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



As you have studied this
week, what personal
applications have you been
convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications
you must make in your school,
family, workplace, and church?



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Spirit of Prophecy at
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inquire

Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



What stands out to you in the chiasm of Nehemiah?

What are the Onos in your life?

Why is it so hard to say no?

What is the difference between obstinacy and discernment?

Though the story took place more than two millennia ago, how are things still exactly the same?

What are practical ways that we can seek the kingdom of God first?