

February 24, 2019

Haters Gonna Hate Nehemiah 6 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

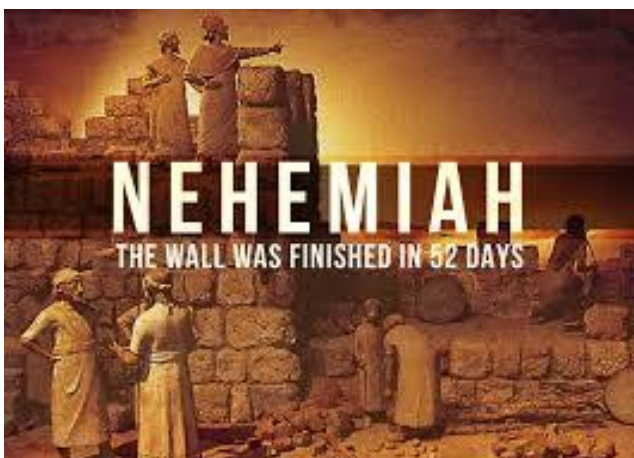
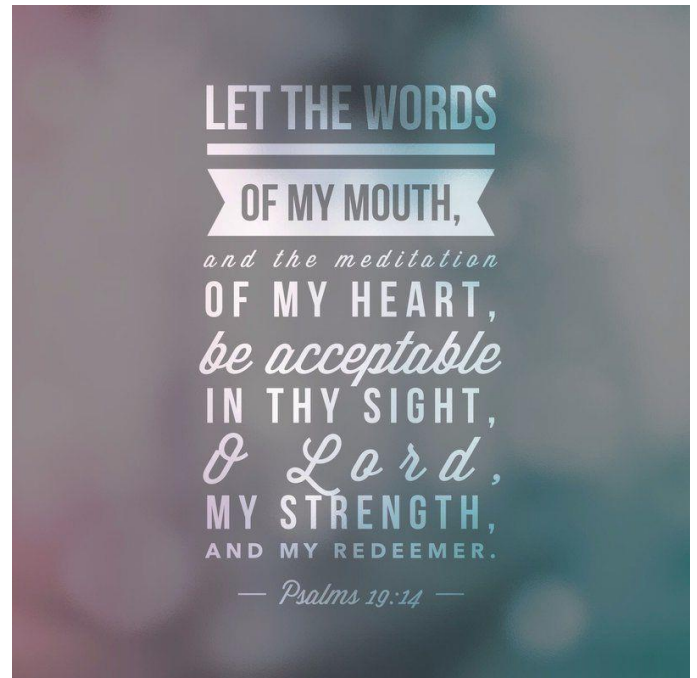
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Nehemiah 6 gives us the completion of the wall. The surrounding people have enjoyed having the upper hand in their relationship with the people of Judah. Many in Judah had even made pledges to Tobiah, one of the local non-Jewish leaders. Now that the Jews have finished the wall in a miraculously short amount of time the surrounding people fear that they will have lost their upper hand. They attempt to draw Nehemiah out so that they can harm him but their efforts do not work. Then they attempt to slander Nehemiah but again they fail. Nehemiah is not swayed by the threats and the lies that are told about him. He holds to what he knows to be true about God. Join us this week as we talk about how we can cling to the truth of God and His work even in the face of stiff opposition.

Nehemiah 6 (NASB)

The Enemy's Plot

6 Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and *that* no breach remained in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates, ² then Sanballat and Geshem sent *a message* to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono." But they were planning to harm me. ³ So 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?" ⁴ They sent *messages* to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way. ⁵ Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand. ⁶ In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel; therefore you are rebuilding the wall. And you are to be their king, according to these reports. ⁷ You have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, 'A king is in Judah!' And now it will be reported to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together." ⁸ Then I sent *a message* to him saying, "Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are inventing them in your own mind." ⁹ For all of them

were *trying* to frighten us, thinking, "They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done." But now, *O God*, strengthen my hands.

¹⁰ When I entered the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined at home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you, and they are coming to kill you at night." ¹¹ But I said, "Should a man like me flee? And could one such as I go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in." ¹² Then I perceived that surely God had not sent him, but he uttered *his* prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³ He was hired for this reason, that I might become frightened and act accordingly and sin, so that they might have an evil report in order that they could reproach me. ¹⁴ Remember, *O my God*, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these works of theirs, and also Noadiah the prophetess and the rest of the prophets who were *trying* to frighten me.

The Wall Is Finished

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of *the month* Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard *of it*, and all the nations surrounding us saw *it*, they lost their confidence; for they recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our

God. ¹⁷ Also in those days many letters went from the nobles of Judah to Tobiah, and Tobiah's *letters* came to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were bound by oath to him because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah. ¹⁹ Moreover, they were

speaking about his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. Then Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why did Sanballat accuse Nehemiah of rebellion?

9. Why did some want to take Nehemiah to the temple to hide him?

10. Why did the prophets speak falsely against Nehemiah?

11. What is the significance of the wall being finished?

12. Why were many in Judah bound by oath to Tobiah and what impact might the wall have on their pledge?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Nehemiah recognized the false prophets and did not follow their advice. How can we recognize false prophets today?

14. Nehemiah did not let the lies about him stop him from doing good work. Have people told lies about you?

15. Have other's lies about you made it hard to do good work? How have you been successful in overcoming the lies?

16. How can we be reassured that we are doing the work of God?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes