

---

<sup>15</sup>So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth *day* of Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup>And it happened, when all our enemies heard *of it*, and all the nations around us saw *these things*, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God. <sup>17</sup>Also in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and *the letters of Tobiah* came to them. <sup>18</sup>For many in Judah were pledged to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shechaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah. <sup>19</sup>Also they reported his good deeds before me, and reported my words to him. Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.

---

1. Final touches

- a. The wall was completed in an amazing 52 days
  - a1. Completed in the 6<sup>th</sup> month (Elul, 27 Oct. 445 BC)
  - a2. Neh.'s organization was stellar
- b. The achievement was stunning in the face of trials
  - a1. Enemies opposed the work at every step
  - a2. Through threats, tricks, taunts, & trauma the building continued
- c. Kenyon's archeological finds (1962):
  - a1. The wall was shorter than original wall
  - a2. The work was rough-hewn (not surprising given the opposition)
- d. The enemy was distraught
  - a1. All their efforts had failed
  - a2. They were astonished & grieved
  - a3. They realized that the Lord had aided Neh.
- e. No matter what the opposition is, God triumphs
  - a1. God shows himself strong against his enemies working through the faithful
  - a2. Gal. 6 we triumph if we do not quit

2. Undercurrent

- a. Even as the work proceeded, Neh. was undermined

- a1. The nobles exchanged letters with Tobiah
  - a2. The nobles had business dealing with Tobiah long before Neh. arrived
  - b. The nobles had been a hindrance to work all along
    - a1. They had enslaved their fellow Jews
    - a2. They refused to do the physical labor to build the wall
    - a3. They had given their children to marry pagan wives
  - c. The exchange of letters with the enemy was both treasonous & subversive
    - a1. They tried put Tobiah in a positive light
      - b1. They reported good deeds done by him to Nehemiah
      - b2. Attempt to paint Tobiah as a friend
    - a2. The nobles reported all of Neh.'s actions, plans, & statements to Tobiah
  - d. Tobiah was married to the daughter of Shechaniah
    - a1. Shec. was one of the leaders returning with Ezra & in charge of the 3<sup>rd</sup> gate (sheep gate)
    - a2. Tobiah's son was married to Meshullam's daughter, who led a group under Ezra
  - e. The intermarriage of Jews & pagans threatened to destroy the covenant people
    - a1. Israel was not to mix with other nations
    - a2. This was a bigger problem than the wall
  - f. In the midst of the letter exchange with the nobles, Tobiah continued to send threatening letters to Neh.
3. When moving forward is backwards
- a. With divisiveness inside the wall, Neh.'s work continued to be undermined
    - a1. As long as Jewish leaders were allied with God's enemies, spiritual advance as stunted
    - a2. Spiritual vitality was more important than both the temple & the wall
  - b. The apostles faced the same issues with churches
  - c. Neh. 13 Eliashab the High Priest prepared a room for Tobiah in the temple after Neh. left for Persia
    - a1. The greatest enemies are within (Ac. 20)
    - a2. Gal. 5 guard spiritual purity & vitality