

We Have a Wall!
Nehemiah 6 & 7

Reference	Information	Gospel Parallel
6:1	<p><u>The Opponents</u> (a review): Sanballat, governor of Samaria Tobiah, governor of Transjordan Geshem the Arab, governor of southern area toward Sinai Reason for their opposition?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • political • personal power threatened • or (Geshem) trade route interrupted? <p>"[By building this wall,] are you rebelling against the king?" (2:19)</p>	
6:1	<p><u>Status of the Project</u>: wall completed, but doors in gates have not been set.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no door = no welcome, no entry yet 	Jesus says, "I am the gate for the sheep; those who come in through me will be saved" (John 10:9).
6:2-3 First tactic: Diversion (hoping he will leave the job, lose focus)	<p><u>Opponents call Nehemiah to a meeting</u> way out in Ono (just east of Joppa on the coast). Nehemiah declines with, "Hey, I'm doing something important here. I can't drop everything to come to see you."</p>	Jesus' temptation in the desert (Luke 4:1-13)
6:5-9 Second tactic Accusation (hoping he will collapse under criticism)	<p>Fifth message contains <u>false accusations</u> against Nehemiah, that Nehemiah aspires to be king. (:8) "You're making this stuff up!" [Nehemiah knew the opponents were trying to neutralize the Jewish effort by fear-mongering.] <i>Nehemiah prays for strength (:9b)</i></p>	Jesus on trial: "King of the Jews" and threat to Jewish status quo (Luke 23:1-25)
6:10-14 Third tactic: Temptation (hoping to discredit his moral leadership with sin)	<p><u>Shemiaiah tries to intimidate Nehemiah</u> "Take shelter in the Temple!" Nehemiah discerned his bad intentions <i>and prayed</i> "Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, because of what they have done," in contrast to "Remember their sins no more."</p>	Jesus' temptation in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46)
6:17-19 Beguiling (hoping to sway his opinion of neighbors)	<p><u>Letter-writing behind Nehemiah's back</u>, between opponents and Jewish insiders disloyal to Nehemiah's efforts. Tobias: "Lots of people agree with me."</p>	The controversy over Jesus' teaching, resulting in defections. "Are you going to leave, too?" (John 6:66-71).
7:1 Wall complete	Census taken, passport control	Life defined by boundaries