Is reported among the nation, that’s why so many reporters, they don’t report news they try to make news. It’s reported among the nations, and Gashmu said it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel for which cause thou buildest the wall that thou mayest be their king according to these words. Verse 7 and 8. And thou hast also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning thee at Jerusalem, saying, there is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. We’re going to tell on you, we know what you have in mind. You have insurrection in mind. [Inaudible] you want to be the top man of the ladder. Top man on the totem pole. Come now therefore. Let’s take counsel together well see how we can work this thing out. Then I said unto thee him saying, there are no such things done as thou sayest but thou inventist them in thine own heart. In plain English, you’re big liars. Open letter tactic. How many of us have never heard of this type of device. Woven throughout with lies. The man of god isn’t lost. He’s not lost in this matter. He refuses outright every implication denies the whole accusation in total. Then another device. Oh the contention goes on. They never quit. Verse 10 to 12, where do they get all the strength and motivation? From the devil Satan attacks afterword I came, this is verse 10 of chapter 6. Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut in. apparently he was ill. And he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors. Think of it, how this fellow when Nehemiah comes and does a work of real heartfelt sympathy comes to see a man in his illness. He tries to take advantage of Nehemiah. And get his ear I assume. I assume that he was actually ill. Let us meet together in the house of god within the temple, let us shut the doors of the temple,
let’s get real cozy, real chummy. For they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee. And I said, should such a man as I flee? And who is there, who, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in. and lo, when you make the right decision, you always have the appervasion [sp?] of god. Shortly thereafter, if not immediately. And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he had pronounced, he'd pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. The third scheme here is even more subtle than anything before it. Shemaiah was evidently confined, that’s what shut in means. He was confined with an illness. And what was proposed was the heathen use of the temple. You see it in some of the historic books. When someone was after an individual, and he thought where I can get a haven, where can I get asylum. They wouldn’t dare kill me in the temple. Joab did it even here remember? In second kings. Oh, first kings I should say. 1 kings 2:28. He fled there. And when they told it to Solomon, Solomon said, kill him right where he is. God never allowed his house, his temple, his place of worship his sanctuary. God never allowed that to be used as the heathen did. It’s not like a rabbit's foot. It’s not like an extra insurance policy. The house of god is for worship. Not well it’s been an awful lot of lightning and flooding, I suppose the church will be a good place to keep from being in the flood. No don’t use it for that. God never allowed his house to be used that way. You see for Nehemiah to have shown fear would have discouraged the people. That was the objective of the enemy. Draw a wedge. Push a wedge in there. Get a [inaudible] some way or other. Profess friends who are in reality enemies. He says in Nehemiah, you know this is right sporting him to come and see me in my illness. And really I ought to do you some favor in exchange. And then he recommends this. And they get together get into the temple, shut the door, they’re going to come to slay you, in the night will they come to slay you. Think of all this. Oh, with some friends you don’t need any enemies do you? Look at
6:14, another one. My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess. You mean they got a lady in, yes. A prophetess noadiah. They had heard a prophecy against Nehemiah. Now I told you, Nehemiah was not a scribe, he was not a prophet, he was not a priest, he was not a king. He was the governor [inaudible]. So to have a testimony from the prophetess, she is quite aware of the leading of the lord folk would say. And listen to what she’s saying. They got her and the rest of the prophets who would have put me in fear. He said I’m not going to budge an inch. Enemies had prophets and prophetesses to speak against Nehemiah to make him afraid. You say my, that man is impervious to their lies. Of course. He knows one thing. Gods told him to do it. And no one is going to swerve him from it. Verse 17 to 19. Do you know in a race, what person it is that has the hardest time in the race? The fellow out in front. Why? Because everybody behind has somebody that he wants to overtake and pass. He is way out there. And I tell you there, that’s the one. That’s the one they want to get. That’s they shoot at. The most fiery [inaudible]. Now, verses 17 to 19. Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters. We talked about that open letter didn’t we? Here’s the letter campaign. Oh yes. In those days, nothing new under the sun you know. In those days the nobles of Judah sent many letter unto tobiah and the leaders of tobiah came, and the letters of tobiah came unto them. For there were many in Judah sworn unto him, because he was the son in law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and his son Johanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah. Oh yes. Thieves stick together you know. All in the same category here. Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. These folk, that’s for nothing by way of remuneration. They tried to outdo the postal service, the telegraphic service, and all other kind of services and carry messages back and forth and back and forth. Reported his good deeds before me. Oh they he’s wonderful you ought to see him you ought to have some sort of
consultation with him some time. Some [inaudible]. No no. out of my words, and tobia sent letters to put me in fear. Crafty correspondence kept up so that Nehemiah might weaken somewhere along the line, what’s the matter with this man? He might be caught in some dilemma. Satan tried every device against Nehemiah because the cause of god depended at that time on his faithfulness. A work for god never forget is, can always be discerned by the violent [inaudible] opposition of Satan against it. A man once said to that one dear man of god Founder of oberlin [sp?] Charles Finney the evangelist. A man once said to him, I don’t believe in the existence of the devil. He says is that right, don’t you? He says you just resist him for a while and you’ll believe in him. Ah yes. The only folk who are not troubled by the devil are those of whom we read in 1 John 5:19. We are of god and the whole world lies in the laugh of the wicked. What the original says. He’s got them asleep. He’s given them a soporific. He’s overdosed them. No one needs to preach a sermon to Nehemiah on the existence of the devil. Or on the variety and the ludicrous nature of his cunning devices. So we have the his intention their contention, and look at the dissention. Oh they gained something. They weren’t divine, they were human, these people with whom Nehemiah worked. Through all the attempts against the work Sanballat failed except one time. Satan had one in him. He was able for a short while to inject discord and dissention in the midst of the workers. That’s the favorite tool of the devil. You say where is it? 4:10. And Judah said, fourth chapter tenth verse. And Judah said, and that means the folk there, not just one person. And Judah said the strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed. Were plum tuckered out. Do you notice how soon some people get tired out? They can work 7 days a week before they’re saved. You notice that? They fixed up their house on Saturday. It used to be said. Well we only have one day in a week we have to work 6 days. They have to do some work around so we do it on Sunday’s now that its 5 days, they still have to do it on
Saturday and Sunday. And if you get 4, they do it Friday Saturday and Sunday. Or haven’t you heard of the 3 day weekend. It reminds you of this fellow that stood on a street corner kept going like that. Somebody says whatever in the world are you doing? He said I’m taking a trip over the weekend. That’s with the lot of them. Yes. They say they’re worn out. Years ago, there was a pastor at the first Presbyterian church in Siloam springs Arkansas where John brown university is. He’s a dear friend of ours, he was a dear friend of Dr. Talbot before that in Oak Park Illinois. He called him Dad Stone. He became a visiting bible teacher in Dallas seminary. And he asked me if I wouldn’t come up and speak on the weekend and I did, at his church. And they asked me to speak to all of the Sunday school classes. And so I said alright. And here they were coming in and we were seated on the platform Dr. Stone and I. And he said you see that little girl down there? I said yes. He says she is something else again. She hadn’t been in Sunday school more than a few weeks when the Sunday school teacher asked her to do something. And she looked up at her as big as life and very prissy and said Ms. Hellen, Ms. Hellen I didn’t come to this church to get all worn out. A lot of people are like that. That’s a fact. And that’s what they were trying to say. The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed there is much rubbish. I’ll say, all over the world. So that we are not able to build the wall. Oh, there it is. The strength of the bearers of burdens. They forgot that their real strength was in the Lord. Too little strength and much rubbish complained the many corruption. Too many obstacles. Those are the stock arguments. We don’t have the strength to do it and there’s too much to be done beyond us. Yes. Those are stock arguments to those who become discouraged. This dissension could have [inaudible] with the work, and the strengthening of the enemy. So what happened? If it hadn’t been cared for by the divine wisdom given Nehemiah. What was the cure? Verse 9, nevertheless we made our prayer unto our god and set a watch against the enemy day and night because of them. Yes. Watching
and praying with the strengthening of the hands of the work. It’s sad, but it’s true. That often
where brethren should be united and at one they hiss that Satan is all too often found
in dissension and discord. The enemy has his intention, he carries on his contention, but what
about opposing him so that there’s no dissension in our ranks. God hates those, we read in
proverbs 6:19 hates those who sow discord among brethren. The bible says in plain language, it
is an abomination to him. That means, that’s the strongest way in the Old Testament and New
Testament of talking about something that god abhors and loathes. There was quite a controversy
on the deity of Christ. It’s called the Arian controversy. It took place in the fourth century also. A
R I A N. there was one in the early church. His name was Arias, and he held that Christ was an
exceptional one but he was a created son of God. If he had with his unbiblical view been
victorious, Christianity would have been on the same level as the heathen religions. No. Christ is
deity. The one who opposed Arias was Aphenasious [sp?] .sometimes called the Arian
controversy, or the Aphenasian controversy. Well it was during a controversy like that in the
general meeting in London. The meeting administers of London at [inaudible] hall that a Mr.
Thomas Bradbury who had been contending that those who really believe truth of Christ’s deity
he says it’s about time we went on, and by the way this is so modern. I’ve been telling you about
a certain great denomination that’s right in [inaudible] now. Is Christ god? Because one man was
asked at an ordination in Washington DC. Do you believe Christ is god? And he said no. they
said lets go ahead with the ordination. Of course in the 1920s in that same church, there had
come up exactly the same thing. 5 basic things: inspiration of scripture, the virgin birth of Christ
as deity, his subducinary [sp?] death, his resurrection. Asked do you believe these? And you
know what they decided there? God help them. That these are only theories which need other
theories to fortify them and sustain them. Imagine it. Might as well be in Islam or Buddhism or
Confucianism. Beloved, this is too late an hour, I don’t care how young you are or how old. This is too late an hour not to be sure about the basics. What does it mean to be Christian anyhow? The glory of our faith is in the bible. What we say about our lord Jesus, what we believe in. but anyhow, he says you folk who really believe the doctrine of Christ’s deity, you ought to vow it once and for all. And to bring it to a test, this dear man of god Bradbury said you who are not ashamed to own the deity of our lord Jesus Christ follow me up into the gallery. And he had hardly gone up 2 steps, he had hardly amounted 2 steps to the gallery, before the opposite party began to hiss them. And he turned around and he said I’d been pleading for him who boos the serpents head. No wonder the seed of the serpent should hiss. The true character comes out. It does. Be on the look beloved for the hiss of the devil that wants to so discord among brethren united for a work of god. Now in the 5th chapter, this is interesting. In the 5th chapter, I see it in the margin. I’ve added a note. In the 5th chapter in the 17th verse, moreover there were at my table 150 of the Jews. This is 5, oh 5:7 not 17, 5:7. Here it is. Then I consoled with myself. I think this, you know there are some things in the bible they’re really cute. Really humorous. I consoled with myself. He had a one man conference. Sometimes you do. You have to have a conference with yourself. And that’s what he did. Then I consoled with myself and I rebuked the nobles and the rulers and said to them, you exact interest to every one of this brother. You have to. Tell it as it is. There it is. He had to call a one man conference. The leaders at that time were his opponent. Oh my friends, what is as remarkable as the variety of devices used against Nehemiah. And even more wonderful is the steadfastness of that great man of god. He didn’t waver, he didn’t swerve once from his purpose. Beloved, this man Nehemiah, believe me, has come in for all too little recognition, not that he’s asking for it. Not once was he caught off guard. The opposition went from derision to anger to contempt to conspiracy, to scheming, to
cunning, to slander, to instilling fear, to complicity with those within. They even got to some folk who were very near Nehemiah to try to swing him over. But in every case, this man of god stood adamant for god in his work. Now how in heavens name, he must have been made out of flesh and blood the way we are, how did he do it? He lived close enough to god to know what was contrary to his will. You know serving Christ, in a very real sense, is very simple. It’s this business of maybe this is right, and maybe that’s right, and maybe the other, and maybe this. No. no. one thing, Paul says one thing I do. My, that can give force to life. Have you ever tried to hose down your driveway? Well you can make it a spray that won’t do anything any good. Most of it will come back onto you if there’s a little wind. But if you make it one stream, you can really wash down the whole driveway. And that’s the way with a life. Don’t get spread out like shot all over the side of the barn. Have some direction. This one thing I do. Yeah live close enough to god he certainly did. He knew what was contrary to the will of god. Do you, do I, do I? Are we swept away with every slander? The way of victory has been demonstrated by Nehemiah. May god abundantly bless as he has through century, this tremendous testimony. And pattern of Nehemiah. The first study, the cup bearer weeps. Somethings got to be done. It’s a sad state to Jerusalem and the condition of the people there. And then when this man of god is determined, then the devil attacks. There is no area in which he will not attack. Naturalists tell us, scientists tell us, of a small animal, and there’s a name for it, ichneumon maybe you’ve heard of him, I C H N E U M O N. This small animal ichneumon, is not over 2 or 3 inches in size. He’s strictly a small critter. But do you know that that small ichneumon, 2 or 3 inches in size, can defeat and destroy a venomous snake that’s over a yard in length. And many times larger than the small animal. Well what’s the reason? Well those naturalists, natural scientists, who’ve watched it, have noticed that this ichneumon never fights a snake over 2 or 3 feet away
from a certain plant. That plant has leaves that has an antidote for the snake bite. When the snake plants its venomous fangs, this is fact, in the little creature, at once it draws itself back, drags itself to the bush, chews a leaf, and is instantly restored. Returns refreshed and renewed for the conflict. after a little ichneumon is bit again and when it feels death creeping along the veins, it rushes at once to the shrub, takes another mouthful of that restoring leaf, returns with a new lease of strength and life and courage for the battle. It’s just a matter of time now, just a question of time. That snake grows weaker and weaker. Big bully that he is. While the ichneumon is continually renewed. So after a while the larger animal goes down in the contest. While the little ichneumon jubilant. It’s interesting what he does. He waves his right paw in the air. Over the serpent. My friends if we keep close to god no matter how strong the enemy, believe it. Were certain of victory. Do you know why we are on the victory side? You know it. Because we have the victor. The way to get the mastery is to have the master. A fellow who is quite taken to tipping the bottle. And oh and he was a bi word in the whole community. He was safe and soundly in the rounds they say he didn’t touch. Fellow said you finally got the mastery of a drink. He said no I have the master over drink. That’s not habit. And that’s what Nehemiah, that’s the one Nehemiah had. Thank god. You and I have the same blessed lord. Our father, in the quiet of this moment, how we thank thee from the depths of our hearts for this great man Nehemiah. Perhaps we haven’t thought of him in many year in a month of Sunday’s, in a year of Sunday’s. But oh he turns out eyes away from the oppositions, the contentions, the insinuations, the contraventions of man. He turns our eyes in the right place, toward thee. Toward the living god, and in his day the coming messiah. The one we know as the lord Jesus. We shall delight to fellowship with him in the kingdom of our lord Jesus. Bless these thy dear ones from all the activities that they could be engaged in. they have taken valuable time. For time is an ingredient
of eternity. They’ve taken valuable time and how could they spend it better than upon thy precious word. This pupate from which were preaching. These lights in this memorial chapel. These rugs, the organ, piano, all these wonderful [inaudible]. All of these are going to be gone in the coming day. And thy word is going to shine as brightly and as gloriously as ever it was. Thy word is forever settled in heaven. May it be so settled in our hearts. Bless the grounds. Bless in all of the administration. Bless in the music ministry. Bless in the ministry with the young folk. Oh there’s the future of our church. And of our country. Bless the littlest ones. Bless those that are in mothers arms. May they be cared for. They are our first responsibility. Our first line of defense. And now may the word the word of thy truth be magnified in us and through us to the glory of our precious savior. That peerless blessed one in his matchless name, his incomparable name we pray. Our lord Jesus Christ, amen. Amen. The lord bless you. Well see you this evening. Don’t forget to visit the book nook.