

BETHANY BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION



NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 6 PART-6

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August 20,2025

ATTACKS ON NEHEMIAH | WALL FINISHED!!

DECEPTIVE INVITATION (1-4): What was the condition of the walls? Who invited Nehemiah and what prompted the invite? Why did Nehemiah reject the invitation? What reason did he give? How could Nehemiah discern their evil motive? Do all have discernment? Was God's work a priority for Nehemiah?

SLANDER & LIES (5-9): What lies did the letter contain? What was the role of prophets? What was the purpose of spreading lies and slander? How did Nehemiah respond to such personal attacks?

TRAP TO SIN AGAINST GOD(10-14): Who was Shemiah? How did he try to lure Nehemiah to commit sin? What was Nehemiah's response?

WALL FINISHED (15-19): How long did it take? What was the reaction of the enemies? Why did evil Tobiah continue to attract followers?

THE DIVINE CALL OF NEHEMIAH:

REPAIR & REBUILD & RESTORE





NEHEMIAH

Chapter 6, Part-6

August 20, 2025

DECEPTIVE INVITATION (1-4)

Now it came to pass when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) ² That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

³ And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? ⁴ Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.

ALMOST DONE!

Status of the Walls

- Walls finished, no breach in the walls (complete work)
- Only doors need to be hung

But opposition to work continues

- After external opposition, physical exhaustion, internal divisions, (ch. 4 & 5)

Nehemiah now faces personal attack

3 PERSONAL ATTACKS (1-14)

Deceptive invitation (1-4)

Slander & Lies (5-9)

False prophecy to sin against God (10-14)

INVITATION TO MEET

INVITATION to meet at Ono
(about 20 miles from Jerusalem)

Reason is not disclosed

Was it to reach peace? Was it to collaborate?
Was it to apologize for previous harm done?

INVITATION TO MEET @ ONO

Enemy would rather meet us at their location (the world) rather than Jerusalem (church)

A sudden change in enemy's behavior (from opposition to invitation) & location chosen is suspicious

Nehemiah would have committed this invitation in prayer

NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE TO INVITATION

Prayers can reveal the mind and motive of our enemies.

Nehemiah given the discernment to know that the intent of invitation was evil (2)

Invitation received 4 times (4) and Nehemiah rejects it 4 times.

Nehemiah saw it as a 'great work' that cannot be paused.

Reason given: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? (3)

RESPONDING TO (WORLDLY) INVITATIONS

The answer to temptation should always be NO, no matter how many times we are tempted.

Let us also pray before accepting invitations from the world (job, projects, social events, etc.)!

GIFT OF DISCERNMENT WILL PROTECT US FROM DECEPTION IN THE WORLD

Discernment is a great gift (I Corinthians 12:10) that enables us to make superior decisions. It is the fruit of faithful walk with God and experience/spiritual maturity (Hebrews 5:14).

New believers may have passion but often lack discernment. Experience requires time.

Discernment gives us the ability to understand the seen and the unseen, and the subtle nuances that are not readily obvious. Discernment gives us the wisdom to make a distinction between good & evil, right and wrong (Spurgeon: right & almost right).

Satan is deceptive. We become victims of deception when we don't exercise discernment.

DOES GOD DIVERT US?

God will generally not divert us from an ongoing mission

Challenges in ministry does not give the permission to delay or quit or abandon God's work.

Sometimes, God diverts us from ongoing ministry:

- Philip told to leave a successful ministry with big crowds to minister to one soul (the Eunuch) (Acts 8)
- Missionaries often leave established churches to go & serve on the mission field

SLANDER & LIES (5-9)

⁵ Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand; ⁶ Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith 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.

⁷ And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

⁸ Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart. ⁹ For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

SLANDER & LIES

After 4 failed invitations, Sanballat tries again with an open letter of slander & lies.

Why open letter? Sent with an evil intent that those carrying the letter will open the letter, read it, and spread the content/gossip to others

Letter designed to tarnish the reputation of Nehemiah

- Nehemiah will lead the Jews in rebellion against the king of Persia
- Nehemiah desires to be future king
- Prophet appointed to spread the news of future king

SLANDER & LIES

Why use slander and lies?

- to damage Nehemiah's reputation

- to harm Nehemiah's relationship with the king

- to make him feel afraid, insecure, ashamed, and discouraged

- to provoke Nehemiah to anger and commit sin

- to tempt Nehemiah to seek Sanballat's assistance

Slander and lies can be distressful. But we must not give up on God's mission.

Pray, and seek God's help for a wise response.

NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

Confronts the lie and deception boldly

There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart (8)

Commits to God in prayer

Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands (9)

(prayer must always be part of our response plan!)

How do we respond to slander & lies?

Proverbs 10:18

He that hideth hatred with
lying lips, and he that uttereth
a slander, is a fool.

Proverbs 12:22

Lying lips are abomination to
the Lord: but they that deal
truly are his delight.

Proverbs 19:5

A false witness shall not be
unpunished, and he that
speaketh lies shall not escape.

Psalms 101:7

He that worketh deceit shall
not dwell within my house: he
that telleth lies shall not tarry
in my sight.

MATHEW 5:11

Blessed are ye, when *men* shall
revile you, and persecute *you*,
and shall say all manner of evil
against you falsely, for my sake.

Isaiah 61:7

For your shame,
ye shall have double

GOD HATES SLANDER & LIES

TRAP TO SIN AGAINST GOD (10-14)

¹⁰ Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.

¹¹ And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in. ¹² And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

¹³ Therefore was he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and that they might have matter for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

¹⁴ My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

TRAP TO TEMPT

MESSENGER: Shemiah, jew, a friend of Nehemiah

THE DANGER TRAP: Scare Nehemiah to think his life is in danger (tonight) and he must hurry & hide in the temple. It will be a sin as only priests can enter temple (Numbers 18:6-7)

The urgency of the threat could have prompted a rash decision and lead to sin.

Extreme emotions (Fear & Joy) can often lead to wrong decisions!

NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

He could detect that it was a lie plotted by S & T (12)

He was not intimidated by the threat to his life

He would rather die than disobey God!

He commits his enemies to God in prayer (14) (man of prayer 2:4, 4:9, 5:19)

Nehemiah again exercises discernment and does not fall for enemy's trap

God will never give false counsel or tempt us (James 1:13)

3 PERSONAL ATTACKS (1-14)

Deceptive invitation (1-4)

Slander & Lies (5-9)

False prophecy to sin against God (10-14)

WALL FINISHED (15-19)

¹⁵ So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.

¹⁶ And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

¹⁷ Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came unto them. ¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.

WALL FINISHED

Walls were broken and ignored for more than 100 years

Now repaired and rebuilt in 52 days despite much opposition.

WORK FINISHED

due to Nehemiah's burden and fasting & prayer for 4 months

FINISHED WORK (despite challenges)

evidence of God's counsel, favor, and grace!

Are there unfinished works in our life?

Maybe God's counsel, favor, and grace is missing. Pray.

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO BROKEN WALLS IN OUR PERSONAL LIFE, IN LIFE OF CHURCH?

Do we pray with burden like Nehemiah did?

Do we complain and criticize?

Do we indulge in self-pity and bitterness?

Do we ignore?

Do we lose hope and give up?



ENEMIES REACTION TO FINISHED WALLS (16)

Disheartened that the work is finished

Recognized it was the hand of God

Must be feeling insecure that Jerusalem is becoming stronger

CONTINUED ALLIANCE OF NOBLES (17-19)

Tobia – governor of Ammonites, 2:10

Able to get loyalty because of his position (Proverbs 19:4
wealth maketh many friends)

People pleased him for political or economic gain.
Nehemiah seen as a temporary governor.

Many letters of complaints, and lies sent by Tobiah and other
leaders to intimidate Nehemiah

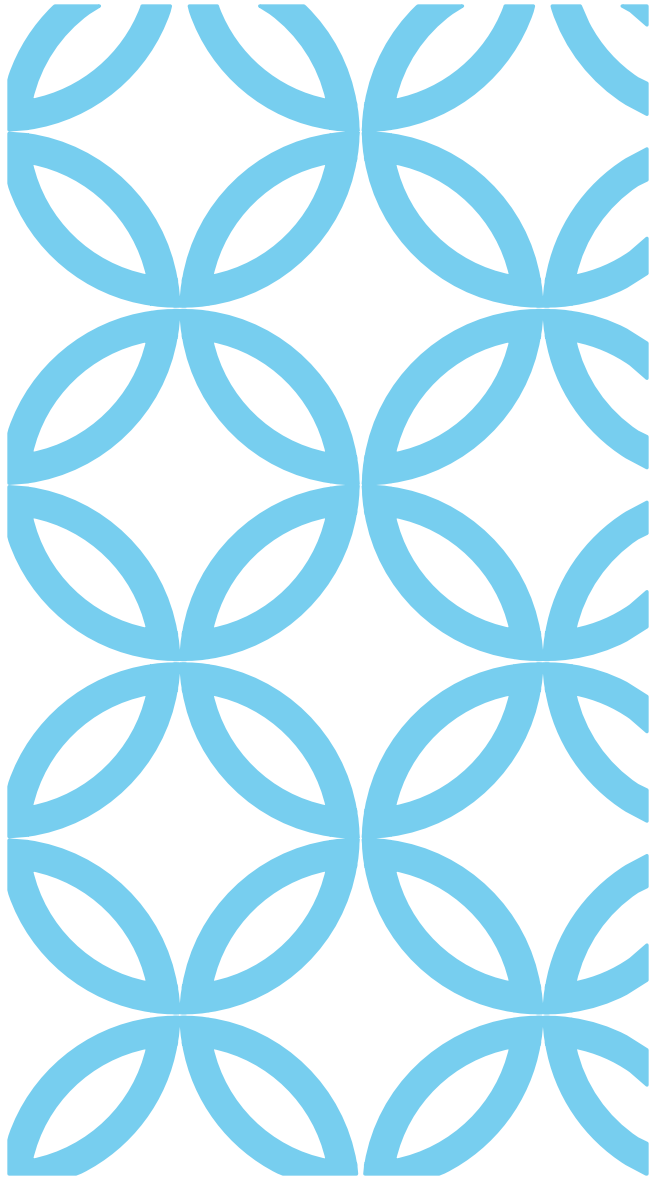
Tobiah ... returns in chapter 13

6 CHAPTERS
52 DAYS
1 MAN
1 VISION

Godly vision and godly leadership by Nehemiah leads to repair and rebuilding of the walls

Nehemiah effectively defeated all challenges of the enemy with the power of prayer

- External Opposition (mockery, conspiracy to kill, collusion) (ch.4)
- Physical exhaustion of jews (ch.4)
- Internal challenges (ch.5)
- Personal attacks (ch.6)



REFLECTIONS

#1 ENEMY HAS MANY TOOLS TO ATTACK US

Tools & Traps are designed to discourage us, fall into sin, distract us, and hinder our calling!

Like Nehemiah, we also have powerful tool to defeat the enemy:
PRAYER.

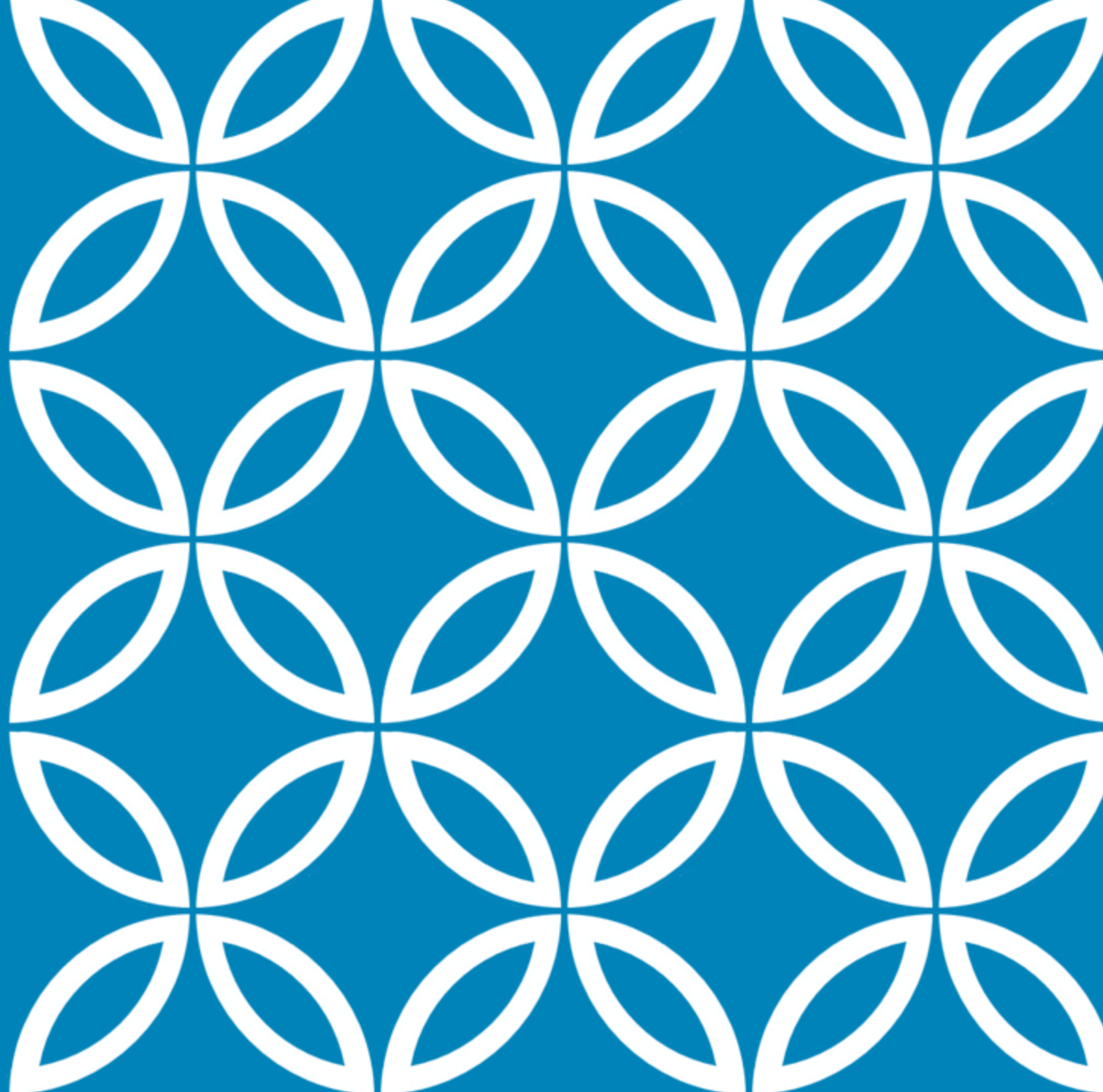
We must **Pray and Persevere!**

#2 DISCERNMENT IS A GREAT GIFT

Don't be fooled by the
flattery of the enemy

Don't compromise

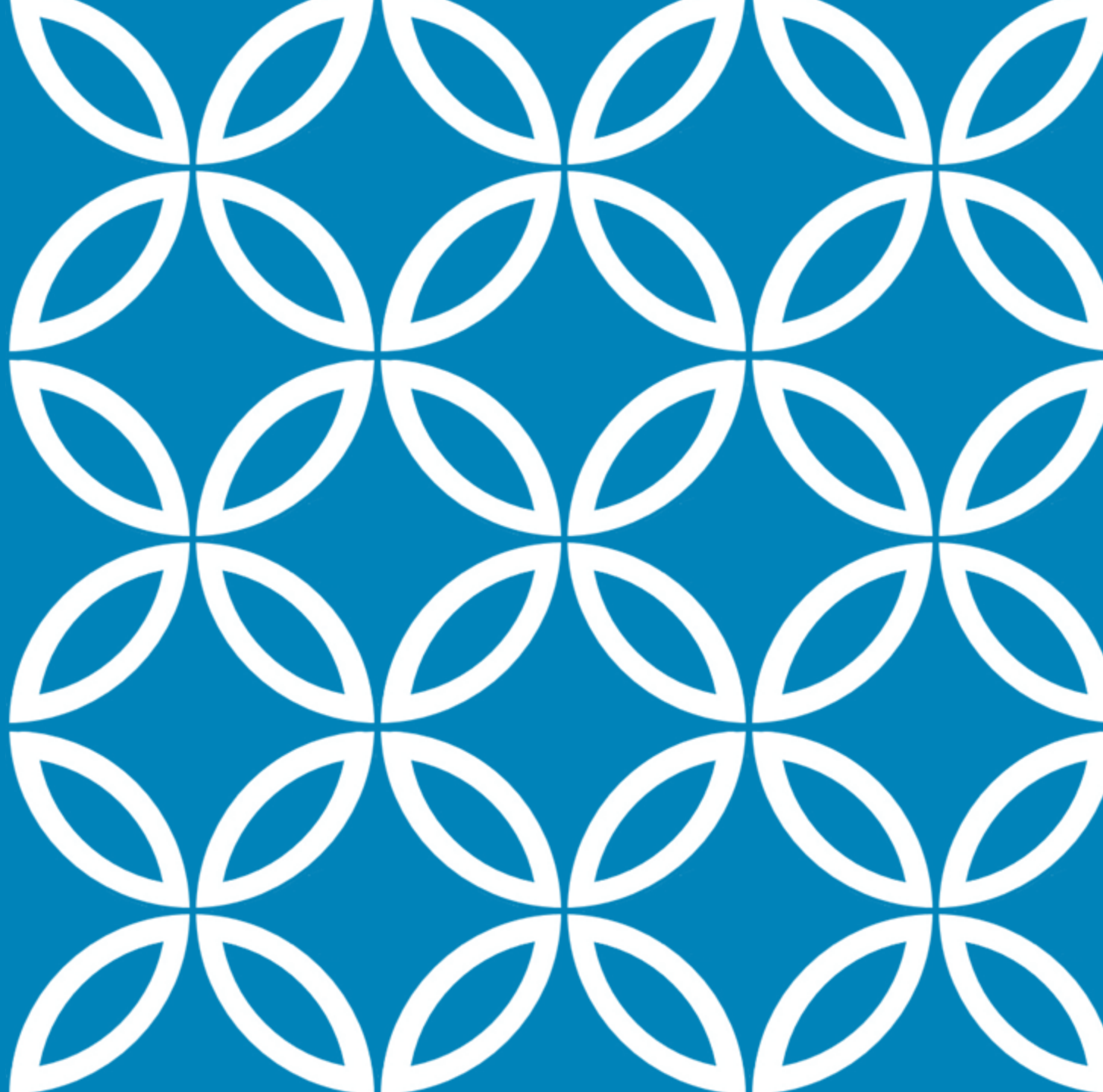
Don't react on
emotions. Pray first.



#3 WHEN GOD STARTS, HE WILL ALSO FINISH

Unfinished work could be
due to:

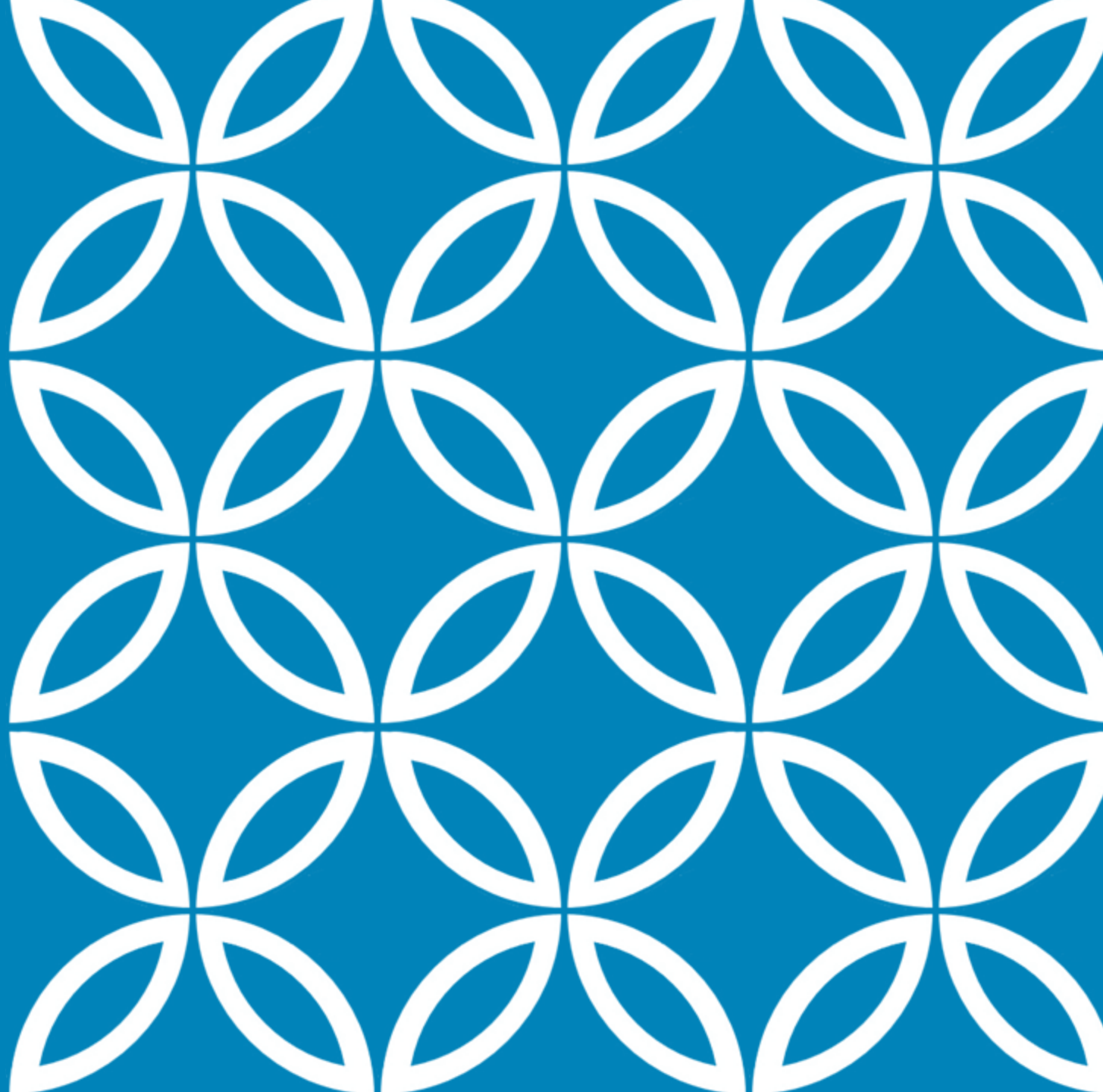
- Temporary testing of our
faith by God
- Sin in our life
- God never started the work



#4 BE A DOER/ENCOURAGER, NOT A COMPLAINER OR CRITIQUE OR OBSTRUCTOR

Nehemiah did not
complain about broken
walls

He prayed with burden
and moved into action
phase



THE DIVINE CALL OF NEHEMIAH:

REPAIR & REBUILD & RESTORE

