

FINISHED, but not quite.

Nehemiah 6:15 – 7:3

I. Completion. 6:15-16

The wall was completed in ____ days. The fact is disputed by some scholars. Remember that the ____ wall didn't have to be replaced. In fact, excavations have proven this section of the wall was built _____.

Nehemiah's response to having completed the wall was not _____. He just makes a simple statement. Within a mere ____ months of having heard, the wall and gates were set. Verse 16 reveals that Nehemiah gave credit to God and his enemies _____. Thomas: _____ hands built the wall and _____ built the wall. This is the language of _____.

Nehemiah understood that, although the wall and gates were set, there was a greater work now to be done. He had to point the hearts of the people to Jehovah.

II. Opposition. 6:17-19

There were _____ in the city. Letters were going back and forth from Tobiah and people in the city. These citizens were "under oath" to

Tobiah. This probably referred to _____ and _____ matters. This connection with Tobiah caused problems for Nehemiah. Tobiah started a _____ campaign against him.

III. Organization 7:1-3

Nehemiah knew that, with the gate set and the walls rebuilt, the city's administration had to be functioning. He recognized that great _____ could be followed by great _____. Through all this, Nehemiah had never allowed his focus, his gaze, to move from _____ to the _____.

He appointed _____, guarding the entrance to the temple. He also appointed middle management positions. His brother was appointed to one position. I'd not call this nepotism primarily because he needed someone whom he could trust. Nehemiah appointed people who exhibited a healthy respect for God rather than those concerned about their _____. John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, wrote "It is only the fear of God that can deliver us from the fear of man."