



VILLAINS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION GUIDE

Every story of intrigue has a villain - those people who plot and scheme treachery in a feeble attempt to thwart noble plans and pursuits. In this series, we consider some of the most insidious n'er-do-wells, who because of their influence, cause strife and destruction against the people of God. Can God's people overcome these forces of evil or will the causers of catastrophe prevail?

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SHAMEFUL SANBALLAT

Our next villain is a member of a treacherous three-some who made several attempts to keep Nehemiah from rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. His attempts would almost be comical if they weren't so destructive.

QUESTIONS

- Let's discuss the account in Nehemiah. Admittedly this is a rich book full of application, but we want to focus on the nefarious actions of Sanballat and his goons.
- Throughout scripture, we notice that the world forces have great animosity toward the children of God, namely the Israelites. Why is this? Why does it continue to this day?
- Who is Sanballat? Where was he from? Is it significant that he is from the people of Moab?
- There are a number of ways that Sanballat and his cronies tried to thwart Nehemiah's efforts to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Why were they so set on stopping these efforts?
- Sanballat used tried and true tactics to disrupt progress - intimidation through false reports (Neh. 6:5-6), employing false prophets, and lobbying the influencers of Judah (Neh 6:17-19) Would these have worked? Why did they fail?
- What was Nehemiah's reaction to these ploys? What was his response to Sanballat and the gang? How does his response inform our own reactions toward evil, opposition, and false accusations?

SPRINGBOARD VERSE

Nehemiah 6:14 ESV Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid.

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