

PLOYS AND PLOTS

ONE HOPE **STELLENBOSCH**

NEHEMIAH 6:1-14

Continued Opposition to Rebuilding

¹Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained—though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. ²So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono.

But I realized they were plotting to harm me, ³so I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a great work, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?”

NEHEMIAH 6:1-14

⁴Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply. ⁵The fifth time, Sanballat's servant came with an open letter in his hand, ⁶and this is what it said:

“There is a rumor among the surrounding nations, and Geshem tells me it is true, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel and that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king. ⁷He also reports that you have appointed prophets in Jerusalem to proclaim about you, ‘Look! There is a king in Judah!’

NEHEMIAH 6:1-14

“You can be very sure that this report will get back to the king, so I suggest that you come and talk it over with me.”

⁸I replied, “There is no truth in any part of your story. You are making up the whole thing.”

⁹They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination.

¹⁰Later I went to visit Shemaiah son of Delaiah and grandson of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home. He said, “Let us meet together inside the Temple of God and bolt the doors shut. Your enemies are coming to kill you tonight.”

NEHEMIAH 6:1-14

¹¹But I replied, “Should someone in my position run from danger? Should someone in my position enter the Temple to save his life? No, I won’t do it!” ¹²I realized that God had not spoken to him, but that he had uttered this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me.

¹⁴Remember, O my God, all the evil things that Tobiah and Sanballat have done. And remember Noadiah the prophet and all the prophets like her who have tried to intimidate me.

1

EXPECT an attack on your work

1

EXPECT an attack on your work

REPLY by staring down distraction

2

EXPECT an attack on your reputation

2

EXPECT an attack on your reputation

REPLY with calm integrity

3

EXPECT an attack in disguise

3

EXPECT an attack in disguise

REPLY with alertness

1 PETER 2:21-25

²¹For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

**²²He never sinned,
nor ever deceived anyone.**

**²³He did not retaliate when he was insulted,
nor threaten revenge when he suffered.**

**He left his case in the hands of God,
who always judges fairly.**

1 PETER 2:21-25

**²⁴He personally carried our sins
in his body on the cross
so that we can be dead to sin
and live for what is right.**

**By his wounds
you are healed.**

**²⁵Once you were like sheep
who wandered away.**

**But now you have turned to your Shepherd,
the Guardian of your souls.**