

Dealing with Demonic Attacks

The Analogy of the Walls of Jerusalem: as Nehemiah was called to rebuild the walls, we are called to rebuild the "walls" of new thinking and new ways according to the Spirit and the Word of God.

The Kingdom of God is relationship in righteousness, peace and Joy (Rom. 14:17) to be entered into by transformation (John 3:5), which in turn results in unity of the Spirit of God in truth of the Word.

Attack Defined through intimidation: "Any influence, pressure or lie that makes you feel inadequate to do what God has directed you to do."

Nehemiah 4:1-6

1 When *Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews,

2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said,

- "What are those feeble Jews doing?
- Will they restore their wall?
- Will they offer sacrifices?
- Will they finish in a day?
- Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?"

3 **Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!" 4 Hear us, O our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. 6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. (NIV)

*Sanballat. The name is Babylonian, sinuballit, i.e. 'Sin (the moon-god) has given life'.

In Neh. 2:10, 19; 13:28 he is called the Horonite.

He was one of the chief opponents of Nehemiah. The Elephantine Papyri show that in 407 BC he was governor of Samaria. If Nehemiah came to Jerusalem in 445 BC he was either governor or hoping to be governor, he doubtless wanted to have control of Judaea also.

The Elephantine Papyri speak of his two sons, Delaiah and Shelemiah, and these names may show that Sanballat was a worshipper of Yahweh. This means that he was descended either from an Israelite family which had not gone into captivity in 721 BC or from one of the peoples whom the Assyrian kings had imported into Palestine. In either case his religion was probably syncretistic (2 Kings. 17:33), though he put Yahweh first, and so won sympathy even from the high priest's family, into which his daughter married (Neh. 13:28).

**Tobiah, the Ammonite (refers to his ancestry): Tobiah means: 'Yahweh is good'

One of *Nehemiah's principal opponents. Described as 'the servant (or 'slave', NEB), the Ammonite' (Neh. 2:10).

His son is called Jehohanan ('Yahweh is merciful': Neh. 6:18),

Tobiah was Sanballat's deputy. he has many important friends among the Jews (6:18f.; 13:4f.).

Ancestor of a family of Babylonian captives, Ezra 2:60; Neh. 7:62.2.

Tobiah was an enemy of the Jews in the time of Nehemiah.

Opposes the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem, Neh. 2:10,19; 4:3,7,8.

Conspires to injure and intimidate Nehemiah, Neh. 6:1-14,19.

Subverts nobles of Judah, Neh. 6:17,18.

Allies himself with Eliashib, the priest, Neh. 13:4-9.