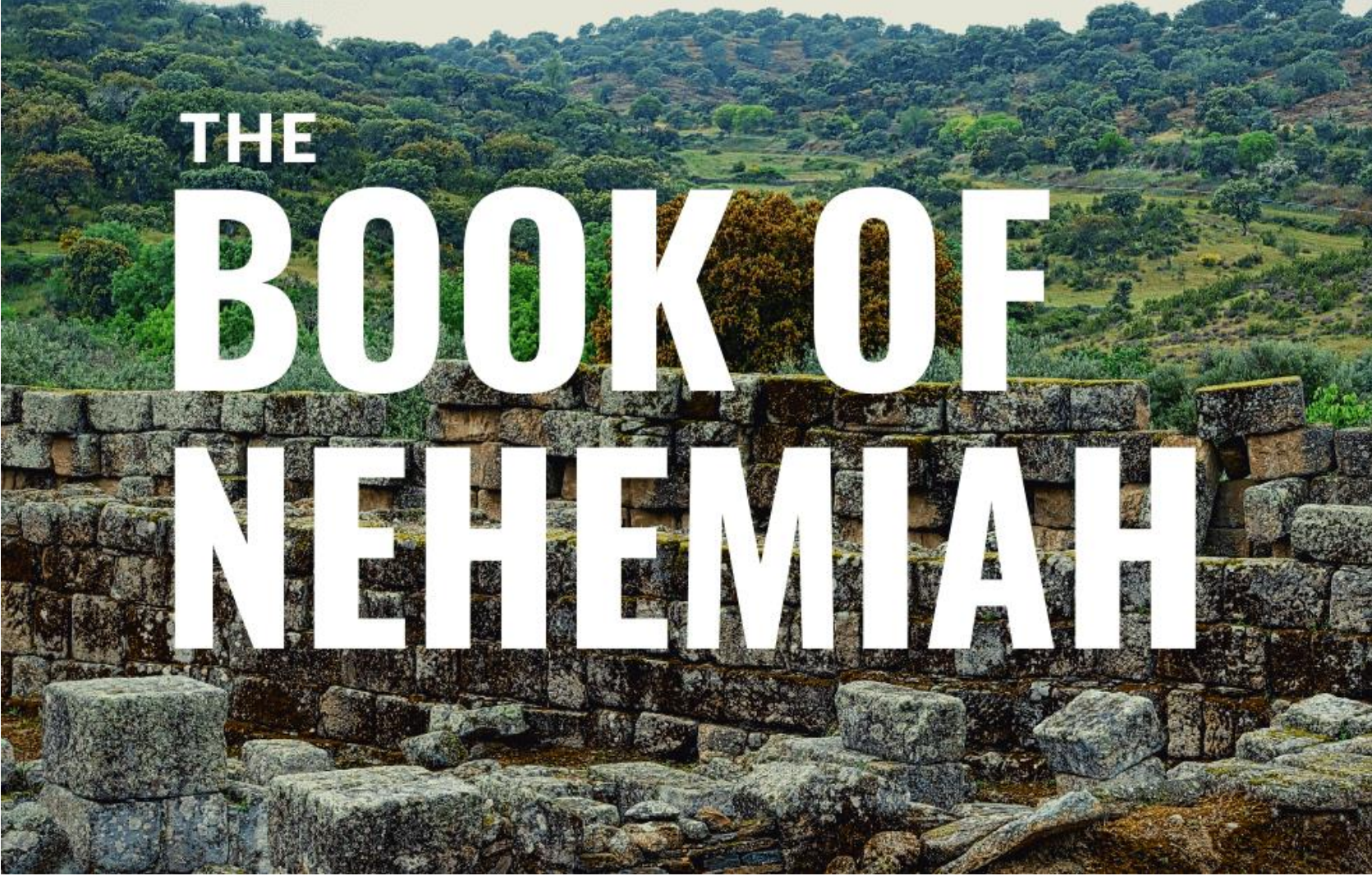


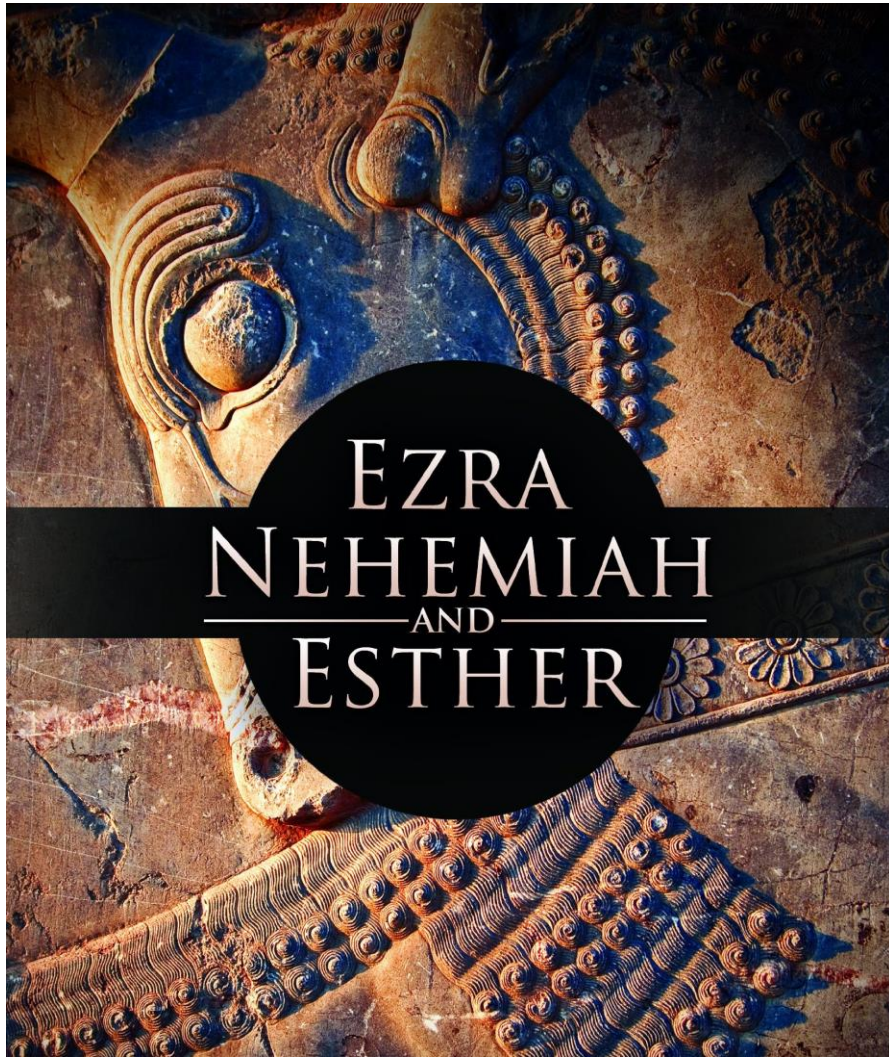


Opposition!
Criticisms!

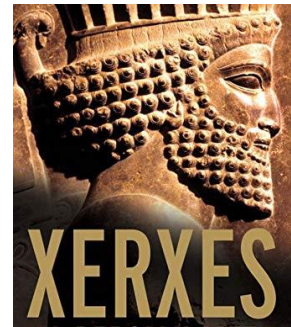
Nehemiah 4

The image features a scenic landscape with a stone wall in the foreground and a forested hillside in the background. The wall is constructed from large, rectangular, grey stone blocks, some of which are stacked in a way that suggests a corner or a break in the wall. The background shows a lush, green hillside covered in dense trees and vegetation, with a clear sky above. The overall scene is bright and natural.

**THE
BOOK OF
NEHEMIAH**



Cyrus
the
Great



Artaxerxes I.



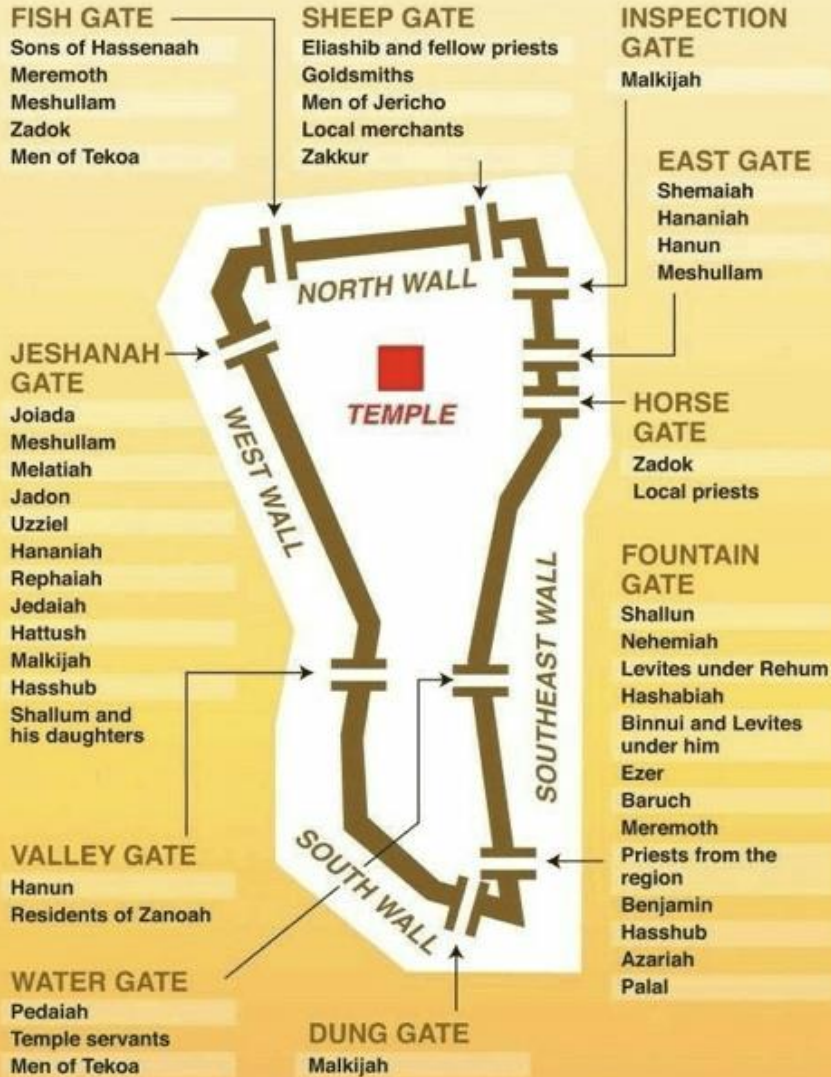
https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datc:Artaxerxes_I_of_Persia.JPG

Nehemiah – the King's Cupbearer
His burden for Jerusalem became his
calling. He left the King's palace and
led in the rebuilding of the walls of
Jerusalem.



Walls and Their Builders

Nehemiah 3 tells us the names of many who help rebuild Jerusalem's wall



Nehemiah 4

*Facing
Discouragement,
Opposition & Criticism*



Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

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?”

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

4 Hear us, 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.

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

7 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry.

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. **9** But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

10 Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

11 Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

12 Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

13 Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people,

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

“Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

15 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah **17** who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other,

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

18 and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

19 Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall.

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

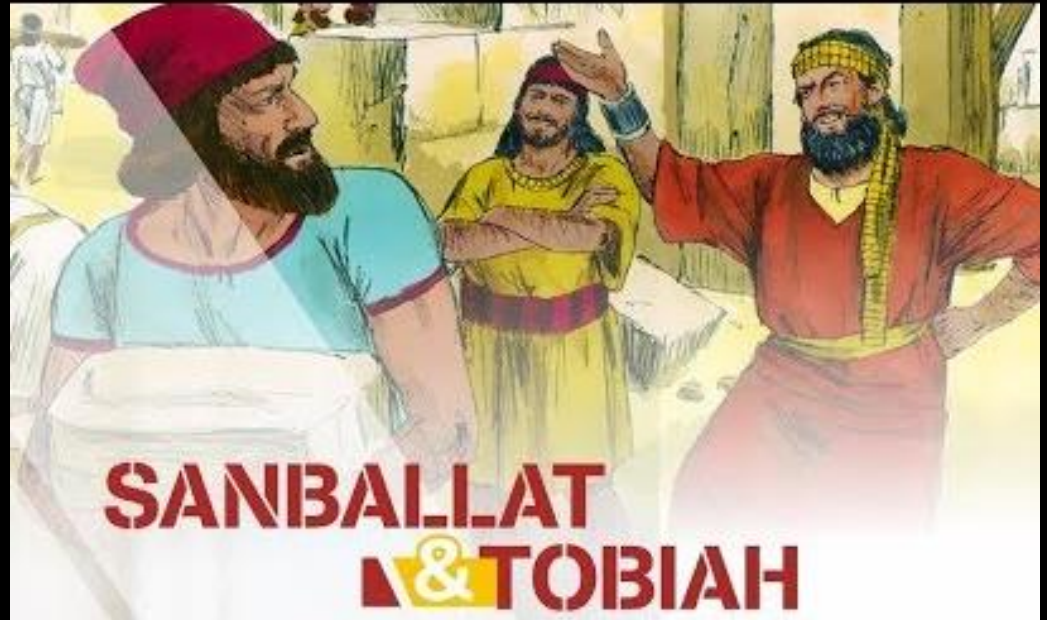
20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!” **21** So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out.

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

22 At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.”

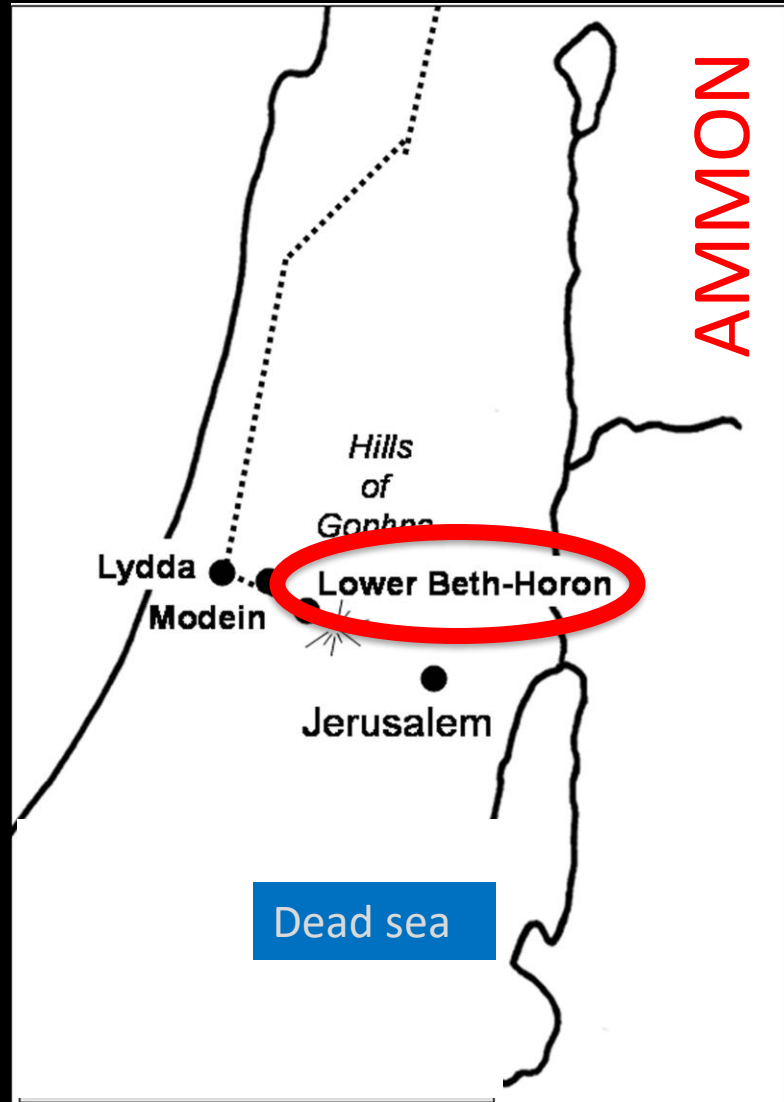
23 Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

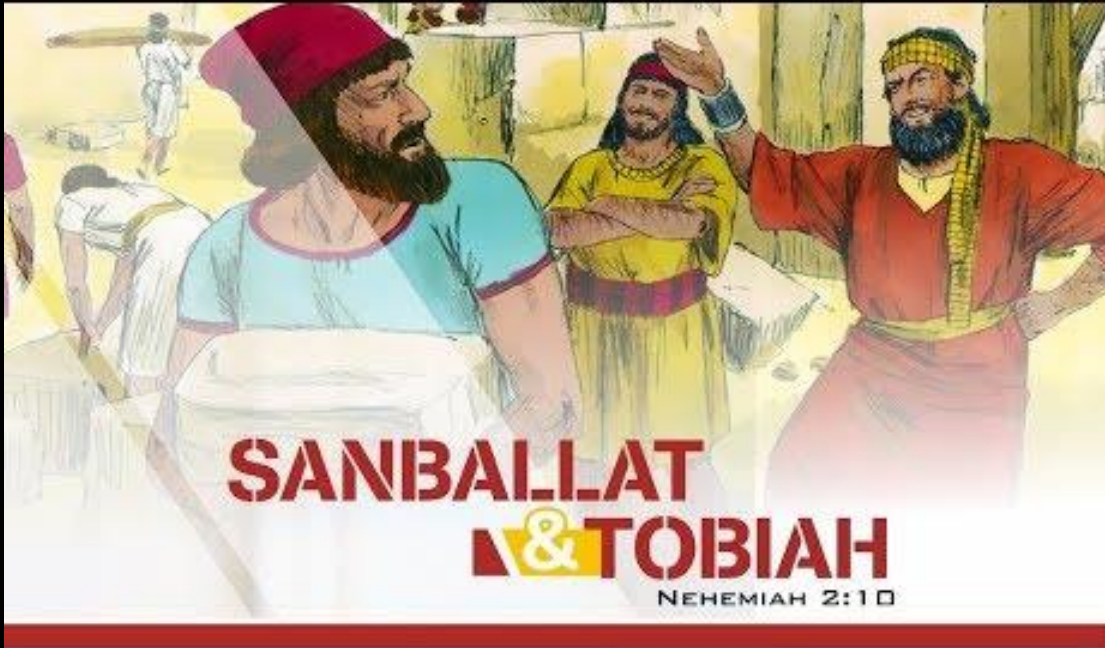
- Sanballat the Horonite – A Samaritan leader .
- Tobiah – The Ammonite official.



...plotted to stir up trouble.

- Sanballat the Horonite – A Samaritan leader .
- Tobiah – The Ammonite official.





The Ploys of Sanballat & Tobiah

1. They mocked and insulted Nehemiah
2. They plotted to fight against Jerusalem

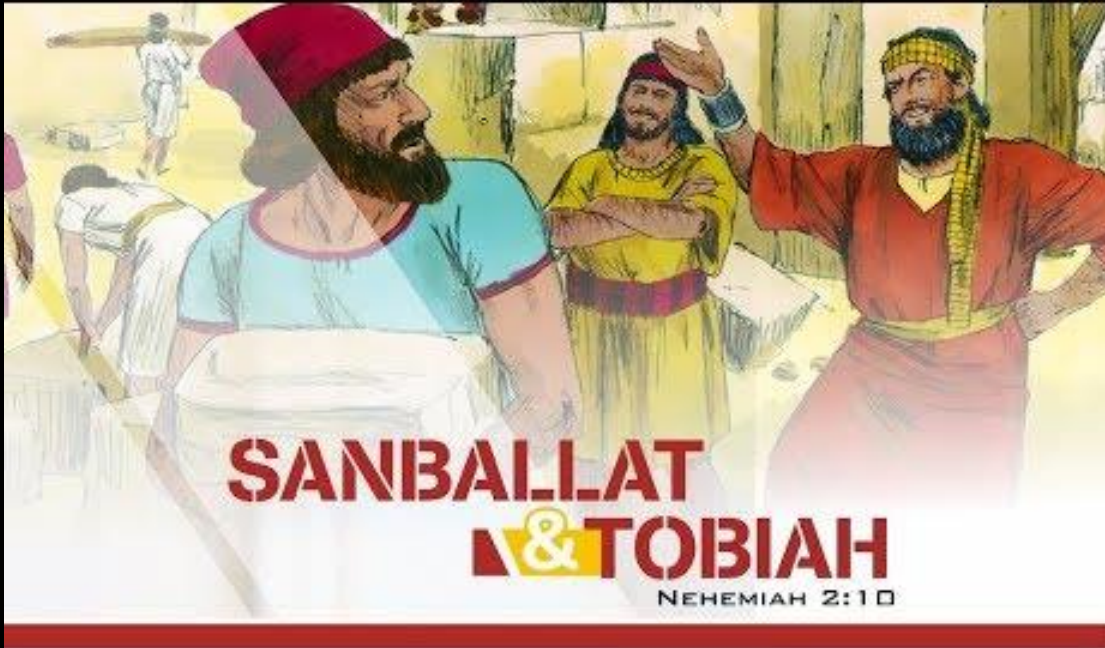
Nehemiah 4 (New Living Translation)

Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, **2** saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, **“What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they’re doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices?”**

Nehemiah 4 (New Living Translation)

Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?”

3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, “That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!”

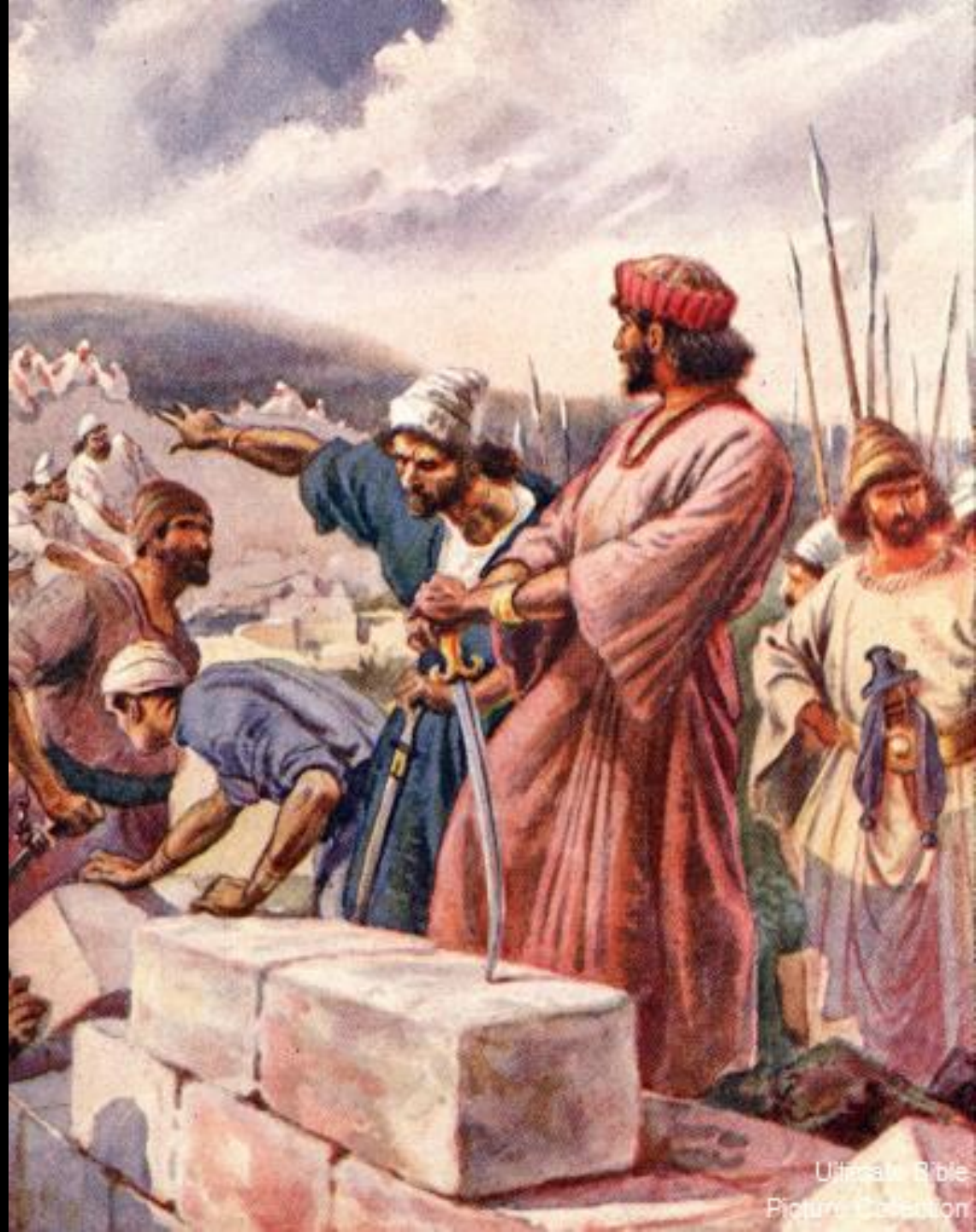


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The Ploys of Sanballat & Tobiah

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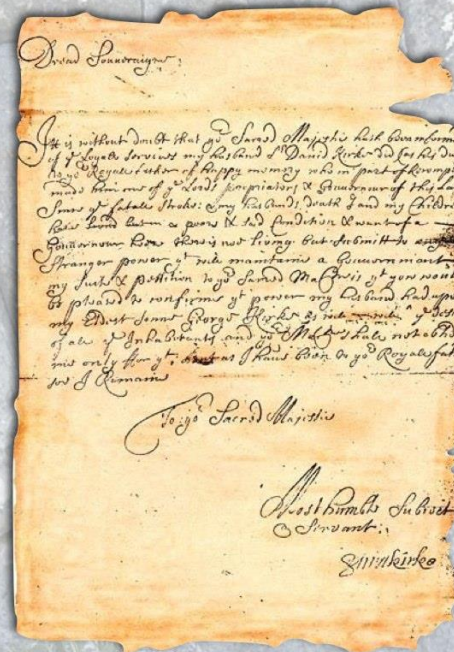
“Before they know
it or see us, we will
be right there
among them and
will kill them and
put an end to the
work.” **Neh 4:11**



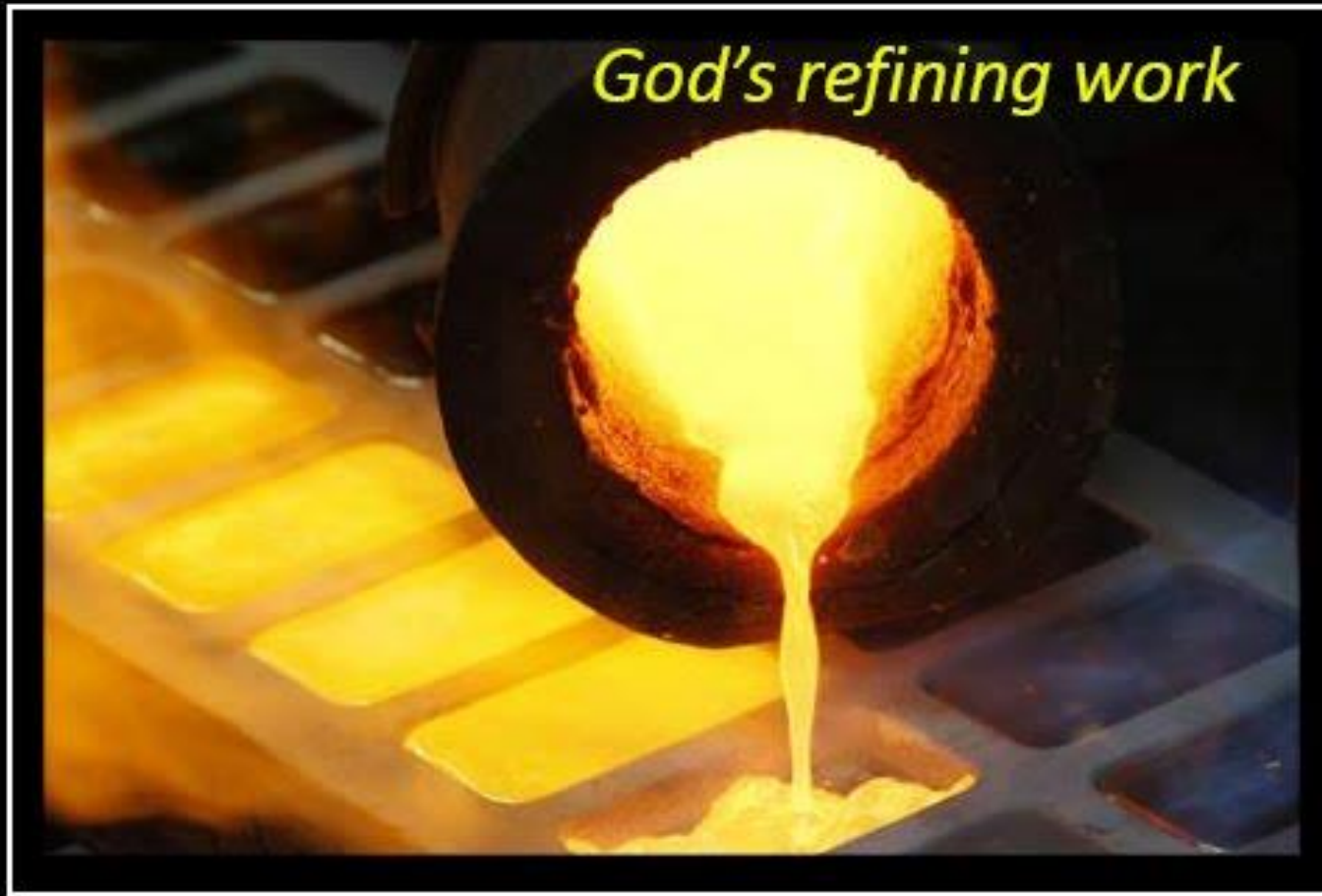
These were people who were supposed to help him!

Nehemiah Used The King's Letters

“Then **I** went to the **governors** of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the **king's letters**. The king had also sent army officers and soldiers on horses with me.” Nehemiah 2:9a NCV



When there is a vision
opposition will arise!



The Spirit of Sanballat and Tobiah

THE ACCUSER



soul survival
donnareidland.com



The Mocker

WE ARE MORE
THAN CONQUERORS
THROUGH CHRIST
WHO LOVED US



ROMANS 8:37

**Nehemiah overcame
them!**

What did Nehemiah do when he was unfairly criticized?



1. He did not engage them personally



He did not fight them point for point.

2. Nehemiah brought his hurts and frustrations to God

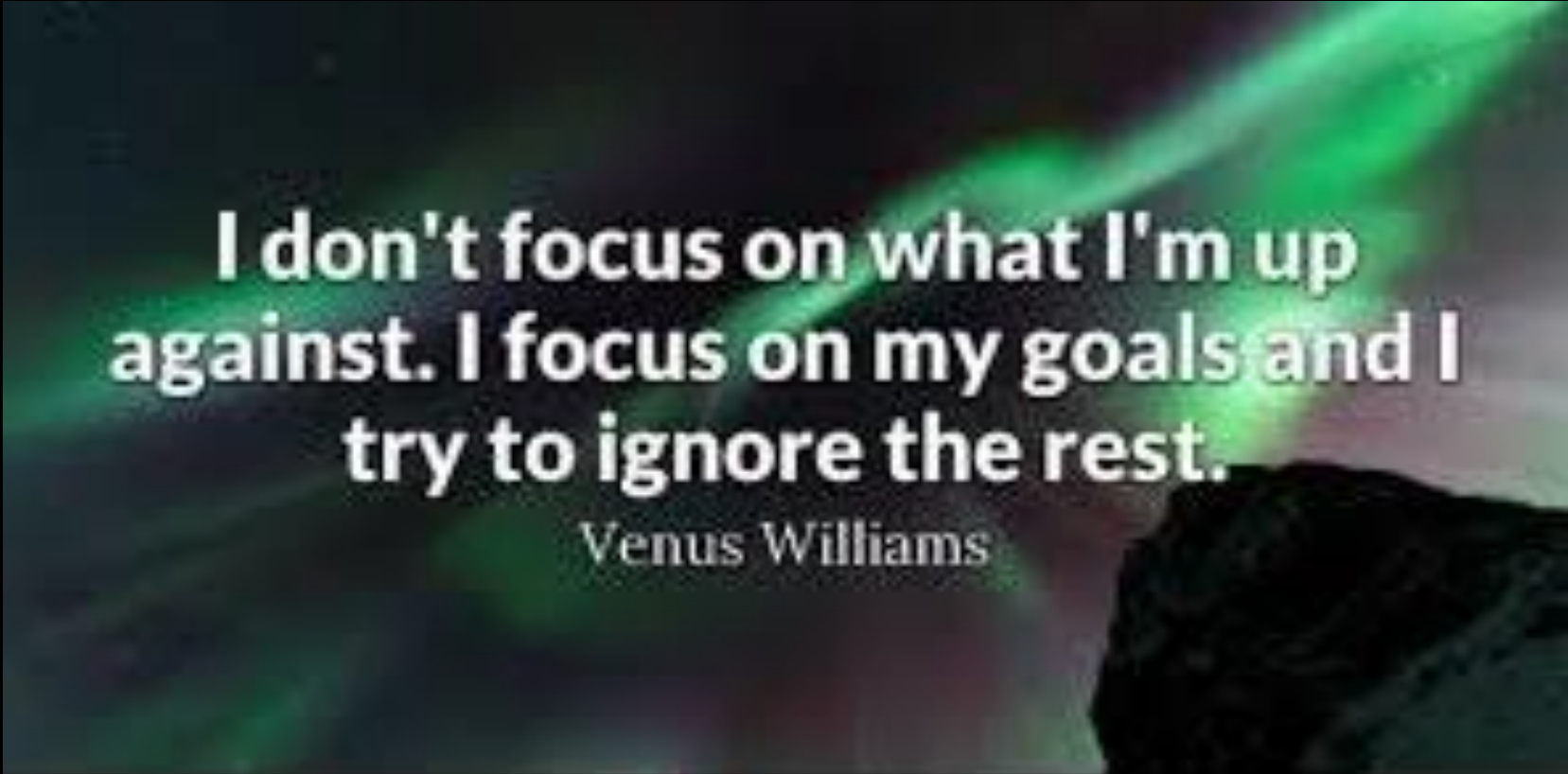


Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. **9 But we prayed to our God** and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

10 Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

3. He knew his calling and vision and so he continued steadfastly.

A quote by Venus Williams is displayed on a dark background. The background features a vibrant green aurora borealis (northern lights) streaking across the upper right portion. The text is centered and reads: "I don't focus on what I'm up against. I focus on my goals and I try to ignore the rest."

**I don't focus on what I'm up
against. I focus on my goals and I
try to ignore the rest.**

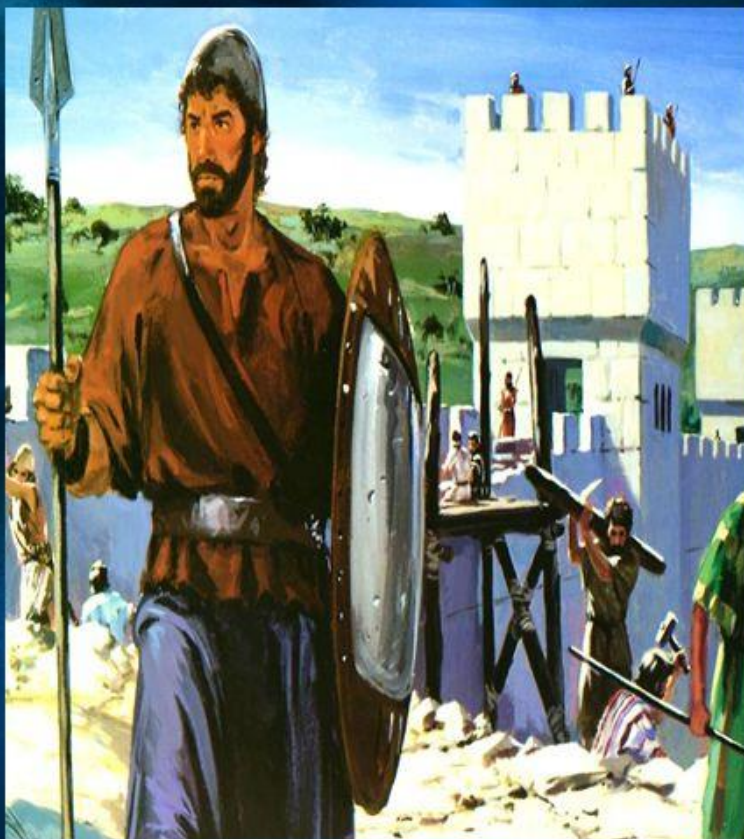
Venus Williams

3. He knew his calling and vision
and so he continued steadfastly.



4

They Took Precautions, But the Work Continued



- *“So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.”*
{Nehemiah 4:6}

Nehemiah 4 (NIV)

16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah **17** who were building the wall. Those who carried materials **did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other,**

How did Nehemiah respond?

He did not engage them personally

Nehemiah brought his hurts and frustrations to God

He knew his calling and vision and so he continued steadfastly despite opposition.

They took precautions, they were ready to defend themselves but the work continued.

Hang on...



EAGLE VS GOAT

VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WroMIDqTRs>



HANG ON... BE STILL...
GOD IS ON OUR SIDE!
ROUGH TIMES WILL SOON BE OVER!




He Provides the Way Out

No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.



1 Corinthians 10:13

A green chalkboard with a white chalk circle containing text.

When God
gives a vision,
He always makes
a provision.