

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...2020

ENGAGING THE ENEMY

UNDERSTANDING WHO OUR
ENEMY REALLY IS?

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Strategies of the Enemy

^{NET} **2 Corinthians 2:11** for we are not ignorant of his devices. (*devices* → *noema* = “mind games”)

^{NLT} **Ephesians 6:11** Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. (*strategies* = *methodia* = “cunning trickery”)

^{NIV} **1 Peter 5:8** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

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Nehemiah's Enemies

1. Sanballat the Horonite—governor of Samaria-**RELIGION**

1. Sanballat = “Secret Hatred” —Represents the religious system
2. Mixed race of Israelites and Assyrians
3. Believed only in 1st 5 books and rejected the rest
4. Religious in nature and those who want to build outside of their understanding of the Scripture
5. Represents godly actions with no power

2. Tobiah the Ammonite – governor of Ammon- **POLITICAL**

1. Represents the world system—
2. Always has a hidden agenda and manipulates to fit the agenda
3. Always creates alliances
4. Wants to stop what God is doing

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Tag Team Spirits: Religion & Political

Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the **Pharisees**, and *of the leaven of Herod*.

Matthew 22:15-16 ¹⁵ Then the **Pharisees** met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. ¹⁶ They sent some of their disciples, along with the **supporters of Herod**, to meet with him.

Revelation 17:5 ⁵ And upon **her forehead** *was a name written, MYSTERY, **BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.***

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What Prompted the Attack? Jealousy

Nehemiah 2:10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard all this, they were very displeased that someone had come to seek benefit for the Israelites.

NLT Proverbs 27:4 Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood, but jealousy is even more dangerous.

Nehemiah's Strategy → He Continued As Planned

Nehemiah 2:11-12 ¹¹ So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. ¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem;

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Enemy Strategy: Mockery & Ridicule

^{NIV} **Nehemiah 2:19** But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"

Psalms 123:4 4 We have endured much ridicule from the proud, much contempt from the arrogant.

Nehemiah's Strategy → Understood His Identity

Nehemiah 2:20 ²⁰ *I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."*

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Enemy Strategy : Mockery & Ridicule

^{ESV} **Nehemiah 4:1-3** Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered (mockery) at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" ³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building- if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!"

Nehemiah's Strategy: Prayer & Continued to Work

Nehemiah 4:4-6 Hear oh God.....

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Enemy Strategy: Violence & Confusion

Nehemiah 4:7-8 ⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.

Nehemiah's Strategy: Prayer & Proactivity

Nehemiah 4:9 ⁹ *And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.*

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Enemy Strategy: Discouragement & Fear

Nehemiah 4:10-11 ¹⁰ In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." ¹¹ And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work."

Nehemiah's Strategy: Remember the Lord's Strength

Nehemiah 4:14 ¹⁴ *And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."*

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Enemy Strategy: Sin from Within

^{ESV} Nehemiah 5:1 Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives ***against their Jewish brothers***. ² For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." ³ There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." ⁴ And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards."

Nehemiah's Strategy: Confronting the Sin; Accountability

Nehemiah 5:7 ⁷ I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them...

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Enemy Strategy: Distraction

Nehemiah 6:1-2 Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and *that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates),*² *that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono."* But they thought to do me harm.

Nehemiah's Strategy: Focus on the Work at Hand

Nehemiah 6:3 ³ *And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"*

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Enemy Strategy: Slander & Accusation

Nehemiah 6:5-6 ⁵ In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. ⁶ In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king.

Nehemiah's Strategy: Don't Allow Intimidation

Nehemiah 6:8-9 ⁸ I replied, "There is no truth in any part of your story. You are making up the whole thing." ⁹ They 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.

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Enemy Strategy: False Prophecy

Nehemiah 6:10 ¹⁰ Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night."

Nehemiah's Strategy: Knew Identity & Held to His Destiny

Nehemiah 6:11 ¹¹ But I said, "Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in."

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Nehemiah's Warfare Model

<i>Enemy's Strategy</i>	<i>Nehemiah's Response</i>
Jealousy	Ignored It
Ridicule	Confident in Relationship with God
Mockery	Prayer and Work
Threats & Confusion	Prayer and Proactivity
Discouragement & Fear	Remember the Lord's Might
Sin within the camp	Justice & Accountability
Distraction	Focus on the Work at Hand
Slander	Don't Allow Intimidation
False Prophecy	Remind Yourself of Your God Given Destiny & Identity

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Don't Be Your Own Worst Enemy!

- ^{KJV} **Ephesians 4:27** Neither give place to the devil.
- ^{GWN} **Ephesians 4:27** Don't give the devil any opportunity *to work*.
- ^{NRS} **Ephesians 4:27** and do not make room for the devil.
- ^{NLT} **Ephesians 4:27** for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

Chronic prolonged behavior in a pattern of sin will produce opportunities for the enemy to manifest his influence in your life.