

70. Nehemiah Built Wall – Cleaned Temple

Nehemiah 2:10, 6:1, 7, 19, 12:4-13 CEV

But when Sanballat from Horon and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about what had happened, they became very angry, because they didn't want anyone to help the people of Israel.

Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem, and our other enemies learned that I had completely rebuilt the wall.

All this time the Jewish leaders and Tobiah had been writing letters back and forth.

The people would always tell me about the good things Tobiah had done, and then they would tell Tobiah everything I had said. So Tobiah kept sending letters, trying to frighten me.

The priest Eliashib was a relative of Tobiah and had earlier been put in charge of the temple storerooms. So he let Tobiah live in one of these rooms, where all kinds of things had been stored--the grain offerings, incense, utensils for the temple, as well as the tenth of the grain, wine, and olive oil that had been given for the use of the Levites, singers, and temple guards, and the gifts for the priests.

This happened in the thirty-second year that Artaxerxes ruled Babylonia. I was away from Jerusalem at the time, because I was visiting him. Later I received permission from the king to return to Jerusalem. Only then did I find out that Eliashib had done this terrible thing of letting Tobiah have a room in the temple. It upset me so much that I threw out every bit of Tobiah's furniture. Then I ordered the room to be cleaned and the temple utensils, the grain offerings, and the incense to be brought back into the room. I also found out that the temple singers and several other Levites had returned to work on their farms, because they had not been given their share of the harvest. I called the leaders together and angrily asked them, "Why is the temple neglected?" Then I told them to start doing their jobs. After this, everyone in Judah brought a tenth of their grain, wine, and olive oil to the temple storeroom. Finally, I appointed three men with good reputations to be in charge of what was brought there and to distribute it to the others. They were Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the teacher of the Law, and Pedaiah the Levite. Their assistant was Hanan, the son of Zaccur and the grandson of Mattaniah.



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| ANYONE | GIFTS | REPUTATIONS |
| ASSISTANT | GRAIN | ROOM |
| BACK | GUARDS | SENDING |
| DIDN'T | INCENSE | SHARE |
| DISTRIBUTE | KINDS | SINGERS |
| EARLIER | LETTERS | STOREROOMS |
| ENEMIES | LETTING | TENTH |
| FARMS | LEVITES | TOBIAH |
| FORTH | OLIVE | VERY |
| FRIGHTEN | REBUILD | WALL |