

NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH

Facing Fear

Proverbs 29:25

25 The fear of man lays a snare,
but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.

Luke 12:4-5

⁴ “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Proverbs 9:10

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Proverbs 14:26

²⁶ In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence,
and his children will have a refuge.

Proverbs 14:27

**²⁷ The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,
that one may turn away from the snares of
death.**

Proverbs 16:6 (NKJV)

⁶In mercy and truth

Atonement is provided for iniquity;

And by the fear of the LORD *one* departs
from evil.

John 7:11–13

¹¹ The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, “Where is he?” ¹² And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, “He is a good man,” others said, “No, he is leading the people astray.” ¹³ Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

John 12:42-43

⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

Nehemiah 6:1-14

¹Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates),

Nehemiah 6:1-14

² Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying,
“Come and let us meet together
at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono.”
But they intended to do me harm.

Nehemiah 6:1-14

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?”

Nehemiah 6:1-14

⁴ And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

⁵ In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand.

Nehemiah 6:1-14

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 6:1-14

⁷ And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, ‘There is a king in Judah.’

And now the king will hear of these reports.

So now come and let us take counsel together.”

Nehemiah 6:1-14

⁸ Then I sent to him, saying,
“No such things as you say have been done,
for you are inventing them out of your own
mind.”

Nehemiah 6:1-14

⁹ For they all wanted to frighten us,
thinking,
“Their hands will drop from the work,
and it will not be done.”
But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

Nehemiah 6:1-14

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 6:1-14

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.”

Nehemiah 6:1-14

¹² And I understood and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

Nehemiah 6:1-14

¹³ For this purpose he was hired,
that I should be afraid
and act in this way and sin,
and so they could give me a bad name
in order to taunt me.

Nehemiah 6:1-14

¹⁴ Remember Tobiah and Sanballat,
O my God,
according to these things that they did,
and also the prophetess Noadiah
and the rest of the prophets
who wanted to make me afraid.

Courage is not the absence of fear. It is
the willingness to act in a God-pleasing
way in spite of my fear.

FACING FEAR

NEHEMIAH

I. Invest our Lives in God's work

Nehemiah 6:1-2

¹Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates),

Nehemiah 6:1-2

² Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying,
“Come and let us meet together
at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono.”
But they intended to do me harm.

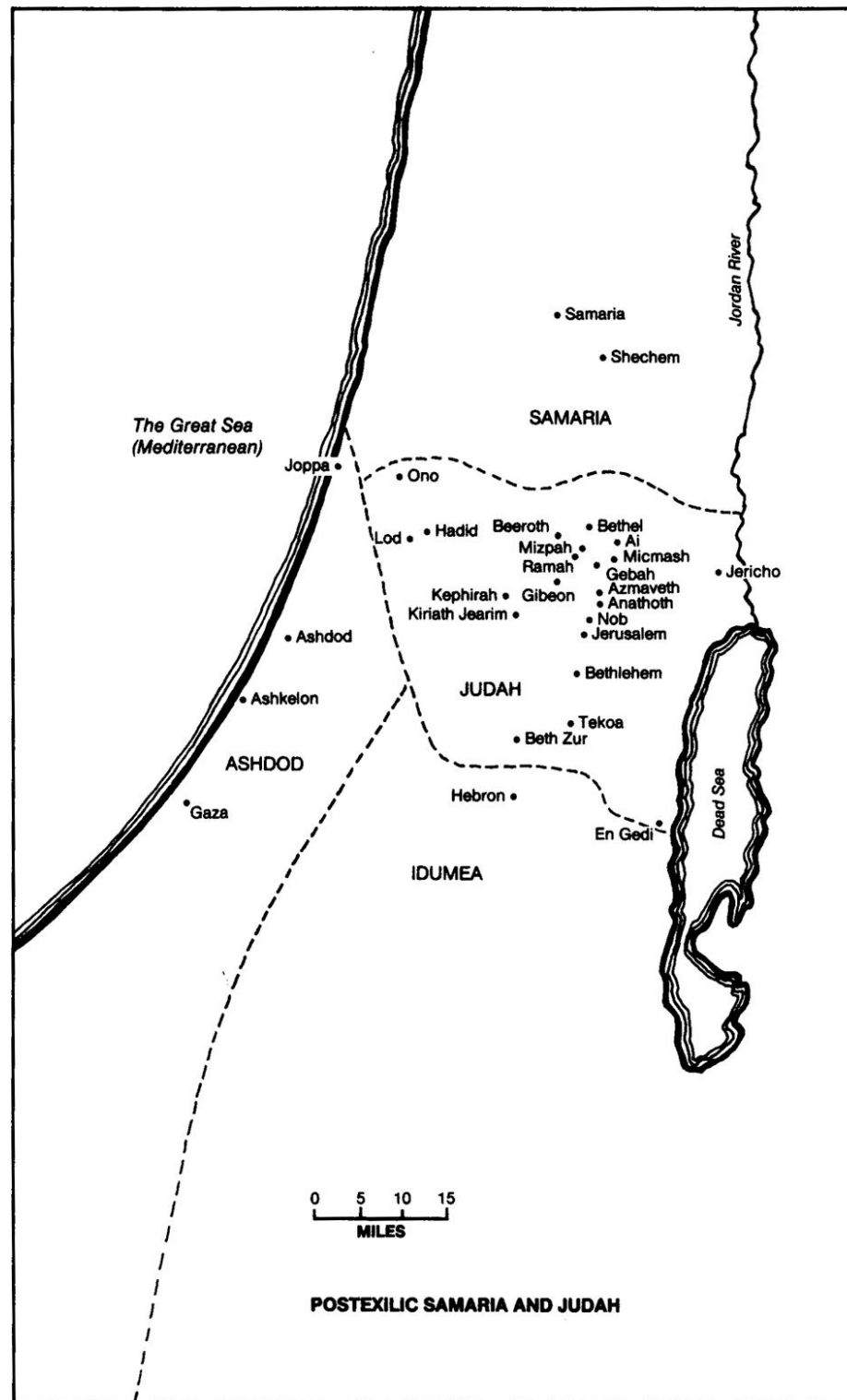
“Both of them were men of influence and power, as can be seen not only from the connections they established with the high priest’s family (13:4ff., 28), but from outside sources as well. A document of 407 bc (38 years after the events of this chapter) refers to Sanballat as ‘governor of Samaria,’”

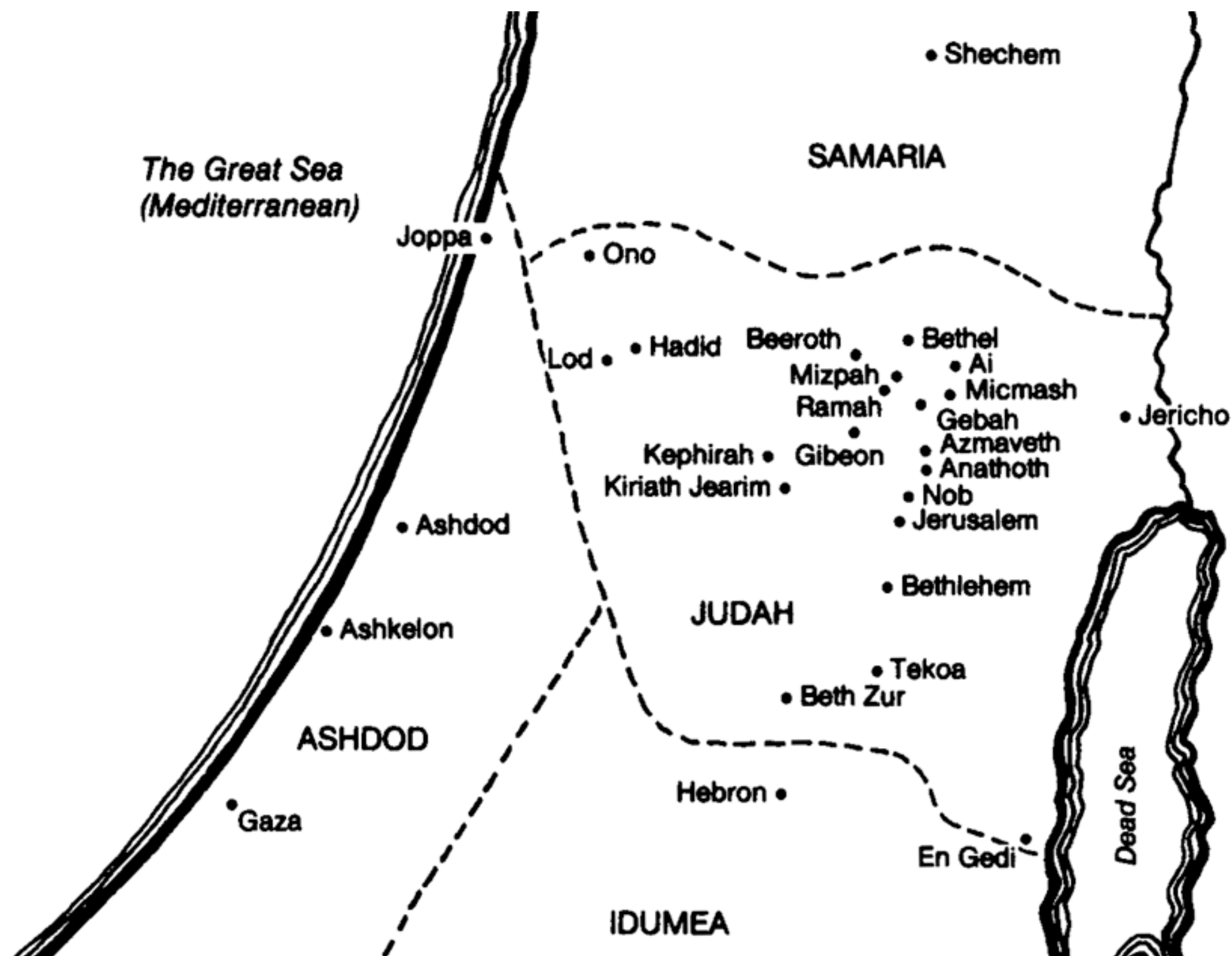
Derek Kidner,
Ezra and Nehemiah: An Introduction and Commentary

“and the Jewish name *Tobiah* is borne by a powerful family in Ammon for centuries to come. There is little doubt that the label, *the servant*, or ‘slave’ (neb), was a contemptuous abbreviation of a title, ‘the king’s servant’, and that *the Ammonite* described not Tobiah’s ancestry but his chosen sphere, in which he had gained high office.”

“There is evidence that *Geshem* (cf. 6:1ff.), far from being a negligible alien, was an even more powerful figure than his companions, though probably less earnestly committed to their cause. His name appears on a silver vessel donated to an Arabian goddess Han’ilat towards the end of the 5th century bc, i.e. within approximately the next forty years after these events.”

“The inscription names the donor as ‘Cain (Qaynu) son of Geshem (Gashmu), king of Qedar’. From other sources it emerges that Geshem and his son ruled a league of Arabian tribes which took control of Moab and Edom (Judah’s neighbours to the east and south) together with part of Arabia and the approaches to Egypt, under the Persian empire.”





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?”

I. Invest our Lives in God's work

II. Make choices based on

truth

A. Stand on truth

Nehemiah 6:4-5

⁴ And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

⁵ In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand.

- I. Invest our Lives in God's work
- II. Make choices based on truth
 - A. Stand on truth
 - B. Counter lies with truth

Nehemiah 6:6-9

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 6:6-9

⁷ And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together."

Nehemiah 6:6-9

⁸ Then I sent to him, saying,
“No such things as you say have been
done, for you are inventing them out of
your own mind.” ⁹ For they all wanted to
frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will drop
from the work, and it will not be done.”
But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

“Socialism is defined by the concentration of power to forcibly achieve a redistribution of wealth. Socialist policies are not voluntary but rather coercive, resulting from a monopoly power the government holds over the use of force.”

Peter Crab

- I. Invest our Lives in God's work
- II. Make choices based on truth
- III. Rely on God's Strength

Nehemiah 6:8-9

⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, “No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind.” ⁹ For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.”
But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

FACING FEAR

NEHEMIAH

I. Invest our Lives in God's work

II. Make choices based on truth

III. Rely on God's Strength

IV. Don't Let Fears Drive our
Decisions

A. Don't let fear of what might be
drive us

Nehemiah 6:10-11

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 6:10-11

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.”

IV. Don't Let Fears Drive our Decisions

A. Don't let fear of what might be drive us

B. Do seek God's wisdom

Nehemiah 6:12-13

¹² And I understood and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

Nehemiah 6:12-13

¹³ For this purpose he was hired,
that I should be afraid
and act in this way and sin,
and so they could give me a bad name
in order to taunt me.

“Nehemiah discerned two flaws in Shemaiah’s so-called prophecy. First, God would hardly ask Nehemiah to **run** when the project on the walls was nearing completion. Second, no true prophet would ask someone to violate God’s Law. Only priests were allowed in the sanctuary (Num. 3:10; 18:7).”

G. A. Getz,
“Nehemiah,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary:

“If Nehemiah, not being a priest, entered the temple, he would have desecrated it and brought himself under God’s judgment. He would **not** disobey God to try to gain safety from his enemies.”

G. A. Getz,
“Nehemiah,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary:

“The right decision had been swiftly made, on principles that were stronger than the apparent situation or the fear of death. It was this, not any flaw in the prophet’s technique, that enabled Nehemiah on reflection to see through the whole stratagem, from its source to its intended outcome.”

Derek Kidner,

Ezra and Nehemiah: An Introduction and Commentary

FACING FEAR

NEHEMIAH

- I. Invest our Lives in God's work
- II. Make choices based on truth
- III. Rely on God's Strength
- IV. Don't Let Fears Drive our Decisions
- V. Rest in God's Coming Rewards

Nehemiah 6:14

¹⁴ Remember Tobiah and Sanballat,
O my God,
according to these things that they did,
and also the prophetess Noadiah
and the rest of the prophets
who wanted to make me afraid.

Psalm 1:1-6

¹Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the
wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
² but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

Psalm 1:1-6

³ He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Psalm 1:1-6

³ He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Psalm 1:1-6

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶ for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

¹³ The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.