

## ~GESHEM (69)

(Ge'shem) [possibly, Downpour, Pouring Rain]

- An Arabian, who, along with Sanballat and Tobiah, opposed Nehemiah in the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall. These enemies first derided Nehemiah and his coworkers.
- Now when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and **Geshem** the Arabian heard of it, they began to deride us and look on us despisingly and say; What is this thing that you are doing? Is it against the king that you are rebelling? (**Nehemiah 2:19**)
- Then they conspired and plotted against Nehemiah, to no avail.
- Now it came about that, as soon as it was told to Sanballat and Tobiah and to **Geshem** the Arabian and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and there had not been left in it a gap, although up to that time the doors themselves I had not set up in the gates. (**Nehemiah 6:1**)
- Sanballat and **Geshem** immediately sent to me, saying; Do come, and let us meet together by appointment in the villages of the valley plain of Ono. But they were scheming to do me harm. (**Nehemiah 6:2**)
- So I sent messengers to them, saying; It is a great work that I am doing, and I am not able to go down. Why should the work cease while I take off from it and have to go down to you? (**Nehemiah 6:3**)
- However, they sent me the same word four times, and I kept replying to them with the same word. (**Nehemiah 6:4**)
- Finally, Sanballat sent a letter to Nehemiah, quoting **Geshem's** accusation that Nehemiah and the Jews were scheming to rebel and that Nehemiah was becoming a king to them. In this, too, these enemies failed.
- Finally Sanballat sent his attendant to me with the same word a fifth time, with an open letter in his hand. (**Nehemiah 6:5**)

- There was written in it. Among the nations it has been heard, and **Geshem** is saying it, that you and the Jews are scheming to rebel. That is why you are building the wall, and you are becoming a king to them, according to these words. (**Nehemiah 6:6**)
- And there are even prophets that you have appointed to call out concerning you throughout Jerusalem, saying; There is a king in Judah! And now things like these will be told to the king. So now do come, and let us consult together. (**Nehemiah 6:7**)
- Sanballat's quoting of **Geshem** in the letter seems to indicate that he was a man of influence. It may be noted that relations between the Persian court and the Arab tribes were reportedly good following Persia's invasion of Egypt.
- A dialect form of **Geshem**, the name **Gashm**, is mentioned in an inscription found in ancient Dedan, in the northern part of Arabia.
- The name **Geshem** appears in an Aramaic inscription on a silver bowl found in Egypt. The text reads: **That-which Qainu bar Gesem Geshem, king of Qedar, brought-in-offering to the goddess han' Ilat.** [*Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, 1956, Vol. XV, p. 2]