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Plots Mentioned in the Bible

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Biblical Topics—Plots

Cain's plot against Abel. Out of envy he lured him into a field and killed him (Gen. 4:8)

Jacob's and Rachel's plot against Esau and Isaac. They deceived Isaac into believing that Jacob was Esau so as to secure the blessing for Jacob (Gen. 27)

Simeon's and Levi's plot against Shechem. They tricked Shechem and his tribe into circumcising themselves and then, while they were recovering, killed them. This was done in revenge for seducing Dinah (Gen. 34)

Joseph's brothers' plot against Joseph. Out of envy they sold him into Egyptian slavery and then told their father a wild animal had eaten him (Gen. 37:18)

Tamar's plot against Judah. She disguised herself as a common harlot and then lured Judah into her tent for sexual purposes so she could have a child (Gen. 38)

Potiphar's wife's plot against Joseph. She accused Joseph of rape after he refused her sexual advances (Gen. 39:13-19)

Korah's plot against Moses. He wanted an equal (if not superior) place of leadership to that of Moses (Num. 16:1-3)

The Gibeonites' plot against Joshua. They dressed in old and ragged clothes to deceive Joshua into believing they had come as citizens from a far-off country (Josh. 9)

Delilah's plot against Samson. She demanded he prove his love to her by telling her the secret of his great strength. This was done so she could hand him over to the Philistines (Judg. 16:4-20)

Saul's plot against David. Thinking David would be killed, Saul offered the hand of his daughter Michal in marriage to David if he would singlehandedly kill 100 Philistines and bring back their foreskins (1 Sam. 18)

Absalom's plot against David. Under the pretense of fulfilling a vow to God, Absalom received permission to visit Hebron. He actually went there to organize and announce his rebellion (2 Sam. 15)

Adonijah's plot against Solomon. He invited some leading Israelites (including a general and chief priest) to a feast, planning to use the occasion to stage his rebellion against Solomon (1 Kings 1)

Jezebel's plot against Naboth. Jezebel sent a letter ordering Naboth to be falsely accused of blasphemy and murder so Ahab could possess Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21)

Certain Chaldeans' plot against three Hebrew young men. Their good names and loyalty were slandered before King Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 3)

Certain Chaldeans' plot against Daniel. They caused a law to be made whereby no one could pray to any god except King Darius (Dan. 6)

Sanballat's plot against Nehemiah. Sanballat opposed Nehemiah's work by ridiculing it and finally by threatening it. He wanted to keep the wall of Jerusalem from going up (Neh. 4, 6)

Haman's plot against the Persian Jews. Because of his hatred for Mordecai, Haman persuaded the king to issue a decree that all Jews be put to death on a given date (Esther 3)

Satan's plot against Job, to take away Job's family, wealth, and health (Job 1-2)

Herod's plot against Christ, to kill the infant Christ by the sword. He wanted to rid the country of a king that might threaten his own rule (Matt. 2)

Satan's plot against Jesus. He wanted to cause Jesus to sin by turning stones into bread, by defying gravity, and by worshipping Satan (Matt. 4)

Herodias's plot against John. She wanted to take revenge on John for his fearless preaching against her adultery, so she asked her daughter to request John's head on a platter after Herod offered her anything she wished (Matt. 14)

The Jewish leaders' plot against Jesus (John 11:47-57)

The Jewish leaders' plot to kill Lazarus. They hoped to dispose of the evidence for the greatest of Jesus' miracles—the raising of a dead man four days in the grave (John 12:10-11)

Judas Iscariot's plot against Jesus (Matt. 26:14-16)

The synagogue leaders' plot to kill Stephen. They wanted to kill him so that his message of judgment might be silenced (Acts 6:8-15)

Saul's plot to imprison Christians (Acts 8:3; 9:1-2)

The Damascus Jews' plot against Paul. They wanted this Pharisee-turned-Christian to be silenced, so they planned to kill him as he left Damascus through the city gate (Acts 9:22-25)

The Jerusalem Jews' plots against Paul (Acts 9:26-29; 21:31; 22:17-21; 23:6-14; 24:1; 25:1-3)

Herod's plot against believers. He killed James and placed Peter on death row to please the unbelieving Jews (Acts 12)

Asian Jews' plot against Paul:

- a. At Antioch in Pisidia (Acts 13:14, 45, 50)
- b. At Iconium (Acts 14:1-2)
- c. At Lystra (Acts 14:6-7, 19)

Greek Jews' plot against Paul:

- a. At Thessalonica (Acts 17:1, 5)
- b. At Berea (Acts 17:13)
- c. At Corinth (Acts 18:1, 12)
- d. At Macedonia (Acts 19:24-27)

Demetrius's plot against Paul. He accused Paul of blasphemy against the goddess Diana because the spread of the gospel was causing the merchants of the Diana movement to lose money (Acts 19:24-27)