

NEHEMIAH

## Nehemiah 2:1-8

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. <sup>2</sup> And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid.

## Nehemiah 2:1-8

<sup>3</sup> I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” <sup>4</sup> Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.

## Nehemiah 2:1-8

<sup>5</sup> And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.” <sup>6</sup> And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

## Nehemiah 2:1-8

<sup>7</sup> And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, <sup>8</sup> and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.”

## Nehemiah 2:1-8

And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

**Theme:** God is faithful to keep His promises through people who are faithful to Him

# I. Nehemiah's Pain (vs. 1-2)

## Nehemiah 1:7-8

<sup>7</sup> We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup> Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples

## Deuteronomy 8:19-20

<sup>19</sup> And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. <sup>20</sup> Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

“Here’s the question that Nehemiah forces us to wrestle with: What does what’s bothering you say about your heart? Nehemiah’s heart reveals a burden for God and his people, but what does ours reveal? Our hearts ought to be burdened and broken over what’s bothering us. A mark of the sinfulness of our hearts is that we worry about what doesn’t matter and don’t worry about what does matter...

...We worry ourselves sick over where our child bats in the lineup or over what furniture we have/don't have, but we don't give a second thought to the hopelessness that lives across the street. Our interests are too often self-centered, not God-centered...  
What's your burden, and what does it say about your heart?"

Cody Hale

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## Nehemiah 2:2

<sup>2</sup> And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid.

I. Nehemiah's Pain (vs. 1-2)

II. Nehemiah's Prayer (vs. 3-4)

## Nehemiah 2:3-4

<sup>3</sup> I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” <sup>4</sup> Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.

## Proverbs 21:1

1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

- I. Nehemiah's Pain (vs. 1-2)
- II. Nehemiah's Prayer (vs. 3-4)
- III. Nehemiah's Plan (vs. 5-8)

## Proverbs 21:5

5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

## Nehemiah 2:8b

And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

## Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

## Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

## Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

## Ephesians 1:3-14

**10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

**11** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

## Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

# Ephesians 1:3-14

**14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

“All Christians rest upon the faithfulness of God. Our unchangeable God who never falters, never fails in His promise is the very foundation of our faith and the ground of our security. That is what gives stability and strength to our faith; we can count on it...

...We have the same God that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had, that David prayed to and wrote his Psalms in praise of -- all this constitutes for us the bedrock of security that we rest upon it in every single day.”

*Ray Stedman*

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