

Preparing to Build Nehemiah 2

I. God Answers Prayer – 2:1-9

1. Nehemiah sensed God's call – 1:11
He heard about the need in Jerusalem
He prayed about that need – 1:5-10
He sensed that God wanted him to act
He was willing to go but there was a need
He asked God to intervene with the king – 11
2. God opens the door for Nehemiah – 2:1-2
Nehemiah goes about his daily duties - 1
The king recognized a change in Nehemiah – 2
His sadness was a matter of the heart
Nehemiah was very much afraid – 2
No one should be sad serving the king
This is why he prayed for God's help – 1:11
3. He shared his heart with the king – 3
He shared his burden for Jerusalem
City of my fathers is in ruins & its gates burned
4. King asked, "What is your request?" – 4
Before answering he silently prayed
He needed the Lord to give him the right words
5. Nehemiah's request is made – 5
If it pleases you send me to rebuild Jerusalem
6. God moved the King in response – 6-8
King only asked how long he would be gone – 6
King was pleased when Nehemiah set a time
Encouraged, Nehemiah asked further – 7-8
Letters of passage for the governors
Letter to keeper of King's lumber for supplies
King gave him all he needed for the project – 8
Nehemiah recognized God's hand in all of this
7. King gave him more than he asked – 9
Letters to the governors granted passage
But the King also provided official support
King sent army officers and horsemen with him

II. Surveying the Need – 2:10-15

1. He was aware of potential opposition – 10
Sanballat & Tobiah were greatly displeased
Someone had come to help Israel recover
2. Wisely chose to survey at night – 11-15
He spent 3 days in Jerusalem – 11
Perhaps praying or planning what he would do
His plan was to go at night telling no one – 12
Took a few of his men but told none of the leaders
He inspected the gates and the wall – 13-14
Some places so much rubble his animal couldn't go
He circled the wall Valley gate to Valley gate - 15

III. Recruiting Leaders & Workers – 16-18

1. Nehemiah gathers the people together – 16
Since he had told no one he must inform them
Leaders, priests, nobles & the rest of the people

2. Challenged them with the need – 17
You see the rubble, let's rise up & build the wall
That we no longer suffer derision
3. Encouraged with what God had done – 18
Told them what God's hand had done
He also told them what the King had done
They responded, "let us rise up and build"

IV. Nehemiah Faces Opposition – 19-20

1. Enemy begins their attack – 19
Opposition took three lines of attack
Ridicule – They laughed us to scorn
Hatred - They despised us
False accusation – Charged them with rebellion
2. Nehemiah responds to their attack – 20
The God of heaven will make us prosper
We His servants will arise and build
But you have no portion, right or claim in Jerusalem
Trusted God, determined to build in spite of opposition