
FAVOR
ATTENTION
APPROVAL
ACTION

FAVOR DEFINED

God's

Attention
Approval
Action

toward those He loves.

פְּנִיתָ — Attention

רָצוֹן — Approval

חֵן — Action

FAVOR

NEHEMIAH

The Prayer of Favor

ATTENTION — APPROVAL — ACTION

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:
In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, 2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. 3 They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”

Nehemiah 1:1–3 (NIV)

FAVOR

4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I
mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 5 Then
I said: “Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who
keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his
commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to
hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night
for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we
Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have
committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward
you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you
gave your servant Moses.

Nehemiah 1:4–7 (NIV)

FAVOR

8 “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying,
‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 9 but if
you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your
exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from
there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for
my Name.’ 10 “They are your servants and your people, whom you
redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. 11 Lord, let
your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the
prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give
your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence
of this man.” I was cupbearer to the king.

Nehemiah 1:8–11 (NIV)

FAVOR

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes,
when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to
the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, [2] so the king
asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill?
This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much
afraid, [3] but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why
should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors
are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by
fire?” [4] The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Nehemiah 2:1–4a (NIV)

FAVOR

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, [5] and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”
[6] Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

Nehemiah 2:4b–6 (NIV)

FAVOR

[7] I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to
the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide
me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? [8] And may I have a
letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me
timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the
temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will
occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on
me, the king granted my requests. [9] So I went to the governors
of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king
had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

Nehemiah 2:7–9 (NIV)

FAVOR

He Prayed the Bible Back to God

Nehemiah 1:5–11 — a prayer built almost entirely out of Scripture

NEHEMIAH	HE IS PRAYING	WHOSE PRAYER · WHEN
ADORATION *Neh 1:5*	→ Deuteronomy 7:9	Moses *The Covenant*
PETITION *Neh 1:6*	→ 2 Chronicles 6:40	Solomon *Temple Dedication*
REPENTANCE *Neh 1:6–7*	→ 1 Kings 8:47	Solomon *Temple Dedication*
REMEMBRANCE *Neh 1:8–9*	→ Deuteronomy 30:1–4	Moses *Scatter & Gather Promise*
REMEMBRANCE *Neh 1:10*	→ Deuteronomy 9:26, 29	Moses *After the Golden Calf*
REQUEST *Neh 1:11*	→ 1 Kings 8:50	Solomon *Temple Dedication*

ATTENTION — APPROVAL — ACTION

FAVOR

Favor Is Approached with Adoration

"Lord, the God of heaven, **the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love** *with those who love him and keep his commandments…"*

NEHEMIAH 1:5 (NIV)

God of heaven הַשָּׁמַיִם אֱלֹהֵי

ʾĕlōhê haššāmayim — "the God who sits above every king"

FAVOR

Favor Is Sought with Persistent Petition

“**let your ear be attentive and your eyes open** *to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you* **day and night** *for your servants, the people of Israel.*”

NEHEMIAH 1:6 (NIV)

Praying מִתְפַּלֵּל *mitpallēl — “praying — ongoing, continual”*

FAVOR

Favor Is Received through Repentance

*"**I confess the sins** we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. **We have not obeyed** the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses."*

NEHEMIAH 1:6-7 (NIV)

Confess יָדָה *yādâ — "to acknowledge, to agree with the truth"*

FAVOR

Favor Is Anchored in Remembrance

*“**Remember** the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but **if you return to me** and obey my commands… **I will gather them** from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’”*

NEHEMIAH 1:8-9 (NIV)

Remember זָכַר *zākar — “to remember — and act”*

FAVOR

Favor Is Requested with Boldness

“Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant… **Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.”** *I was cupbearer to the king.*

NEHEMIAH 1:11 (NIV)

“Let us then **approach God’s throne of grace with confidence**, *so that we may* **receive mercy and find grace** *to help us in our time of need.”*

HEBREWS 4:16 (NIV)

Favor רַחֲמִים *raḥămîm — “tender mercy, compassion”*

FAVOR