

DOES THE BIBLE Actually Say?



Pastor Sam Akin
Nehemiah 1 & 2

MESSAGE NOTES

Thursday, Sep 17
Sunday, Sep 20

Introduction

Have you ever noticed that there are two kinds of people when something goes wrong?

notes

Nehemiah 1:4

Now when I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

PRAY

Nehemiah 2:2-4

So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, though you are not ill? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was much afraid...So I prayed to the God of heaven.

PLAN

If we're asking God to open doors, we should be willing to prepare to walk through them.

Nehemiah 2:17-20

Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates have been burned by fire. Come, let's rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a disgrace..."²⁰So I answered them and said to them, "The God of heaven will make us successful; therefore we His servants will arise and build..."

PARTICIPATE

"The God of heaven will..."

That's Grace, Dependence, Faith, Trust

"We His servants will arise and build"

That's Responsibility, Obedience, Work, Participation.

PRAY- When God puts a burden on your heart.

PLAN- When God gives you an opportunity.

PARTICIPATE- When God entrusts something to you.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Does the Bible Actually Say?

GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Samuel Akin

Nehemiah 1 & 2, September 17th & 20th, 2026

“God helps those who help themselves”

Prayer Requests:

Read aloud Nehemiah 1 and 2

1. Nehemiah prayed before he acted. Read Nehemiah 1:4. What does Nehemiah's response to Jerusalem's broken walls teach us about the relationship between prayer and action? Are you more likely to pray first, act first, or struggle to do either?
2. “God helps those who help themselves” can sound like self-reliance. How does Nehemiah's example challenge that idea? What is the difference between depending on God and simply waiting for God to do everything for us.
3. Nehemiah planned after he prayed. In Nehemiah 2, he asked the king for permission, letters, and materials. What does this teach us about planning as an expression of faith? Is there an area of your life where better preparation could be part of faithful obedience?
4. Nehemiah participated in God's work. Read Nehemiah 2:17–20. What stands out to you about the combination of “The God of heaven will make us prosper” and “we his servants will arise and build”? What does that balance look like in your life?
5. What has God entrusted into your hands? What step will you take this week to be “faithful in the future” like Nehemiah?