



A Study of Nehemiah  
Pastor Ed Kemp

**MESSAGE NOTES**

Thursday, May 4  
Sunday, May 7

Winning the future always involves:

#1. A Compelling Vision

#2. A Committed Team

#3. A God Honoring Commitment

<sup>Ch1</sup>...I was in Susa the capitol, <sup>2</sup>that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped *and* had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>They said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.”

<sup>4</sup>When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before God of heaven. <sup>5</sup>I said, “I beseech You, O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments.

<sup>11</sup>O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man.” Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

<sup>Ch 2:2</sup>So the king said to me, “Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart.” Then I was very much afraid. <sup>3</sup>I said to the king, “Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?”

*notes*

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

notes

<sup>4</sup>Then the king said to me, “What would you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.  
<sup>5</sup>I said to the king, “If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my father’s tombs, that I may rebuild it.

<sup>7</sup>And I said to the king, “If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of *the provinces* beyond the River, that they may allow me to 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 which is by the temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go.”

<sup>11</sup>So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. <sup>12</sup>And I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. I did not tell anyone what my God was putting into my mind to do for Jerusalem and there was no animal with me except the animal on which I was riding.  
<sup>13</sup>So I went out at night by the Valley Gate in the direction of the Dragon’s Well and on to the Refuse Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were consumed by fire.

<sup>17</sup>Then I said to them, “You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.” <sup>18</sup>I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king’s words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, “Let us arise and build.” So they put their hands to the good work.

### **SO WHAT?!**

#### 5 Steps in developing a compelling vision:

#1. Start with God.

7 verbs of action 1:4-5

#2. Take the First Step.

So I prayed to the God of heaven. I said to the king... 2:4-5



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## GROUP DISCUSSION

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Win the Future!

A study of Nehemiah

Pastor Ed Kemp, May 4 & 7, 2023

Prayer Requests:

**Group Discussion:** Have you ever moved from one house or apartment to another? What was the biggest frustration?

### **Read: Nehemiah 1-2**

What do you notice about the story that was left out on Sunday? How does it impact your understanding of the story? How do you identify with Nehemiah from the Sunday sermon notes below?

5 steps in developing a compelling vision:

#1. Start with God. 7 verbs of action, 1:4-5. How could this help you to draw closer to God? Have you done this before? How often? What's the hardest of the 7 actions?

#2. Take the First Step. "So I prayed to the God of heaven. I said to the king..." 2:4-5. What's your struggle like when you're stuck between the nervousness of risk and the first tangible step of action?

#3. Clarify Resources. "If it pleases the King may I have..." 2:7. Nehemiah gives the King his sales pitch, and it works!!! Do you tend to ready yourself or wing it?

#4. Evaluate the Scope. "...I arose in the night...I inspected the walls..." 2:12-13, Do you process a problem internally and then announce the solution or do you process a problem verbally until you've talked your way to a solution?

#5. Request Help!!! "...we...us..." 2:17-18. What's one issue recently with which you've had to ask for help.

Pray for "Win the Future," campaign needs. 1. That the campaign would be about individual spiritual progress. 2. That each person at GateWay would pray, "Lord help us win the future hearts of youth to Jesus Christ."

Theme: "The God of heaven will give us success, therefore we His servants will arise and build." Nehemiah 2:20

**Family Time:** Talk to your kids about something they'd like to accomplish. Sit down and make a list with them and talk about how they do each thing step by step. Plan each step and then put on a calendar what time you'll complete each step. As an example, I used to have "Barnes and Noble" time with my kids. We'd all read for 30 minutes. I would approve their book so it wasn't too easy or difficult. Then based on the length of the book I would agree ahead of time to an amount and pay them when they finished reading the book? The most expensive book cost me \$10.00!