

**Going Through the Unknown with Prayer and Faith**  
**Nehemiah 2:1-12 (NRSV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served to him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. <sup>2</sup> So the king said to me, 'Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart.' Then I was very much afraid. <sup>3</sup> I said to the king, 'May the king live for ever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?' <sup>4</sup> Then the king said to me, 'What do you request?' So I prayed to the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favour with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it.' <sup>6</sup> The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), 'How long will you be gone, and when will you return?' So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date. <sup>7</sup> Then 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 grant me passage until I arrive in Judah; <sup>8</sup> and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, directing him to give me timber to make beams for the gates of the temple fortress, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.' And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me. <sup>9</sup> Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent officers of the army and cavalry with me. <sup>10</sup> When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel. <sup>11</sup> So I came to Jerusalem and was there for three days. <sup>12</sup> Then I got up during the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. The only animal I took was the animal I rode. ~ Nehemiah 2:1-12

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." — Corrie ten Boom

1. Trust God's **timing**! (Nehemiah 2:1)
2. Seek the Lord for **guidance**. (Nehemiah 2:2-4)
3. Where the Lord **guides**, He **provides**. (Nehemiah 2:7-9)
4. Expect **opposition**. (Nehemiah 2:10)
5. Have a **strategy** in place. (Nehemiah 2:11-12)