



NEHEMIAH: *Chapter 2*

Week 2 | Casey Sheffield

Rebuilding the Ruins.

I. THE REMAINS OF THE RUINS (v. 1-4)

A. A Broken Heart (v.1-3)

a. Laid before The Lord

- Nehemiah was deeply concerned for God's people. It had been 4 months since Nehemiah had received the news about Jerusalem. 4 months since he had prayed that beautiful, repentant, heartfelt, prayer in Chapter 1. Then we pick up and read what Nehemiah wrote in chapter 2 verse 1. Nehemiah wrote: *"I had never before appeared sad in [the king's] presence."*
- Nehemiah had a burdened heart that he laid before the Lord, but it also required action on his part...God gave Nehemiah a great burden for His people and The Lord was going to use Nehemiah to help fix the problem.
- Prayer wasn't a substitute for action; prayer prepared him for action. Nehemiah trusted God with the burden, but he also understood that God had given him a responsibility in the rebuilding.
- What about You? Are you burdened by anything? If so, have you taken it before the Lord? If not, why not? And if you have, have you left it before the Lord? There is a reason for the burden. God doesn't just give us or allow us to be burdened by something just to make us miserable. There is a purpose in it. We must allow Him to use it in our lives for our good and His glory.

b. Labored by Man

- Nehemiah had prayed, then **he waited on the Lord**...don't miss that important part. Psalm 37:5 says, "*Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act.*"
- Nehemiah prayed, waited on the Lord, and then it came time for Nehemiah to act.
- Nehemiah was exactly where the Lord wanted him doing exactly what God needed Him to do at the time. He was being faithful where God already had him.

B. A Believing Prayer (v.4; 1:4-11)

- There is a pattern in just the first two chapters, that we see in Nehemiah and we all should follow it—his immediate response is prayer.
- Nehemiah didn't just pray he prayed believing. (v. 1:8-11)
- Remember 4 months before this interaction with the king Nehemiah prayed: "*O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me.*" (v.1:11)
- We have to trust the Architect. He has given us the blueprint—His word. We must know it, we must follow it, we must BELIEVE it. Do you pray believing? Do you pray believing God is who he says He is and that He will do what He said He would do?

II. THE READINESS OF THE BUILDER (v. 5-9)

A. A Bold Request (v. 5-8,9)

- We know it was a bold request because we saw in v. 3 that Nehemiah was terrified when he replied to the king's question.
- We also know it was a bold request because Nehemiah was a trusted advisor of the king. In some way, the king's life was literally dependent upon Nehemiah's presence and Nehemiah was asking for permission to leave which meant the king would have to put his life in the hands of someone

besides his trusted cupbearer Nehemiah. The stakes were high and the odds were against Nehemiah.

B. A Blessing from God (v. 8b)

a. The King's Permission (v.5)

- Nehemiah could not leave without the king's permission.

b. The King's Power (authority) (v. 7-8)

- Nehemiah wouldn't have survived without going in the king's authority.

c. The King's Protection (v. 7)

- The sealed letters from the king identified Nehemiah with the king giving him safe travels and passage through even enemies' territory.
- The King also sent army officers and horsemen to keep Nehemiah safe.

d. The King's Provision (v. 8)

- Jerusalem was in ruins. Wood was scarce. The king's sealed letters ensured Nehemiah would have everything he needed on his travels and to rebuild the city walls.

Ladies, if you are a believer, we too have these same blessings from God, our King.

- **Permission:**

- Nehemiah was granted permission by the king to return to his homeland.
- We have been granted permission by The King to enter our heavenly home.

- **Power:**

- Nehemiah was given the king's authority to go and accomplish the work he had been called to do.
- We have been given The King's authority through the Holy Spirit to go and accomplish the work He has called us to do. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8, CSB).

- **Protection:**

- Nehemiah was safe because he was identified with the king—he had his seal.
- We are saved because we have been identified as The King's—we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit. *"In Him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when*

you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed” (Ephesians 1:13, CSB).

- **Provision:**

- Nehemiah was given provision from the king so that he would have all he needed to rebuild the wall.

- We have been given provision from The King so we would have all that we need to renew our hearts. *“His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness”* (2 Peter 1:3, CSB)

III.THE RIGHT BUILDING PLANS (v.10-20)

A. A Building Obstacle (v. 10)

- Although Nehemiah was doing everything right: praying/seeking the Lord, trusting in Him, obeying Him, following Him, etc. Nehemiah still faced opposition.
- As believers, we too often face the same opposition even though we are sincerely and whole-heartedly going hard after the Lord. We must follow Nehemiah’s example and not lose heart and remain focused on the task at hand. Eternity is too important to get distracted by the enemy while we are doing the Lord’s work.

B. A Building Plan (v. 18-20)

a. Read God’s Blueprint

- Nehemiah didn’t consult anyone but God concerning what should be done about Jerusalem’s ruined condition. Nehemiah says in verse 11: *“I had not told anyone about **the plans God had put** in my heart for Jerusalem.”*
- Did you notice what else he said? He said: *“**the plans God had put** in my heart”*. Not his plans, not someone else’s plans, GOD’S PLANS.

b. Rallied the Laborers (v. 16-18)

- Nehemiah testified to the goodness of God.

c. Relied on God as the Master-BUILDER (v. 19-20)

- Nehemiah knew the only way the wall was going to be rebuilt is if the Lord helped them succeed.
- It had to be the Lord's work done the Lord's way.

WEEK 2

NEHEMIAH:

Chapter 2

...BECAUSE THE GRACIOUS HAND OF GOD WAS ON ME.

NEHEMIAH 2:8 NLT



Day One

NEHEMIAH 2

Overview



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah, Chapter 2

Write down any key verse(s):

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- What is the main Idea?

- Are there any repeated words or phrases?

- Who is the author and who is the author writing to?

Write down what you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character?

- What does this passage teach about man and how does it apply to my life today?

- Are there any areas in my life that this text particularly applies to? If so, how?

- What is God speaking to me after reading this passage of Scripture?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture?

Write down anything the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from today's reading of Chapter 2?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend a few moments in prayer before the Lord. If there was a verse from the passage that spoke to you, pray that verse back to the Lord. Ask Him to specifically recall to your heart and mind anything you just read that He wants to teach you. Write anything He reveals to you below:



Day Two

NEHEMIAH 2

Nehemiah 2:1-10



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah, Chapter 2:1-10

Write down any key verse(s):

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- What is the main idea in these verses?

- When did the events in this passage take place?

- Why is that significant?

- What requests did Nehemiah make?

- What was the king's response to these requests?

- What did Nehemiah give as the reason for the king's response?

- Did Nehemiah face any opposition?

Write down what you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character?

- What does this passage teach about man and how does it apply to my life today? There are several things to consider: Think particularly about Nehemiah's actions, the interaction Nehemiah had with the king (remember he was a pagan king), the opposition Nehemiah faced.

- Are there any areas in my life that this text particularly applies to? If so, how?

- The last part of v. 8 says, “...*for the good hand of my God was upon me.*” Have you experienced the “*good hand of God*” in your own life? If so, how?

- What is God speaking to me after reading this passage of Scripture?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture?

Write down anything the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from today's reading of Chapter 2?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend a few moments in prayer before the Lord. Thank Him for the ways “*the good hand of God*” has been upon your life. If you can’t think of a time or instance where you have experienced the good hand of God in your own life ask the Lord to reveal those times to you. If there was a verse from the passage that spoke to you, pray that verse back to the Lord. Ask Him to specifically recall to your heart and mind anything you just read that He wants to teach you. Write anything He reveals to you below:



Day Three

NEHEMIAH 2

Nehemiah 2:11-20



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah, Chapter 2:11-20

Write down any key verse(s) that speak to you:

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- What is happening in our passage today?

- We saw yesterday that Nehemiah recognized that the “good hand of God” was upon him (v.8). As we read the passage today, with that thought in mind, is there anything that stands out to you (look at v. 10)?

- Who does Nehemiah say gave him the plans (v.12)?

Write down anything else you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character? Look specifically at the passages where Nehemiah mentions God.

- What does this passage teach about man and how does it apply to my life today? Think about Nehemiah, Sanballat and Tobiah, the officials)

- Are there any areas in my life that this text particularly applies to? If so, how?

- What is God speaking to me after reading this passage of Scripture?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture?

Write down anything the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from today's reading?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend a few moments quiet before the Lord. Are there any "plans" He has put on your heart? If so, write them down. Then with open hands and an open heart, ask the Lord what He wants you to do with those plans and how He wants you to carry them out.

If there was a verse from the passage that spoke to you, pray that verse back to the Lord. Ask Him to specifically recall to your heart and mind anything you just read that He wants to teach you. Write anything He reveals to you below:



Day Four

NEHEMIAH 2

Recap



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Read through Nehemiah, Chapter 2 again.

Is there anything new you see that you haven't seen before?

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

What are the main things you have observed from this week's study of Chapter 2?

What has been the main theme throughout this passage?

What have you observed about Nehemiah—his thoughts, his actions, etc.?

What have you observed about the other characters in this text?

Write down anything else you have observed that has impacted you this week:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What is the main thing you learned about God or His character in Nehemiah Chapter 2?

- How is your life/walk with the Lord similar or different to that of Nehemiah's?

- What is the main thing this passage teaches about man and how does it apply to your life today?

- How did the Lord speak to you through the study of Nehemiah 2 this week?

- How has the Lord used the study of His word this week to change your heart and mind?

Write down anything the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from Chapter 2?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend a few moments in prayer before the Lord. Ask Him to specifically recall to your heart and mind anything you have read this week that He wants you to hide in your heart. Write anything He reveals to you below:
