

Nehemiah, part 2:
“Grace in the Moment”
Nehemiah 2:1-8

God’s servant prays, and God answers!

1. Prevailing Prayer – and God’s Answer

vv. 1-3

(1) Nehemiah had been praying for four months!

*“And it came to pass
in the month of Nisan...”*

-1- Praying for the spiritual recovery of the nation (cf. 1:4ff.)

-2- Praying very specifically!

-3- Praying for an opening to appeal to the king. (cf. 1:11)

(2) The opening comes for which Nehemiah had prayed – but in an unexpected way!

- A danger looms!

*“I took the wine and gave it to the king.
Now I had never been sad in his presence before.”*

- The king might well suspect
something subversive!

*““Why is your face sad, since you are not sick?
This is nothing but sorrow of heart.’
So I became dreadfully afraid.”*

- Nehemiah shares the burden of his heart. v. 3

(3) God answers!

“Then the king said to me, ‘What do you request?’

2. Momentary Prayer – And God’s Answer

vv. 4b-8

(1) Nehemiah cries out to God!

“So I prayed to the God of heaven.”

- Praying for wisdom in expression and request!
- Praying for a favorable response!

(2) Nehemiah makes petition before the king (5-6a)

-1- The Background: 4 months of prayer! 4 months of careful thought!

- The petitions Nehemiah brings before the king are undoubtedly those he *already* brought before the King of Kings!

-2- The Petitions: Big and Bold! Very Specific!

[1] To go to Jerusalem and rebuild it.

- Thus, to have *royal authority* to do so
- Nehemiah to be the governor of the region

[2] A specific and extended time to undertake this great work

[3] Safe passage

[4] Full provision for building!

(3) God answers! Wonderfully so!

Further Application: