

GOD'S PREPARATION FOR HIS WORK
NEHEMIAH 2:1-10

Introduction

With God's call always comes God's enabling! Some express this by saying "Where God Calls He Provides!"

When God laid this burden on Nehemiah's heart, He (God) was also at work behind the scenes working His will and plan that **He** was going to bring about!

When God lays a burden upon our hearts, **He** will bring to pass **His** will through us, provided that He has **His way** in our lives!

Philippians 2:13—"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

I Thessalonians 5:24—"Faithful is He that calleth you who will also do it."

Nehemiah is a book that discloses the way of victorious service for God! When God moves in our lives, we must rise up to build for Him! In every way **His work** must be built up for **His glory**!

Every broken down wall must be built up for the glory of God!

I. GOD'S PREPARATION OF NEHEMIAH. (2:1-5)

This preparation, of course, began in chapter 1.

God uses people to bring about His will and work!

God can use whatever He wants to accomplish His will and work, but **He chooses to use people!**

Luke 19:36-40 36 And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. 37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; 38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. 39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. 40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

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This preparation included months of Nehemiah praying, and fasting, and pleading with God!

The question was not **IF** God was going to accomplish this!

The question was just exactly how much was Nehemiah willing to seek God and trust God to use **HIM** to bring about this burden of his heart?

God was also doubtless **preparing Nehemiah's heart** to be willing to fit into His future plans!

A. Nehemiah's Prayer! (1:11)
Here we see Proverbs 3:5-6 in action!
(Changing a heart is God's specialty!)

B. Nehemiah's Patience! (2:1)
Four months had passed.
(Prayer and waiting go hand in hand.)

Isaiah 40:28-31

C. Nehemiah's Principles! (2:1)
Nehemiah continued faithful in his job as the king's cupbearer.
(He wasn't a goldbrick.)

Colossians 3:22-24

D. Nehemiah's Predicament! (2:2)
He has prayed for God's favor and blessing and instead he finds his loyalty to the king possibly being called into question.

To be in sorrow before the king could have brought death, imprisonment, or banishment.

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E. Nehemiah's Plea! (2:3)

1. It Was Respectful!

- a. He assures the king of his loyalty.
- b. He answers the king's question with a question.
- c. He appeals to the king's ancestral reverence. And in doing so...
- d. He arouses the sympathies of the king.
- e. He avoids the mention of the name of the city. (Ezra 4:11-16)

2. It Was Successful! (vs 4a)

3. It Was Prayerful! (vs 4b)

"Lord, this is the moment..."

F. Nehemiah's Presentation! (vs 5-8)

1. It Was Respectful! "If it please the king"

2. It Was Prepared! He wanted to know:

- a. **That he had been sent!** (For when the time came that the enemy says, *"What are you doing?"*)
- b. **That he would be kept safe!** (Many enemies!)
- c. **That he would have his needs supplied!**

Understand that faith is not a synonym of disorder or substitute for planning!

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Had Nehemiah been unprepared he would have stood dumbfounded before the king!

His preparation showed he believed God would answer his prayer.

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

G. Nehemiah's Praise! (vs 8)

1. He Did Not Congratulate Self!
2. He Did Not Congratulate The King!
3. He Acknowledged The Good Hand Of God!

GOD'S PREPARATION OF NEHEMIAH...

II. GOD'S PREPARATION OF THE KING!

A. It Was An Emotional Preparation. (2:2)

He felt for Nehemiah even though he was a Jew. God softened his heart. His concern was for Nehemiah's welfare.

B. It Was A Preparation Of Will. (2:4)

What's your request? Just name your desire.

This reminds us of what Christ would say to us about our needs. **(Psalm 37:3-5)**

God moved upon the king's will. It pleased the king to make provisions and to send Nehemiah.

If we walk with the Lord in complete submission, we can rest assured that God will move upon the heart of even the unsaved if need be to bring about His will in our lives!

III. GOD'S PREPARATION OF THE WAY! (Vs 8b-10)