

NEHEMIAH'S PREPARATION
(Nehemiah 2:1-20)

- I. Nehemiah's MISSION to Restore Jerusalem (Neh. 2:1-8)
 - A. Nehemiah's OPPORTUNITY (2:1-2)
 - 1. Nehemiah was VISIBLY DISTRESSED
 - 2. Nehemiah was "VERY MUCH AFRAID"
 - B. Nehemiah's REQUEST (2:3-5)
 - 1. "The place of my FATHERS' TOMBS lies desolate" and the city "GATES have been consumed by FIRE"
 - 2. "I PRAYED to the God of heaven"
 - 3. "Send me to JUDAH, the CITY of my fathers' tombs, that I may REBUILD it"
 - C. Artaxerxes' RESPONSE (2:6-8)
 - 1. He asked how much TIME he NEEDED
 - 2. He provided letters authorizing PASSAGE
 - 3. He authorized requisitioning all the TIMBER he'd need
 - 4. Nehemiah gave GOD the CREDIT for this outcome
- II. Nehemiah's ARRIVAL in Jerusalem (Neh. 2:9-20)
 - A. Nehemiah's COMMISSION (2:9-10)

1. He delivered the king's LETTERS to the GOVERNORS
 2. This DISTURBED Sanballat and Tobiah
- B. Nehemiah's INSPECTION (2:11-16)
1. He took a SMALL group for a SECRET inspection
 2. He found the walls COLLAPSED and the gates BURNED
- C. Nehemiah's CHARGE (2:17-18)
1. He pointed out Jerusalem's DESOLATION
 2. He called for their HELP to REBUILD the city wall
 3. He wanted to remove their REPROACH
 4. The people SUPPORTED his plan
- D. Nehemiah's OPPOSITION (2:19-20)
1. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem MOCKED them and accused him of TREASON
 2. Nehemiah affirmed his CONFIDENCE in GOD
 3. Nehemiah committed to IGNORING their THREATS
 4. Nehemiah declared his opponents had no LEGAL, MORAL, or HISTORICAL claim in Jerusalem

III. Lessons

- A. The importance of FAITHFUL, PERSISTANT prayer
- B. The need to maintain an ATTITUDE of CONSTANT prayer
- C. The responsibility to be INVOLVED in God's ANSWER to prayer
- D. The value of steadfast TRUST in and faithful OBEDIENCE to God