

52 Days Week 3: The Favor of God

Nehemiah 1:11 (NIV)

11 Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” I was cupbearer to the king.

Nehemiah 2:1 (NIV)

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before,

Nehemiah 2:2 (NIV)

so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.”

Nehemiah 2:2-3 (NIV)

I was very much afraid, 3 but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

Nehemiah 2:4 (NIV)

The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

1. God Gave Nehemiah A Plan

Nehemiah's Plan:

1. He Asked For Permission.

Nehemiah 2:4-5 (NIV)

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 5 and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

Nehemiah's Plan:

1. He Asked For Permission.

2. He Asked For Protection.

Nehemiah 2:7 (NIV)

I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah?”

Nehemiah’s Plan:

1. He Asked For Permission.
2. He Asked For Protection.
- 3. He Asked For Provision.**

Nehemiah 2:8 (NIV)

And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?”

2. God Gave Nehemiah Favor

Nehemiah 2:8 (NIV)

And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

3. God Will Give Nehemiah Success

Nehemiah 2:10 (NIV)

When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

Nehemiah 2:11-12 (NIV)

I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 2:17 (NIV)

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”

Nehemiah 2:18 (NIV)

I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

Nehemiah 2:19 (NIV)

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"

Nehemiah 2:20 (NIV)

I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."