

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

NEHEMIAH 2

Nehemiah 2

Nehemiah two opens with four months having passed since he first heard from his brother Hanani that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the gates had been burned with fire. This was a very sad thing to Nehemiah that since the days of the Babylonians the walls of the great city of God had not been rebuilt. The Temple, the central worship center of God had been rebuilt, the people's houses had been rebuilt, but not the very thing that gives the city its status as a city. Perhaps some history is necessary at this point.

In the ancient world a city was not classified as a city unless it had walls. The community might be a village, a town, a hamlet, but it was not a city unless it had walls. A city is also always referred to in the feminine gender like a woman. We never talk about the father city, but rather as the mother city and how "*she* is such a beautiful city" or similar. The city walls were called the "skirts" of the city and the villages, towns and communities that were outside the walls were called the "daughters" of the mother city. They were beyond the walls or the "skirts" of the city. This

is why, even to this day, those towns or boroughs outside the city limits are referred to as being in the "outskirts" of the city. Therefore, the day Jesus was crucified and was carrying his cross toward skull hill, calvaria In Latin, when the women were weeping for Jesus, He said, "***Do not weep for me, but rather weep for the daughters of Jerusalem***" Luke 23:28. He was referring to those villages outside the city walls that are always the first to suffer an invasion. The Romans would be coming soon, less than forty years later, when they destroyed the city of Jerusalem, but they first killed or took as slaves those living in outskirts of the city. Nehemiah was devastated and could not concentrate on his work as the king's cupbearer, and that was a problem. Nehemiah was the King's wine taster and the person who tasted his food. This could mean nothing but trouble, so Nehemiah prayed to the God of heaven and earth.

Prayer and Action Steps

When Nehemiah heard the bad news from his homeland, he fasted and prayed. What do we do when we hear bad news?

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
