

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

NEHEMIAH 4

Nehemiah 4

Nehemiah four makes no sense unless we get the context better from chapter two. Since it was necessary to take space to explain why the walls were so important to a city's very existence as a city, one must understand Nehemiah's story to this point. When Nehemiah heard the devastating news of Jerusalem's condition, he became very sad and mourned for four months while fasting and praying. It was now his turn to be in his primary role as the wine and food taster to the king. When the king came in and saw Nehemiah after four months since hearing the news, Nehemiah's countenance was sad, and the king noticed it immediately. The king quickly discerned that Nehemiah was not sick, but he was depressed, "sad of heart" and the king immediately inquired. Nehemiah told him of the plight of the great city of his ancestry and how he needed to build back the walls and gates, because that was the place of his ancestral burial grounds. He knew the Persians cared very deeply about caring for their dead, so he spoke to a matter that he knew would touch the king's heart, and it did. Nehemiah had been praying for four months according to Nehemiah 2:1 and was ready for this

question. When the king asked Nehemiah how he could help, Nehemiah had a plan. He asked for safe passage to Jerusalem, this would be accomplished through letters from the king. He asked for provisions from the king's treasuries, and he asked for the king to give him authority to carry out this great project with his blessings and oversight through Nehemiah himself. The king granted his wishes, and the journey began. The governors and leaders of the area of Jerusalem were greatly threatened upon Nehemiah's arrival and tried to discourage the rebuilding project. After a stealth survey of the walls, Nehemiah gathered the people and rallied them to the work.

"Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach, and I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So, they said, "Let us rise up and build." Nehemiah 2:17-18

Prayer and Action Steps

When we fast and pray about something, often God will give us a plan to solve the problem. We must then obey. God help me to seek your face, your plan, then do it.

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?
