

From Ruin to Revival

A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

LESSON TWO Introduction: The value of a leader's relationship with **God** cannot be overestimated. Unless his relationship to God is right, the leader will never be His **choices** for any situation, nor will he ever truly be effective. But similarly, we must have a right relationship with our **superiors** also. We cannot expect to be blessed with success if we are **disrespectful** and difficult to work with.

1. The **Good Hand** of God's Providence (2:1-8)

a. The **Countenance** of Nehemiah (v.1-3).

i. The **Desecration** of Jerusalem.

ii. The **Dishonor** on Jerusalem.

iii. The **Distance** to Jerusalem.

b. The **Challenge** for Nehemiah (v.2-3).

i. **Loyalty**.

ii. **Tact**.

iii. **Honesty**.

iv. **Prayer**.

c. The **Commission** of Nehemiah (v.4-7).

i. A Leave of **Absence** for the Work (v.5-6).

ii. Letters of **Authorization** for the Way (v.7).

iii. A Letter of **Allocation** for the Wood (v.8).

d. The **Contribution** to Nehemiah (v.8).

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2. The Wise Manner of God's Servant (2:9-16).

- a. The Survey of the City.
- b. The Stirring of His Heart.

3. The Ready Response of God's People (2:17-18).

- a. Nehemiah Inspired the People (v.17).
- b. Nehemiah Involved the People (v.17).

4. The Bitter Animosity of God's Enemies (2:19-20).

- a. They were disturbed by Nehemiah's concern (v.10).
- b. They showed disdain for Nehemiah's challenge (v.19).
 - i. The People's Past.
 - ii. The People's Proposition.
 - iii. The People's Pride.

Conclusion: What if the hand of God was upon us? This is the one motivating force that brings everybody and everything together. There's nothing more satisfying and motivating than to know **God's hand is on your life**. By His hand, they were strengthened to do this good work; and so may we.