

**Lesson 17**  
The Request and Return of Nehemiah  
( Nehemiah 2:1-20 )

**Questions**

1. What was Nehemiah's emotional condition, what did Artaxerxes the king ask him, and what was Nehemiah's response (2:1-3)?
  
2. What did Nehemiah do before he made his request to the king (2:4)?
  
3. What request did Nehemiah make of the king and how did the king respond (2:5-6)?
  
4. What additional request did Nehemiah make of the king (2:7-8)?
  
5. Who was watching over Nehemiah at this time (2:8; see also v. 18)?
  
6. Who returned with Nehemiah and what did Sanballat and Tobiah think about him returning to Jerusalem (2:9-10)?
  
7. What did Nehemiah and a few men do privately after he returned to Jerusalem (2:11-16)?
  
8. What did Nehemiah encourage the people of Jerusalem to do and what was their response (2:17-18)?
  
9. What did Sanballat, Tobiah, and Gesham do when they heard that the people were building and what was Nehemiah's response (2:19-20)?

## **Digging Deeper**

1. Who was Artaxerxes, what month is Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, and what is the approximate date for “the twentieth year” of Artaxerxes’ reign (2:1)?
2. What month was Nisan in the Hebrew calendar (2:1)? How can the 9<sup>th</sup> month of Chislev (1:1) and the 1<sup>st</sup> month of Nisan (2:1) be in the same year?
3. Who was the queen to Artaxerxes at this time (2:6)?
4. What is the “palace” and the “house” (KJV) that is mentioned in Nehemiah 2:8?
5. What was the role of the “governor” at this time in the Persian Empire and what “River” is being referenced in Nehemiah 2:7, 9?

## **Applications for Today**

1. We should be sad when our brethren are not doing well and seek to help them any way we can (2:1-3; Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:26).
2. We should pray to God for help before making important decisions (2:4; Jas. 1:5).
3. God’s providential hand is upon his servants who seek to do his will (2:8, 18; Psa. 32:8; 121:8; 125:2; 2 Tim. 4:17; 1 Pet. 3:12).
4. Always seek the welfare of your brethren even if others don’t want you to (2:10; 1 Thess. 5:14).
5. There will always be people who do not like to see the Lord’s people be successful (2:10; Acts 12:1-2; 13:8; Jn. 9-10).
6. Plan your work, then work your plan (2:11-16; Mk. 1:38; Acts 15:36-41).
7. There is still building that must be done today in the Lord’s church. “Come and let us build” and “let us rise up and build” should be the desire and motto of all of God’s people today (2:5, 17-18, 20; 1 Cor. 3:10-15).

8. Strengthen your hands and the hands of others to do the good work of the Lord (2:18; Ezra 6:22; Neh. 6:9; Job 4:3).
9. Don't ever be detoured by opposition; always keep working for the Lord (2:19-20; Rom. 12:11; 1 Cor. 15:58).
10. God will cause his people to prosper (2:20; Rom. 1:10; 3 Jn. 2).