

EMBRACING A BROADER VISION: *Pray, Plan, and Proceed With Caution*

They said to me, *"Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."* When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:3-4

In today's world, it's not difficult to empathize with Nehemiah. There are countless children and adults who are grappling with severe issues and living in a constant state of ruin. People today are buried knee-deep in anger, unforgiveness, jealousy, greed, and despair. As believers, this should break our hearts.

Read Nehemiah 1 – 2:9

Questions to Ponder (with self or others)

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you felt paralyzed by a pressing need?

What stood out for you in Nehemiah's prayer in 1:4-10?

It is worth noting that Nehemiah spent several days weeping, fasting, and mourning before he uttered this prayer. You can sense the weight of his burden. Despite this, *how did Nehemiah begin his prayer?* Nehemiah wanted God to intervene, but instead of proposing a plan of action, he first acknowledged God's power, character, and ability to act. Next, Nehemiah confessed his sins and those of his people, and he followed that by reminding God of His promise to Moses. He did all this *before making his request known*.

What burden has God placed on your heart? Take time now to pray as Nehemiah did.

- Acknowledge God's power and provision ([1 Chronicles 29:11](#)).
- Confess sin ([James 5:16](#)).
- Claim His promises ([2 Corinthians 1:20](#)).
- Make your request known ([Philippians 4:6](#)).

Nehemiah reminds us that prayer should always precede action. Despite Nehemiah's desperate desire for an answer, God didn't answer him for four months. When God did answer, He invited Nehemiah to step into a broader vision, one greater than anything Nehemiah could have imagined.

*O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you.
Please grant me success today by _____ . In Jesus name, amen.*