

In His Presence: Vision and Planning

Nehemiah 2:1–9



Week Two

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Nehemiah 2:1–9

BETWEEN FOUR AND FIVE

Sometimes we gloss over the seemingly unimportant details of Scripture. But once understood, these details can provide great insights. If we compare the first verse of Nehemiah 1 to the first verse of chapter 2, we see that chapter 2 also takes place in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign. The month Chisleu of chapter 1 is the equivalent of November-December of the Gregorian calendar, while the month of Nisan (not the Japanese automobile corporation) of chapter 2 was about March-April of the Gregorian calendar. So, these apparently superfluous details portray that Nehemiah prayed and fasted for four to five months. In other words, God answered his prayers not in decades or years but in a few months (although some of us cannot imagine waiting months for an answer to a prayer!).

Do you have any large decisions that you need to make—for instance, decisions concerning your career, calling, lifework, marriage, or finding your purpose in life? Why not set aside some time to pray and fast for the Lord's wisdom and intervention? It may be a shorter time than you anticipate, perhaps four to five months, before you notice Heaven moving circumstances in your life as a response.



Write out Nehemiah 2:1–9 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out Nehemiah 2:2–6. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline it, or mind map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases



Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

Where is tact needed in your life? How do you cultivate tactful communication without being manipulative? Are you tactful in your family interactions?



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After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?



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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

1 Thess. 5:17; Exod. 4:15
Matt. 10:16
Acts 26:24–31



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Nehemiah 2:1–9?

Review your memorized verse from Nehemiah 2:1–9.



Meditate on Nehemiah 2:1–9 again and look for Jesus in the passage.



Is Jesus tactful and strategic in the way He operates?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?



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Review your memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



As you have studied this
week, what personal
applications have you been
convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications
you must make in your school,
family, workplace, and church?

A large grid of small dots for writing answers to the reflection questions.



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
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Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



What is the relationship between prayer and action?

What are the extremes of too much prayer and too much action?

Is tact necessary? How can you develop your tactfulness?

What is the difference between tact and deceit?

Are planning, logistics, and strategy spiritual gifts?

Why is planning not a demonstration of a lack of faith?

How are spirituality and occupation related to each other?

How has God used individuals in high positions of society in the past?

How can you access resources in the world and harness them for the proclamation of the gospel?