

A Nehemiah in Persia:

❖ The news.

- Artaxerxes had ordered the reconstruction of Jerusalem to stop (Ezra 4). Then it was destroyed by their enemies; their walls and gates were burned down.
- Nehemiah immediately prayed and fasted for the people and the city of Jerusalem, asking God to intervene.

❖ The prayer.

- The book of Nehemiah shows him as a man of prayer (2:4; 4:4-5, 9; 5:19; 6:14; 13:14, 29).
- The key point of Nehemiah's prayer in Nehemiah 1:5-11 is to remember God's promises and claim them.
- God likes to hear us claiming His promises. He's eager to fulfill them in our lives (Luke 11:13).

❖ The request.

- Four months after Nehemiah's prayer, the right moment came, and God let him talk to Artaxerxes about his request (444 BC).
- The king was concerned about the sadness his cupbearer was showing. Nehemiah appealed to the king's emotions. He requested permission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- Artaxerxes was moved by God. He appointed Nehemiah as governor of Judah and authorized the reconstruction.

B Nehemiah in Jerusalem:

❖ His authority.

- The king gave Nehemiah a personal guard and letters for the governors of that region. Asaf was ordered to give Nehemiah all the material he would need for rebuilding the walls.
- Sanballat (governor of Samaria), Tobiah (governor of Ammon) and Geshem (governor of Edom and Moab) got annoyed when they heard that Nehemiah was coming to help the Jewish people. They tried to spoil Nehemiah's work from its very beginning.

❖ His plan.

- Nehemiah didn't trust his little army alone but used a special suit of armor: God's promises, and the assurance that he was doing God's work. He advanced cautiously:
 - (1) He reviewed the actual situation himself
 - (2) He planned the work to be done
 - (3) He gathered the leaders and shared his plan
 - (4) He encouraged everyone to work
 - (5) He requested commitment
- We must include God in our plans and conversations when we manage projects and when we are in contact with people. Always use uplifting and encouraging words.

This was Nehemiah's prayer (Nehemiah 1:5-11):

