

NEHEMIAH RESEARCHES, RALLIES AND REBUKES

(Nehemiah 2:9-20)

I. NEHEMIAH BOLDLY ASKS THE KING FOR PERMISSION (2:1-8)

II. NEHEMIAH SURVEYS THE PROJECT IN JERUSALEM (2:9-20)

A. The Journey, Arrival, and Survey in the Dark (2:9-16)

1. The Lord had moved the heart of King Artaxerxes to protect Nehemiah; as a result, he went with a full _____ escort which helped him arrive in _____ and with _____ credentials. (v. 9)

2. The Persian caravan attracted a great deal of attention; three men in particular with influence and power hated the Jews, and they didn't want Jerusalem to be fortified again. (vv. 10, 19)
 - a. SANBALLAT was the _____ of Samaria, he would become Nehemiah's chief _____. (4:1-3)

 - b. TOBIAH was an Ammonite which made him an avowed enemy of the _____ (Deut. 23:3-4), he was the one who _____ gathered information.

 - c. GESHEM was an Arabian and most likely the most powerful figure out of the three, but he seemed _____ committed to the _____ cause. (v. 19)

3. Before sharing his plan publicly regarding the project, Nehemiah wisely took three days to _____ gather information, _____ the walls, and _____ a strategy. (vv. 11-12)

4. He inspected the _____ parts of the wall because those were the only sections still _____ standing, but there was so much _____ that he had to dismount and walk. (vv. 13-15)

5. Only _____ Nehemiah had completed his secret survey and was satisfied that he had developed a _____ did he think it was time to reveal all of it to the people. (v. 16)

B. Reactions to the Plan (2:17-20)

1. In his opening statements, it is clear that what bothered Nehemiah the most was _____ the vulnerability of the city, but it was the _____ of the Jewish city to the rest of the world. (v. 17)
2. Nehemiah then spoke _____ of the hand of his God that was upon him, and then _____ of the words of the king of Persia, the results were _____, and nothing short of miraculous. (v. 18)
3. As always, when God's work is underway, there will be _____; in this situation these three men tried to demoralize the crowd with _____ and _____. (v. 19)

* Does something like this ever happen in or outside the church today?

4. Nehemiah had not only _____ his own people, but he gallantly stood in the gap for the Lord, and by _____ he reminded his enemies that the "*God of heaven*" was standing with him. (v. 20)

* What can you personally apply from this truth today?