

NEHEMIAH 2:1-10

Introduction

“Take a deep breath and just do it!” you tell yourself as you attempt to muster the courage to do what you know needs to be done but are unsure how the person is going to react. You’ve rehearsed what you’re going to say, maybe even wrote it down. You’ve went through the various scenarios of who things might go. There’s only one thing left to do – do it.

Nehemiah held the high position of cupbearer to the king of Persia, the world’s current superpower which controlled much of the middle east reaching into Greece and down into Egypt. Nehemiah had recently received a report concerning the sad situation back in his homeland of Israel, where reconstruction of the temple in Jerusalem had come to a standstill. Spiritual apathy and indifference for the Lord and his will for his people seemed to be prevailing. What could one man like Nehemiah possibly do?

Nehemiah 2:1-10

1. What did King Artaxerxes notice about Nehemiah?
2. Why would Nehemiah be afraid when the king asked about his long face?
3. What explanation did Nehemiah give for his sadness?
4. Evaluate the king’s initial response to Nehemiah’s explanation?
5. We’re told that Nehemiah’s first reaction when he heard the king’s, “What do you want?” was to pray. What do you think that Nehemiah prayed?
6. What initial request does Nehemiah make of the king?

7. What additional requests did Nehemiah make of the king?

8. How did others react to the news of Nehemiah's return to rebuild Jerusalem?