

## NEHEMIAH 2:11-20

### Introduction

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Have you ever had too much time to think about something? You're starting a new job. You've had your interview and accepted the position, but you won't be starting for another four weeks. During those four weeks you think and you think and you think about what it's going to be like, wondering about what if this happens or that happens. Or maybe you had the experience of going to a new school as a child. You got the tour, but what is it really going to be like when you walk into that room for the first time. Your mind begins to think of all the possibilities.

Think of Nehemiah. He was given permission by the King of Persia to return to Jerusalem in Israel and to help with the reconstruction of the city. The trip from Susa, where Nehemiah was from, to Jerusalem was about 600-700 mile journey which could take months. All of that time Nehemiah had to wonder what he was going to find when he finally arrived. Was the situation really as bad as he heard? Was the temple still only a foundation? Were the walls of Jerusalem still in ruins? Nehemiah had lots of time to think about what it was going to be like, arriving at a city he had only heard about. What did he find?

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1. How did Nehemiah access the work that needed to be done at Jerusalem?

2. Why would Nehemiah not immediately revealed to everyone what his purpose was for coming to Jerusalem?

3. What clear call did Nehemiah make to his fellow Jews throughout the vicinity of Jerusalem?

4. What connection did Nehemiah see between the condition of Jerusalem and people's perception of its people and their God?

5. How did Nehemiah back strengthen his call to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem?

6. How did Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem attempt to discourage Nehemiah's efforts?

7. Describe Nehemiah's response to their ridicule and threats.