

Nehemiah: Kingdom Zeal

Nehemiah 1-2

MAIN IDEAS

1. Kingdom Broken
2. Kingdom Prayer
3. Kingdom Zeal
4. Kingdom Confidence

What was Nehemiah's response to the bad news in Nehemiah 1:3-4?

Read Nehemiah's prayer in 1:5-11. What attitudes does he express?

What does Nehemiah do in the middle of his conversation with the king in 2:4?

Why did the king grant Nehemiah's request in 2:7-8? Consider also: Exodus 14:4, Daniel 4:24-25, and Proverbs 21:1.

Sanballat and Tobiah ask if the Israelites are rebelling against the king in Nehemiah 2:19. Why do you suppose Nehemiah neglected to mention the king's favor or show them the king's letters in verse 20?

How does Nehemiah compare with the kind of person God delights to use, as described in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31? See also, Jeremiah 9:23-24.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Consider the news and challenges Nehemiah faced. Had you been in his place, how would you have reacted? Why?

How much zeal do you have for the kingdom of God and His purposes? Is it strong enough to divert you from your own purposes?

How much do you rely on money, power, and wisdom? How much do you rely on your understanding and knowledge of the Lord?

What seed has the Lord planted in your heart for His kingdom?

What verses from this study most stood out to you? Meditate on them this week.

Pray:

- Praise God for His power and willingness to engage in human affairs.
- Ask God to ignite in you a zeal for His kingdom and purposes.
- Ask for humility, particularly regarding your money, power, and wisdom.
- Ask for greater confidence in Him.
- Ask that He would turn the hearts of those in authority to align with His will.

GROUP RESPONSE

How did the Israelites respond to the call to rebuild in Nehemiah 2:17-18?

What is God calling your group to do?

Strengthen your hands for the good work God has prepared in advance for you to walk in.

REPRODUCE

Do you struggle with a lack of zeal? Seek out others with an infectious love for God and make a point to spend time with them.

Do you have zeal? Press on the boundaries of your comfort zone and share it with someone. You don't have to share the gospel necessarily, or even share with an unbeliever, but express your love for God with someone.

KEY VERSES

- Nehemiah 1-2
- Daniel 4:24-25
- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
- Ezra 3:10-13
- Proverbs 21:1
- Jeremiah 9:23-24
- Exodus 14:4