**HEAR THE PRAYER OF YOUR SERVANT**

Nehemiah 1:1-2:10

Key Verse 1: 6a

*“Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.”*

**Introduction[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. Who was Nehemiah? (1:1a, 11b) When was it and where was he? (1:1b, 2:1) What did he question Hanani, one of his brothers, about? (1:2-3) How did Hanani and some other men answer? (3)
2. At first, how did Nehemiah respond to the tragic news? Why[[2]](#footnote-2)? (1:4a) Then what did he do? (4b) How did Nehemiah address God in his prayer? (5) What does this tell us about God? His heart towards God? His hope?
3. What did Nehemiah humbly request God to do? Who did he pray for day and night? (6a) In his prayer, what did Nehemiah sincerely confess? Why? (6b-7) On what basis did Nehemiah make his request before God? (1:8-10)
4. What was Nehemiah about to do? (2:5) What was his prayer topic? (1:11) What did King Artaxerxes ask Nehemiah? (2:1-2a) Why was Nehemiah *very much afraid*? (2b) Yet, how did he respond? (3)
5. When the king asked him, “What is it you want?” what did Nehemiah do? (4) Then, what was his clear request? (5) How did the king respond? (6) Sensing God’s favour, what else did Nehemiah ask for? (7-8a) What was the outcome? (2:8b-10)

1. Nehemiah grew up in Persia among the Jews who had been exiles in Babylon. Nehemiah had the honored position of cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, the son of Xerxes, known as Ahasuerus in the Book of Esther. His position was one of great trust and responsibility. He could have lived comfortably as a successful immigrant. But amazingly enough, he knew who he was and who God is. He knew what he should do for God’s glory. He was a man of prayer and the phrase “hear the prayer of your servant” is repeated in chapter 1 when he prayed before God. May the Lord help us to grow as warriors of prayer. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The city of Jerusalem is not only the center of the nation Israel, but also the symbol of God’s indwelling. So it has been called the holy city. God seeks to dwell in the center of his chosen people. But in Nehemiah’s time, this city was ruined, and Nehemiah took the matter to heart. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)