

## Arise & Build, #6

### ***IT IS TOO GOOD TO MISS! EXPERIENCE THE GOOD HAND OF GOD***

October 21–22, 2023 // Sermon Study Guide // Pastor Mark Henry, D.D.

**Text:** Nehemiah 2

**Truth Points:** What truth was covered this weekend in the message?

1. Read Nehemiah 2. What was the burden of Nehemiah? What did it compel him to do? Was he expecting the king to send him to Jerusalem? How long did Nehemiah wait for this moment?
2. Explain how these four elements unfolded in Nehemiah as he waited and prayed:
  - It deepened his burden. (vv 1–3)
  - It enlarged his faith. (v 4)
  - It sharpened his plans. (vv 5–7)
  - It let him see the hand of God. (v 8)
3. Nehemiah took the initiative! What was Nehemiah's plan? Why did it take three days to examine the walls? Why is it that he examined the walls in the dark? Should he have told the officials, priests, and the people sooner? Why or why not?
4. How did Nehemiah share the vision to rebuild? Did he honor God? If so, how?
5. Did the nation embrace the burden, vision, and the will to act? How was it expressed? Does this create a model for us?
6. Today, it seems, everyone believes they are leaders and should all have their own mission to develop and lead. Yet in Nehemiah's day, he was the only one with the burden, drive, and opportunity to share it and lead to its completion. How many people need to embrace his burden and vision? What was the result of all of them uniting around one vision?

**Reflection Points:** How does God want me to think, feel, act, and speak because of this truth?

1. There are two important roles in history. Do I have a God-pleasing and God-size burden like Nehemiah? Or does God have a leader with a vision for me to embrace and engage in for God's glory?
2. Nehemiah waited four months for God to open a door with the king. Does God have me in a holding pattern right now? If so, what is being developed in me through the waiting?
3. Israel waited passively 140 years for a man of God with a vision and power of God to rebuild the walls. What is the difference between "passive" waiting verse "active" waiting? What about me? What would the Holy Spirit say about my waiting?

**Action Points:** What am I going to do **this week** because of this truth?

1. **Read Nehemiah 3-4** this week in preparation for next weekend.
2. **Reflect** on Nehemiah 2:1–20 every day.
3. **Ask** yourself three questions every day:
  - Will God give me such a burden for His glory to lead others through? Or will He give someone else the vision for me to embrace and assist to complete?
  - Do I want to just hear about others doing great things for God or do I want to be a part of doing great things for God?
  - What lessons on leadership have I learned and need to employ from Nehemiah?
4. **Share** with another follower of Jesus what you are learning about God, the Bible, Jesus, etc. Help him/her follow Jesus better in 2023.