

# The Blueprint

## Nehemiah 2:7-20

- I. Provisions 2:7-10
  - a. Letters from the King for Supplies and Opposition
    - i. Allow him to pass
    - ii. Supplies- Timber
    - iii. Several studies have shown that in the ancient Near East it was customary to use timber in the walls
  - b. God's Hand
    - i. Power of possession of controlling influence conceived; immanent activity
    - ii. Ezra 7:6;9 ; 8:18
    - iii. 1 Kings 18:46- Elijah
    - iv. Joshua 4:24 - Joshua and the Jordan River
  - c. Tried to Pass
    - i. Came to the River with Officers of the Army and Horeseman
  - d. Opposition
    - i. Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard
      - 1. Sanballat was governor of Samaria in 408 B.C.
      - 2. Tobiah the Ammonite official" was likely governor of Ammon, although he may have been an Ammonite official under Sanballat's authority
      - 3. Very Displeased
        - a. Perhaps they were hoping to gain control of Judah. In fact in the Elephantine papyri written in 407 B.C., 37 years after this event, Sanballat was called "governor of Samaria." But Nehemiah's motivation remained undaunted. He knew that God had brought him to this moment in Israel's history and he was about to tackle a project that others, for almost 100 years before him, had been unable to complete
- II. Prepare 2:11-16
  - a. Three days
    - i. presumably to think, pray, and get acquainted with some people there, he took **a few men** into his confidence, men he could trust.
  - b. Went out by Night
    - i. He went with a few people but didn't tell anyone
    - ii. Inspection the walls and gates
      - 1. Either he went all round the entire wall or, more likely, he retraced his steps from the eastern wall. He went back into the city at his starting place, **the Valley Gate**. (See the map "Jerusalem in the Time of Nehemiah," near 3:1.)

- iii. Praying and trusting God does not mean that research is not necessary. Nehemiah wanted to assess the situation before presenting his project to the officials and the people. Specifically, Nehemiah needed to know where to rebuild the old walls and where to construct the new one. He used only one mount so as not to call attention to what he was doing.
  - c. The Officials did not know
    - i. Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials or the rest who did the work
- III. Persuade 2:17-20
  - a. Then he spoke
    - i. A call to recognize to damage
    - ii. 1) He identified with the people; he spoke of “the trouble *we* are in.” (2) He stressed the seriousness of the situation. A leader must be realistic and honestly assess the facts. People will have confidence in such a leader. (3) Nehemiah was committed to taking definite action. (4) He used his personal testimony of God’s grace to assure them of God’s favor on the project (v. 18).
  - b. He Said
    - i. Arise and Build
    - ii. Put their Hands to Good work
  - c. Opposition
    - i. Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite<sup>1</sup>
    - ii. As soon as their enemies heard the news they stepped up their efforts to hinder the process. They used every demoralizing technique they knew, beginning with ridicule (*bûz* means “to despise or regard with contempt”) and the suggestion that they were rebels. Joining **Sanballat** and **Tobiah** (cf. v. 10) was **Geshem** (cf. 6:1–2, 6) **the Arab**.
    - iii. He did not speak of his authority or the king’s but of his trust in “the God of heaven.” (2) Nehemiah advised his people to ignore the ridicule and threats and simply *work*. (3) He refused to compromise. He denied his opponents a share in the work, the land, or the worship of the Jewish community (cf. Ezra 4:3).
  - d. Protection: God will Give
    - i. Success- he knew that ultimately his success depended on God’s help. So he wrote that the king’s granting of his **requests** was **because** God’s **gracious hand ... was upon** him (cf. v. 18; Ezra 7:6, 9, 28; 8:18, 22, 31).
      - 1. Nehemiah 1:11
      - 2. Isaac with his bride Rebekah Genesis 24:40
    - ii. His Servants
      - 1. Arise and Build

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<sup>1</sup> [\*New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update\*](#) (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Ne 2:19.