

Sunday School Lesson

November 12, 2023

**Nehemiah: The Captive Cupbearer
Rebuilds a Nation**

1

Nehemiah 2:11-20

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Sunday School Lesson

Question for Us Today

November 12, 2023

2

Is there unfinished business in your life which the Lord would like for you to complete?

Sunday School Lesson

Objective

November 12, 2023

3

To understand how Nehemiah went about accomplishing a major task for the Lord.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

November 12, 2023

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Nehemiah

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

October 8, 2023

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember This

Points of Information – Nehemiah

The name “Nehemiah” means “the Lord comforts.”

6

Although he was born in Babylonian exile, and now served the Persian king, Nehemiah wanted to go to Jerusalem and to help his own people.

Points of Information – Nehemiah

Nehemiah was deeply saddened to find that although some of his people – the remnant – had returned from exile to Jerusalem, the walls (of protection) and gates of the Holy City had not yet been repaired and rebuilt. He then offered a fervent prayer to the Lord, on behalf of his people.
Nehemiah 1:5-11.

Points of Information – Nehemiah

As a cupbearer for the Persian king, Nehemiah's job had been to taste the king's wine and food first, to ensure that they were safe for the king to consume.

8

Nehemiah took a great risk by appearing to be sad in front of the king. Nehemiah 2:1-3. By tradition, this could have been punishable by death. However, Nehemiah prayed first; then, he requested that King Artaxerxes allow him to go to Jerusalem and help his own people. Verses 4-8.

Points of Information – Nehemiah

In this Book of the Bible, Nehemiah documents a lot about the people: Nehemiah 7:6-73 (those who left captivity); 10:1-27 (those who were sealed); 11:4-19 (those who dwelled in the Holy City); 11:20-36 ("the rest of the people" or "the residue"); 12:1-26 (a listing of priests and Levites); 12:31-36, 41,42 (princes, priests and others).

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Lesson Context - 1

In the first Chapter of the Book of Nehemiah, the cupbearer found that the conditions in Jerusalem were worse than he could have imagined. Then, He prayed and asked God for support.

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Lesson Context - 2

In the early Verses of the second Chapter of the Book of Nehemiah, we see how this prayerful man made an appeal to the Persian king: exhibiting his concern and care for the welfare of his people in the Holy City of Jerusalem and his desire to go there and rectify the situation.

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Text – UMI Outline #1

12

Nehemiah 2:11-15

Survey the Situation

Nehemiah 2:11-12 [NIV]

I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days

I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

Nehemiah 2:13

By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire.

Nehemiah 2:14-15

Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through;

so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate.

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Text – UMI Outline #2

Nehemiah 2:16-18

Calls the People to Work

Nehemiah 2:16

The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

Nehemiah 2:17-18

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace."

I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

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Text – UMI Outline #3

Nehemiah 2:19-20

Respond to Opposition

Nehemiah 2:19

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us.

"What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"

Nehemiah 2:20

I answered them by saying, "The God of Heaven will give us success. We His servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."

Remember this:

When the Lord wants you to accomplish something, He will give you what you need to get it done – if you have the willingness to heed His Word and see the task(s) through.

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