

FAITHFUL GOD HONORING FIRST STEPS

A landscape scene featuring a tree with a green canopy and bare branches, birds flying in a sky with a rainbow, and a path leading through a field.

NEW BEGINNINGS SERIES

NEHEMIAH 2:1-10

Nehemiah 1:11a

**O Lord, please hear my prayer!
Listen to the prayers of those of us
who delight in honoring you.**

Nehemiah 1:11b

**Please grant me success today by
making the king favorable to me.
Put it into his heart to be kind to
me. In those days I was the king's
cup-bearer.**

Nehemiah 2:1

Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan (April/May), during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence.

Nehemiah 2:2

So the king asked me, “Why are you looking so sad? You don’t look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled.”

Nehemiah 2:3

**Then I was terrified, but I replied,
“Long live the king! How can I not
be sad? For the city where my
ancestors are buried is in ruins,
and the gates have been
destroyed by fire.”**

Nehemiah 2:4

The king asked, “Well, how can I help you?” With a prayer to the God of heaven, I replied,

Nehemiah 2:5

“If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.”

Nehemiah 2:6

The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, “How long will you be gone? When will you return?” After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request.

Nehemiah 2:7

I also said to the king, “If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah.

Nehemiah 2:8a

And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself."

Nehemiah 2:8b

And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me.

Nehemiah 2:9

When I came to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, I delivered the king's letters to them. The king, I should add, had sent along army officers and horsemen to protect me.

Nehemiah 2:10

But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of my arrival, they were very displeased that someone had come to help the people of Israel.

A dramatic landscape featuring a tree that is split vertically down the middle. The left half of the tree is bare and brown, while the right half is lush and green. The tree stands on a grassy hill. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds. The left side of the sky is dark and stormy, with rain falling. The right side of the sky is bright and golden, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. Several birds are flying in the sky, moving from the dark side towards the bright side.

FAITHFUL GOD HONORING FIRST STEPS

NEW BEGINNINGS

SERIES

NEHEMIAH 2:1-10

Sermon Series Recap

**Rebuilding, restoring, and
revitalizing with God must always
start with His initiation. It will
always be confirmed by the entire
counsel of His Word, by the
conviction in His people's hearts,
and by the accompaniment of His
supernatural activity.**

**New beginnings which require
rebuilding, restoring, and
revitalizing with God require
getting started right.**

Getting Started Right requires

- Seeking Trusted Honest Evaluations from Outside Perspectives in the Know.
- Stillness with God: Time to Mourn, Meditate, and Pray
- Prayers of Confession and Intercession

Principle #1

Rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God requires that we get started right by faithfully executing God honoring first steps, which are always aligned with the entire counsel of His word.

Application

God Honoring First Steps

- **Waiting on God's timing.**
- **Prayerfully planning with God.**
- **Making Necessary Radical Changes**
- **Working Effectively with all sorts of people.**
- **Prayerfully communing with God as we wrestle thru a steady stream of issues and problems.**

Principle #2

Getting started right with God in rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing something requires that we faithfully execute the God honoring first step of waiting on God's timing.

Nehemiah 1:1

In late autumn, in the month of Kislev (Nov/Dec 446 BC), in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa.

Nehemiah 2:1

Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan (April/May), during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence.

**Genuine, deep seeded, paradigm
shifting, long lasting change takes
time.**

Obeying God's Timing

Haggai 1:1

On August 29, [520 BC] during the second year of King Darius's reign, the Lord gave a message through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

Haggai 1:2

This is what the Lord of Heavens Armies says: “The people are saying, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.’”

Haggai 1:3

**Then the Lord sent this message
through the prophet Haggai:**

Haggai 1:4

**“Why are you living in luxurious
houses while my house lies in
ruins?”**

Haggai 1:5

**This is what the Lord of Heaven's
Armies says: "Look at what's
happening to you!"**

Haggai 1:6

You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!”

Haggai 1:7

**This is what the Lord of Heaven's
Armies says: "Look at what's
happening to you!"**

Haggai 1:8

Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord.

Haggai 1:9a

**You hoped for rich harvests, but
they were poor. And when you
brought your harvest home, I
blew it away.**

Haggai 1:9b

Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses.

Haggai 1:10

It's because of you that the heavens withhold the dew and the earth produces no crops.

Haggai 1:11

I have called for a drought on your fields and hills—a drought to wither the grain and grapes and olive trees and all your other crops, a drought to starve you and your livestock and to ruin everything you have worked so hard to get.”

Waiting on God does not mean we do nothing while we wait. To the contrary, while we wait on God we are to pray, to develop patience, and to plan with God so that we are ready and prepared as soon as He initiates His work. Waiting on God is not an excuse to be lazy.

Application

Principle #3

Getting started right with God in rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing something requires that we faithfully execute the God honoring first step of prayerfully planning with God.

Nehemiah 2:1

Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan (April/May), during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence.

Nehemiah 2:2

So the king asked me, “Why are you looking so sad? You don’t look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled.”

Nehemiah 2:3

**Then I was terrified, but I replied,
“Long live the king! How can I not
be sad? For the city where my
ancestors are buried is in ruins,
and the gates have been
destroyed by fire.”**

Nehemiah 2:4

The king asked, “Well, how can I help you?” With a prayer to the God of heaven, I replied,

Nehemiah 2:5

“If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.”

Nehemiah 2:6

The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, “How long will you be gone? When will you return?” After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request.

Nehemiah 2:7

I also said to the king, “If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah.

Nehemiah 2:8a

And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself."

**There is a God honoring biblical
balance that exists between
communing with God and
planning with God.**

Application

Principle #4

Getting started right with God in rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing something requires that we faithfully execute the God honoring first step of making the necessary radical changes that are required.

Nehemiah 1:11b

Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me. In those days I was the king's cup-bearer.

**Rebuilding, restoring, and
revitalizing with God will cost you
everything.**

Application

Principle #5

Getting started right with God in rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing something requires that we faithfully execute the God honoring first step of effectively working with all sorts of people.

People Nehemiah Had to Work with

- **King Artaxerxes and the Queen**
- **The Governors of the province west of the Euphrates river**
- **Asaph manager of the king's forest**
- **Army officers and horseman**
- **Sanballat the Horonite**
- **Tobiah the Ammonite**
- **The demoralized Jews in Jerusalem**

Spend time communing with God and praying to Him about the person and the situation before you talk to a difficult person. Also, understand that how you speak to people (no matter how difficult or godless they are) is a reflection of your faith and love for God.

Application

Principle #6

Getting started right with God in rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing something requires that we faithfully execute the God honoring first step of prayerfully communing with God as we wrestle thru a steady stream of issues and problems.

Nehemiah 2:10

But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of my arrival, they were very displeased that someone had come to help the people of Israel.

**Anytime you try to do something
significant for God (that truly is
honoring to Him), there will be
problems!**

Application

Principle #7

Getting started right with God in rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing something requires God's initiation and His continuous accompaniment of supernatural signs, miracles, and wonders.

Nehemiah 2:4

The king asked, “Well, how can I help you?” With a prayer to the God of heaven, I replied,

Nehemiah 2:5

“If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.”

Nehemiah 2:6

The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, “How long will you be gone? When will you return?” After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request.

Nehemiah 2:7

I also said to the king, “If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah.

Nehemiah 2:8a

And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself."

Nehemiah 2:8b

And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me.

Nehemiah 2:9b

**The king, I should add, had sent
along army officers and horsemen
to protect me.**

Because it is the Lord's work and we are simply partnering with Him while we faithfully and diligently work on the first steps He has given us, we must faithfully continue to depend on Him to deal with the impossible situations and circumstances we will have to face.

Application

FAITHFUL GOD HONORING FIRST STEPS

A landscape scene featuring a tree with a green canopy and bare branches, birds flying in a sky with a rainbow, and a path leading through a field.

NEW BEGINNINGS SERIES

NEHEMIAH 2:1-10