

{16} Nehemiah

King James 1769 Version

King James Paraphrase {updated 11/27/14*}

Chapter 1

(1) The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,
 (2) That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and *certain* men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.
 (3) And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.
 (4) And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,
 (5) And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

Chapter 1

(1) The words of Nehemiah {comforted by Jehovah}^a the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu {Kislev [Nov./Dec.]}, in the twentieth year^{b*}, as I was in Shushan the palace^c,
 (2) That Hanani {gracious}^d, one of my brothers, came, he and *certain* men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.
 (3) And they said to me, The remnant who are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.
 (4) And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,
 (5) And said, I beg You, O LORD {Jehovah} God of heaven, the great and terrible God, Who keeps covenant and mercy for those who love Him and observe His commandments:

1:1a - Nehemiah - {נְחֵמְיָהוּ} - comforted by Jehovah - Nehemiah is the cup bearer for the king [Neh. 1:11]

1:1b - this is the 20th year of Ahasuerus [also known as Artaxerxes] [see Ezra 4:6-7] [see Neh. 2:1] 14 years after the second temple was completed.
 - see [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#). We are not told here in the text what the twenty years is in reference to, but in Neh. 2:1 which appears to be the same date it is clear that it is the 20th year of Artaxerxes. The second temple {see Ezra} was completed 19 years after Cyrus issued his decree to restore and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem {the second temple was completed 70 years after the first temple was destroyed {19 years after the first exile.}}

1:1c - Shushan - the primary palace of the Persian Empire

1:2d - Hanani {חַנַּנִּי} - gracious - appears in Neh. 7:2 to actually be Nehemiah's brother

20th year
 [*3623 A.H./C- 419 B.C.]



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<p>Chapter 2</p> <p>(1) And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, <i>that wine was</i> before him: and I took up the wine, and gave <i>it</i> unto the king. Now I had not been <i>beforetime</i> sad in his presence.</p> <p>(2) Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou <i>art</i> not sick? this is nothing <i>else</i> but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,</p> <p>(3) And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, <i>lieth</i> waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?</p> <p>(4) Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.</p> <p>(5) And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.</p> <p>(6) And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.</p> <p>(7) Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah;</p>	<p>Chapter 2</p> <p>(1) And it came to pass in the month Nisan {Nisan [Mar./Apr.]}, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, <i>that wine was</i> before him: and I took up the wine, and gave <i>it</i> to the king. Now I had never <i>before been</i> sad in his presence.</p> <p>(2) Therefore the king said to me, Why is your countenance {facial expression} sad, since you <i>are</i> not sick? this is nothing <i>else</i> but sorrow of heart. Then I was greatly afraid,</p> <p>(3) And said to the king, Let the king live for ever: why should my countenance not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, <i>lies</i> waste, and its gates are consumed with fire?</p> <p>(4) Then the king said to me, For what do you make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.</p> <p>(5) And I said to the king, If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favour in your sight, that you would send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it.</p> <p>(6) And the king said to me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall your journey be? and when will you return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.</p> <p>(7) Moreover I said to the king, If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may escort me over until I come into Judah;</p>
<p>16.003 Nehemiah Chapter 2</p>	

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(8) And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which *appertained* to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

(9) Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

(10) When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard *of it*, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

(11) So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

(12) And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I *any* man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither *was there any* beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.

(13) And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.

(14) Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but *there was* no place for the beast *that was* under me to pass.

(8) And a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which *belonged* to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

(9) Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

(10) When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard *of it*, it grieved them exceedingly that there was coming a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

(11) So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

(12) And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither did I tell *any* man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither *was there any* beast with me, except the beast that I rode upon.

(13) And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and its gates were consumed with fire.

(14) Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but *there was* no place for the beast *that was* under me to pass.

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(15) Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned.

(16) And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told *it* to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

(17) Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lieth* waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

(18) Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for *this good work*.

(19) But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard *it*, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?

(20) Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

(15) Then I went up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned.

(16) And the rulers did not know where I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told *it* to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest who did the work.

(17) Then said I to them, You see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lies* in waste, and its gates are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no more be a reproach.

(18) Then I told them of the hand of my God Who was good towards me; as also the king's words that he had spoken to me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for *this good work*.

(19) But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard *it*, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that you do? will you rebel against the king?

(20) Then I answered them, and said to them, The God of heaven will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build: but you have no part, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.