

Let Us Arise and Build

Nehemiah 1-2

Let Us Arise and Build



Prayer Focus Work Togetherness

The Big Truth:

God prepares and focuses His people through prayer
so they can work together for the kingdom.



Nehemiah 1:1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capitol, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem. 3 They said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.” 4 When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.



1. God gave Nehemiah a spiritual burden for kingdom work. (1-4)

Nehemiah 1:4 When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

1. God gave Nehemiah a spiritual burden for kingdom work. (1-4)



Before God rebuilds walls,
He rebuilds workers
through prayer.

Nehemiah 1:5 I said, “I beseech You, O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,

2. Prayer prepares the kingdom citizen. (5-11)

A. Recognition (v. 5)



Nehemiah 1:6 let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, **confessing the sins of the sons of Israel** which we have sinned against You; I and my father's house have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

2. Prayer prepares the kingdom citizen. (5-11)

B. Repentance (v. 6-7)



Nehemiah 1:8 **Remember** the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; 9 but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.' 10 They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.

2. Prayer prepares the kingdom citizen. (5-11)

c. Remembrance (v. 8-10)



Nehemiah 1:11 O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to **revere** Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man.”
Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

2. Prayer prepares the kingdom citizen. (5-11)

D. Reverence (v. 11)



Nehemiah 1:11 O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to **revere** Your name...

2. Prayer prepares the kingdom citizen. (5-11)

D. Reverence (v. 11)



The goal isn't just to have a daily prayer time.
The goal is to embody a pattern of life
that intentionally turns to God
as we live, work and play.

Nehemiah 2:1 And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, that wine was before him, and I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. 2 So the king said to me, “Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart.” Then I was very much afraid. 3 I said to the king, “Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?” 4 Then the king said to me, “What would you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 I said to the king, “If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.”



Nehemiah 2:6 Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, “How long will your journey be, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a definite time. 7 And I said to the king, “If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah, 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 fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go.” And the king granted them to me because **the good hand of my God was on me.** 9 Then I came to the governors of the provinces beyond the River and gave them the king’s letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. 10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about it, it was very displeasing to them that someone had come to seek the welfare of the sons of Israel.

3. God’s hand was on Nehemiah’s kingdom work. (1-10)

Nehemiah 2:8 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 fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go." And the king granted them to me because **the good hand of my God was on me.**

3. God's hand was on Nehemiah's kingdom work. (1-10)



**We must recognize
that God's hand
is behind the work.**

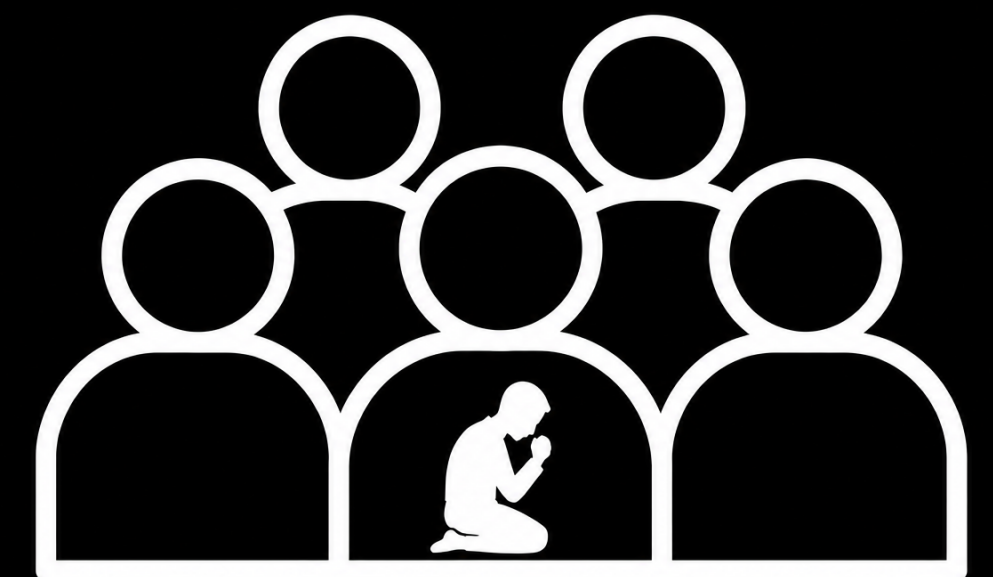
Nehemiah 2:11 So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. 12 And I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. I did not tell anyone what my God was putting into my mind to do for Jerusalem and there was no animal with me except the animal on which I was riding. 13 So I went out at night by the Valley Gate in the direction of the Dragon's Well and on to the Refuse Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were consumed by fire. 14 Then I passed on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was no place for my mount to pass. 15 So I went up at night by the ravine and inspected the wall. Then I entered the Valley Gate again and returned. 16 The officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; nor had I as yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials or the rest who did the work.

Nehemiah 2:17 Then I said to them, “You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.”

18 I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king’s words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, “**Let us arise and build.**” So they put their hands to the good work.

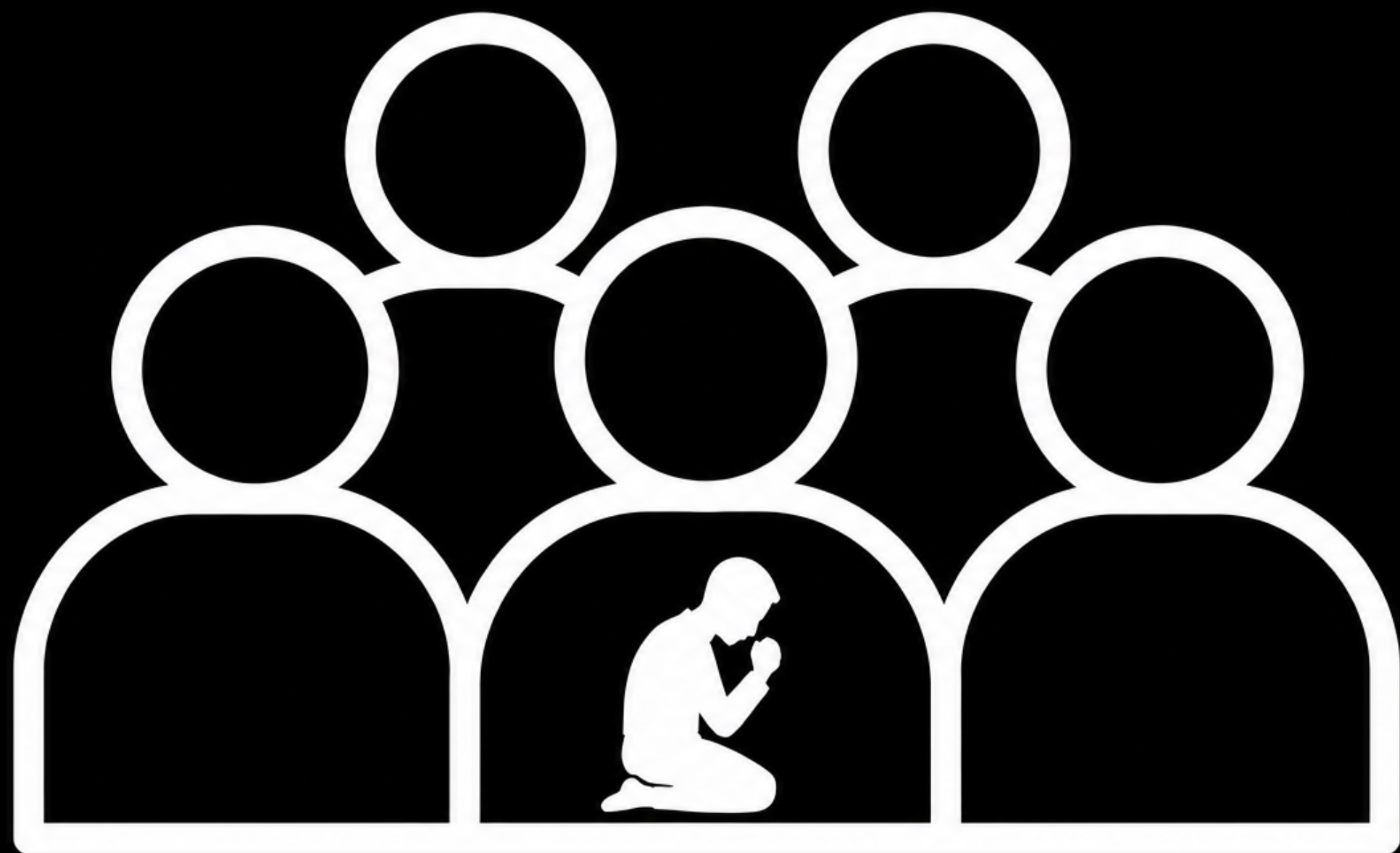
19 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard it, they mocked us and despised us and said, “What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” **20** So I answered them and said to them, “The God of heaven will give us success; therefore **we His servants will arise and build**, but you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem.”

4. God’s fellow workers build together. (11-20)



Nehemiah 2:18 I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "**Let us arise and build.**" So they put their hands to the good work.

4. God's fellow workers build together. (11-20)



If we are equipping kingdom citizens one person at a time until all have heard, then the church body needs all of God's people to work.

GOD'S KINGDOM WORK

MATURING TOGETHER

THINK BIG

START SMALL

PRAYER

BY HIS GRACE

DONE IN LOVE

FOR HIS GLORY

GOD'S WORD

When I ask: Whose work is it?

You respond: **It is God's work.**

When I ask: Into whose hands has God placed the work?

You respond: **God has also placed the work
in the hands of God's people.**

When I ask: So what are we going to do?

You respond: **Let us arise and build.**

Here is what we can do together as fellow workers:

This week, pray Nehemiah 1:5-11 with another kingdom citizen, asking God to prepare and focus you for kingdom work.

