

“An Open Door!”
Nehemiah 2:9-11

Introduction:

1. In Nehemiah 2:9, We See That The Journey Of Nehemiah Finally Begins!
 - With Letters For Safe-Conduct In Hand, Nehemiah Heads To Jerusalem To Accomplish The Lord’s Work Of Rebuilding!
 - The Broken Walls! The Broken People!
 - Nehemiah Was Probably Excited!
 - After 4 Long Months Of Carrying This Burden Before The Lord With A Broken Heart!
 - So, After Receiving The King’s Permission, He Got Busy!
 - Because The Timing Of The Lord Was Just Right!
 - Because The Lord Gave Him An ***Open Door*** To Serve Him & Accomplish His Plan!
2. As We Think About Our Own Need For Rebuilding:
 - We Must See That God Has Placed Before Us An Open Door As Well!
 - But, We Must Go Through It, To See What The Lord Has In Store!
 - But The Door Of Opportunity That The Lord Has Set Before Us Is Not Entirely To A Dark, Unknown Place!
 - **IE:** Like A Closed Door - Like The One Downstairs - Not Sure What Was In There! Or Like The One In My Old Church – A Closed Safe, Without A Combination – Lots Of Rumors!
 - God, By His Grace, Helps Us Through This Open Door!
 - But There Are Some Things We Must Keep In Mind:

1. *We Must Remember That There Is A Reason For The Open Door!*

- 2:9 - “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!”
 - Nehemiah Came With Authorization Of The King Of Persia! But, As We Learned Last Week, It Was Really God Bringing These Things About!
 - Proverbs 21:1 - “The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will!”
 - Any Work For God Must Be Done “With The Good Hand Of Our God Upon Us!”
 - Otherwise, It Is Doomed To Failure!
 - We Must Remember That There Is A Reason For An Open Door!
- It Is To Do God’s Work!
 - With His Pleasure!
 - Nehemiah Said “If It Please The King!” (2:5, 7)
 - Without The Pleasure Of His King – The King Of Persia – He Could Not Accomplish This Mission!
 - We Need God’s Pleasure!
 - If We Are To Go Through The Open Door & Succeed In The Lord’s Work!
 - God’s Pleasure Is Upon His People!
 - Psalm 147:10-11 - “He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. / The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy!”
 - Are You Seeking God’s Pleasure In His Work?
 - After All, He Is The One We Are Serving!
 - Do You Want To Please Him?
 - We Must Remember The Reason For The Open Door!
- It Is To Do God’s Work, God’s Way!
 - With His Permission!
 - Nehemiah 2:8 - “And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me!”
 - Without The Permission Of His King, He Could Not Accomplish His Mission!
 - We Need God’s Permission!
 - If We Are To Go Through The Open Door & Succeed In The Lord’s Work!

- The Opposite Of Permission Is Presumption!
 - To Presume Is To “Put The Cart Before The Horse!”
 - To Presume Is To “Venture Out Without Authority Or Permission!” (AHD)
 - We Are Not Just Here To Do Things As We Please, We Are Here To Do As He Pleases!
- To Do God’s Work Our Own Way Is Proud & Presumptuous!
 - We Must Pray: “Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins!” (Psalm 19:13)
- Are You Seeking God’s Permission In His Work?
 - Asking: “Is This The Way?” / “Is This How?”
 - Even Paul Recognized That He Could Only Do: “If The Lord Permit!” (1 Corinthians 16:7)
 - Without His Permission, We Will Not Succeed! According To God’s Definition!
 - We Must Remember The Reason For The Open Door!
- It Is To Do God’s Work, God’s Way, To Accomplish God’s Will!
 - With His Provision!
 - The Letters That Were Prepared For Nehemiah By The King, Were Then Used! 2:9 - “Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king’s letters!”
 - The Resources God Has Given Must Be Used!
 - In Order To Accomplish His Will!
 - What Has God Given Us To Use In His Work?
 - His Son – To Save Us!
 - His Word / Letter – To Strengthen Us!
 - His Spirit – To Sanctify Us!
 - His Church – To Support Us!
 - His Gifts – To Serve Us!
 - 2 Peter 1:3 - “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue!”
 - Are You Using What God Has Given You?
 - Or, Do You Keep Them For Yourself?
 - Nehemiah’s Letters Were No Good Until He Used Them & Gave Them Away!
 - If You Want To Be Used By God, Then Don’t Hold Anything Back! There Is No Reason To!
 - Seek After God’s Provision! Even “Covet Earnestly The Best Gifts!” (1 Corinthians 12:31)
 - And Then, Use Them!
 - Remember The Reason For The Open Door!
- It Is To Do God’s Work, God’s Way, To Accomplish God’s Will, Under God’s Watch!
 - With His Protection!
 - The King Of Persia Offered Nehemiah Protection!
 - 2:9 - “Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me!”
 - This Protection Was Needed!
 - And We Need God’s Protection!
 - Our King Offers His Best Protection For His Work!
 - Best In Quantity! Best In Quality! Captains & Horsemen Are No Match For Him!
 - Proverbs 21:31 - “The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD!”
 - Romans 8:37-39!
 - “Any Man Who Is In The Center Of God’s Will Is Immortal Until His Work Is Done!” (William MacDonald)
 - God Will Protect His Servants! So He Can Use You To Get The Job Done! And We Need His Protection!
 - Because:

2. ***We Must Remember That There Is Resistance To The Open Door!***

- 2:10 - “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!”
- Whenever & Wherever The Lord Is Working / Rebuilding, There Is Going To Be Opposition & Resistance!
 - I'm Sure Nehemiah Was Not Surprised! Neither Should We!
 - Don't Be Surprised At The Size Of The Resistance!
 - We Find Two Unlikely Allies Coming Against Nehemiah & The Lord's Work!
 - Sanballat Was Probably A Leader In Samaria!
 - And After The Jews Were Taken Captive, The Other People In The Land Thought Israel Was Gone For Good!
 - Tobiah The Servant Lived In Or Worked In Ammon!
 - Another One Of Israel's Earliest Enemies!
 - But His Name Is A Jewish Name, That Means “Jehovah Is Good!”
 - Could It Be Possible That Even One Of God's Own Chosen People, For His Own Power & Prosperity, Turned On Nehemiah, His Own People, And His Own God?
 - Don't Be Surprised With People Attempt To Resist & Oppose The Work Of God In Your Life!
 - 2 Timothy 3:12 - “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution!”
 - It Will Come From The Outside!
 - But, It Could Even Come From The Inside!
 - Remember This: Their Size Is No Match For The Lord!
 - Ephesians 6:10 - “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might!”
 - No Matter The Size, The Lord Is Still In Control!
 - So, Go Through The Open Door!
 - Don't Be Surprised At The Strength Of The Resistance!
 - Sanballat's Name Means: “Strength”
 - And With Israel Out Of The Way, He & His People Grew Stronger & Stronger!
 - Perhaps The King Of Persia Knew This, And Is Why He Sent Such A Strong Force With Nehemiah!
 - Yes, Our Enemy Is Strong!
 - 1 Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour!”
 - But, Remember: Their Strength Is No Match For The Lord!
 - 1 John 4:4 - “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world!”
 - No Matter The Strength, The Lord Is Still In Control!
 - So, Go Through The Open Door!
 - Don't Be Surprised At The Severity Of The Resistance!
 - Look At Their Reaction!
 - “It Grieved Them Exceedingly!”
 - This Is A Strong, Severe Reaction!
 - They Were So Angry, They Were Shaking – They Were Rattled To The Core! Used Of Jonah (4:1) - “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry!”
 - We See This Kind Of Reaction Against ANY Success In The Lord's Work, Don't We?
 - Why Were They So Angry?
 - It Was Not That Nehemiah Was “Come”!
 - People Did This All The Time! Hanani, His Brother & The Other Messengers Came Just A Few Months Before!
 - It Was That Nehemiah Came: “To Seek The Welfare Of The Children Of Israel!”
 - This Did Not Sit Well!
 - Nehemiah Came: Not Just To Rebuild The Walls, But To Rebuild The People!
 - Remember: Their Severity Is No Match For The Lord!
 - Romans 11:22 - “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off!”

- No Matter Their Rage, The Lord Is Still In Control!
- So, Go Through The Open Door!
- Don't Be Surprised At The Suspicion Of The Resistance!
 - The Enemies Of Nehemiah Were Going To Stop At Nothing To Keep Him From Doing The Lord's Work!
 - The Devil Will Do The Same!
 - When The Lord Is At Work – In Your Heart, Your Family, Your Church – Don't Be Surprised At What The Devil Will Try To Do!
 - Remember: Their Suspicion Is No Match For The Lord!
 - His Methods Are Greater Than Theirs!
 - Genesis 50:20 - "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good!"
 - Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose!"
 - No Matter The Suspicion, The Lord Is Still In Control!
 - So, Go Through The Open Door!

Conclusion:

1. 2:11 Shows Us, Finally, The Success Of The Lord Bringing Nehemiah To Jerusalem!
 - "So I Came!"
 - After All That Prayer & Planning & Pursuing After The Open Door God Set Before Him!
 - Now The Real Work Was About To Begin!
 - But This Was The Start!
 - Nehemiah Had To Go Through The Open Door!
 - Never Forget:
 - The Reason For The Open Door!
 - It Is To Do The Lord's Work, The Lord's Way, To Accomplish The Lord's Will, Under The Lord's Watch!
 - The Resistance To The Open Door!
 - Sometimes It Is The "Small" Victories, Like Simply Arriving At The Place Of Service (Missionaries) That Will Keep Us Moving Forward In His Work!
2. The Apostle Paul Saw This Same Open Door!
 - 1 Corinthians 16:9 - "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries!" (While At Ephesus)
3. The Open Door Is Before You!
 - You Know The Reason For It!
 - You Know The Resistance To It!
 - Will You Go Through It?
 - To Serve The Lord!
 - To Be Used By The Lord – To Rebuild Lives & Even Our Church?

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com