

Launching a God Sized Vision

"If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, send me to Judah and to the city where my ancestors are buried, so that I may rebuild it." Nehemiah 2:5 (HCSB)

Text: Nehemiah 2:1-8

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Prayer, Provision

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Supplemental Texts: See below

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As we launch a God-sized vision for the future...

1) Possess a Burden (vs. 1-3)

- A. **Nehemiah's burden for his country was painful and visible.**
- B. **You must become burdened for the vision God gives you.**

2) Pray without ceasing (vs. 4)

- A. **Nehemiah's "shotgun" prayer before speaking to the king was honored by God. His pattern throughout the book reveals a prayer driven leader. (See Nehemiah 1:4; 2:4; 4:4; 5:19; 6:9, 14; 13:14, 22, 29, 31)**
- B. **Nehemiah's discussion with the king could have ended in losing his life. Nehemiah was asking the king to go against his previous edict not to rebuild Judah, as mentioned in Ezra 4.**
- C. **As you press towards a vision, you must, "pray without ceasing" 1 Thessalonians 5:17.**

3) Present the vision (vs. 5)

- A. **Nehemiah was prepared to present his vision to the king.**
- B. **You must be able to articulate the vision to others.**

4) Prepare for God's provisions (vs. 6-8)

- A. **Nehemiah, having done his homework, sought the necessary provisions to fulfill the vision.**
- B. **As you press towards a God-sized vision, you must also do the homework and see what the needs will be. If God has guided you, His hand will be upon you.**

THE BOXTOP OF THE BIBLE

Old Testament:

_____ - The story begins with God creating the world and human beings.

_____ - Humans choose to rebel (or sin) against God. Sin brings consequences: pain, suffering, death, and separation from God. All people and all creation are affected.

_____ - God chooses Abraham and establishes a covenant with him so that he might become the leader of a group of people who will follow God and call other people to follow God. God delights in using his people to bring the rest of the world to himself.

_____ - Genesis tells the story of the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), and Joseph, who ends up in Egypt. In Egypt the small group of Hebrews grows into a nation and ends up in slavery. God uses Moses to deliver his people through the exodus event.

_____ - God uses Joshua to help his people take the promised land (Canaan). After the conquest during the Period of Judges, God rules through judges in various parts of the land. This is a dark time for the Hebrews accentuated with sin, idolatry, and oppression.

_____ - God's people acquire a king. Samuel is the link between the judges and the kings. Saul is the first king, followed by David and his son Solomon. God establishes a covenant with David, promising the Messiah will come through his family line and reign forever.

_____ - After Solomon civil war breaks out leading to a division of the kingdom: Israel, the Northern Kingdom; Judah, the Southern Kingdom. There are numerous kings (Israel 19, Judah 20), some good but most bad (Israel: 0 good, Judah: 8 good).

_____ **(or Captivity)** - Israel (Northern Kingdom) is judged for the sin of breaking the covenant when Assyria conquers it in 722 BC, and Judah receives a similar judgment later when Babylon conquers it in 586 BC and takes Judah's people into exile.

_____ - The people return from Babylonian exile under Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. They rebuild the temple and focus on the law of God.

New Testament:

_____ - About four hundred years later, God sends his Son, Jesus the Christ, to save his people from their sins, fulfilling the promises given to Abraham and David.

_____ - Jesus is crucified, dies, is raised from the dead, and ascends into heaven to return again later.

_____ - Those who accept Jesus become part of the church, the people of God made up of both Jews and Gentiles. God continues to use his people to extend his offer of salvation to a sinful world.

_____ - God closes history with a final victory over evil. Those who have rejected God will suffer his judgment while those who have received him will live with him in a new heaven and a new earth.