

# Nehemiah—Building for the Future

## STUDY 2

### Principles in Leadership

Nehemiah Chapter 2

#### Introduction

Nehemiah is an important official to King Artaxerxes; he is the king's confidant and next in rank to the princes. He has worked closely with the king and would have observed him practice many leadership principles. Artaxerxes has been in power for approximately 20 years and will remain in his position for a further 20 plus years. He is an experienced king, managing the greatest empire on earth at that time. It would have taken extraordinary skill to do this well. God has given Nehemiah the opportunity to witness tremendous leadership principles being put into practice. He will now exercise what he has learnt as he endeavours to re-establish and govern the nation Israel.

#### Opening Discussion Questions

“Everything rises and falls on Leadership” - John Maxwell

Do you agree with this famous quote from Maxwell's book; “21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership”? Why or Why not?

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Do you think Leadership is a gift or can it be learned?

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Or can it be a gift for some but learned by anyone committed to developing themselves?

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Maxwell adds to his statement...

“Everything rises and falls on leadership, but knowing how to lead is only half the battle. Understanding leadership and actually leading are two different activities. (John C. Maxwell Quotes. Brainy Quote Website.)

Read Nehemiah 2:4-20

1. In Chapter 1 we see Nehemiah deep in prayer and God gives him a vision to fulfil. In brief, what is that vision? (Neh. 2:4-6)

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2. Read Nehemiah 2:7-9. It is one thing to get a vision, it is another to see that vision resourced. List some of the things Nehemiah organised.

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2a. Are you active in resourcing your churches' vision? Do you give of your time, finance and gifts? Share how you are currently involved or plan to be involved.

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3. Reflect upon Nehemiah 2:11-12. Why hadn't Nehemiah yet told the Jews the vision that God had given him? Why did he examine the city of Jerusalem at night?

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4. Read Nehemiah 2:13-16. Why do you think it was important for Nehemiah to do some research, and examine the state of the walls and city for himself?

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5. Who was it that had destroyed the walls and city of Jerusalem and why? Consider 2 Kings 25:8-10 and 24:1-4.

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6. Read Nehemiah 2:17-18. What was the people's response as Nehemiah cast his vision? Why do you think they responded this way?

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6a. Do you feel supportive of your local church vision and ministries? Is there an area of leadership that you could volunteer for, to help see the vision realised?

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In the next passage we read of three opposing influences:

- Sanballat the Horonite: Governor of Samaria.
  - Tobiah the Ammonite: Probably Governor of Ammon and a member of an influential Jewish family.
  - Geshem the Arab: Leader of a quite powerful group of Arab communities.
- (Ezra and Nehemiah, Tyndale Commentaries. Derek Kidner. Inter-Varsity Press. Page 18. Copyright 1979.)

7. Review Nehemiah 2:19-20. What do you notice about Nehemiah's response to those who stand in opposition to the vision?

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8. Read Nehemiah 3:1-5. Here we see examples of teamwork taking place. Why is mobilising a team or teams to achieve the vision important in leadership?

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8a. Are you currently a part of a ministry team? How are you involved?

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If you are not yet involved in a ministry team, ask your small group where they think you could fit and be a team player in building the greatest kingdom on earth; God's Kingdom!

In summary, we observe 7 principles Nehemiah puts into practise. The effective leader:

- A. Receives a vision from God (Neh. 2:4-6).
- B. Resources the vision (Neh. 2:7-9).
- C. Knows when to share the vision (Neh. 2:11-12).
- D. Knows how to research the vision (Neh. 2:13-16).
- E. Is not deterred by opposition to the vision (Neh. 2:17-18).
- F. Inspires people to believe the vision (Neh. 2:19-20).
- G. Mobilises teams to achieve the vision (Neh. 3:1-5).

In conclusion, consider some of these questions of application:

- Do some of these 7 principles need to be more apparent in your local church?
- Is there one or two of these areas you need to pray for regarding a ministry you are involved in?
- Is there an area of leadership or ministry that you have been asked to consider but you have not yet responded?
- Could the Lord be calling you to take on a leadership responsibility?

Finish with a time of prayer considering the leadership principles covered and the final application questions.

## Study Notes: