**Nehemiah 1:1–2:8**

[The New King James Version](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8)

***Nehemiah Prays for His People***

**1** The words of [a](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote1)Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.

It came to pass in the month of Chislev, *in* the [b](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote2)twentieth year, as I was in [c](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote3)Shushan [1](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote4)the [2](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote5)citadel, **2**that [d](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote6)Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. **3**And they said to me, “The survivors who are left from the captivity in the [e](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote7)province *are* there in great distress and [f](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote8)reproach. [g](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote9)The wall of Jerusalem [h](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote10)*is* also broken down, and its gates *are burned* with fire.”**4**So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *for many* days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. **5**And I said: “I pray, [i](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote11)Lord God of heaven, O great and [j](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote12)awesome God, [k](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote13)*You* who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with those who love [3](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote14)You and observe [4](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote15)Your commandments, **6**please let Your ear be attentive and [l](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote16)Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and [m](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote17)confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned. **7**[n](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote18)We have acted very corruptly against You, and have [o](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote19)not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. **8**Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, [p](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote20)‘*If* you [5](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote21)are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; **9**[q](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote22)but *if* you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, [r](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote23)though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, *yet* I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’ **10**[s](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote24)Now these *are* Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. **11**O Lord, I pray, please [t](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote25)let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who [u](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote26)desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

For I was the king’s [v](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote27)cupbearer.

***Nehemiah Sent to Judah***

**2** And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of [a](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote28)King [1](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote29)Artaxerxes, *when* wine *was* before him, that [b](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote30)I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. **2**Therefore the king said to me, “Why *is* your face sad, since you *are* not sick? This *is* nothing but [c](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote31)sorrow of heart.” So I became [2](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote32)dreadfully afraid, **3**and said to the king, [d](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote33)“May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when [e](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote34)the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, *lies* waste, and its gates are burned with [f](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote35)fire?” **4**Then the king said to me, “What do you request?”

So I [g](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote36)prayed to the God of heaven. **5**And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.” **6**Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), “How long will your journey be? And when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him [h](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote37)a time. **7**Furthermore I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the [i](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote38)governors *of the region* beyond [3](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote39)the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, **8**and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the [4](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote40)citadel which *pertains* [j](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote41)to the [5](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8#footnote42)temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy.” And the king granted *them* to me [k](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/nehemiah-1-1--2-8" \l "footnote43)according to the good hand of my God upon me.