

“Stepping Up and Out in Faith: Part 1”

Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church – September 10, 2011
Sermon Notes – Pastor Ron Schultz

Passage: Nehemiah 1:1-2:8

- Historical Context
 - Many Jews still in exile including Nehemiah
 - _____ years in exile prophecy, Jeremiah 25:11, 12
 - Cyrus’ first “returning” decree, 539 B.C.
 - The books of Ezra and Nehemiah are on evolume in the Hebrew manuscripts
 - Nehemiah served King Artaxerxes I as a _____

Zerubbabel Returns	Esther Queen	Nehemiah’s 1st Return	Nehemiah’s Term ends
537	479	444	432
539	515	457	?
Cyrus’ Decree	Temple finished/ Dedicated	Ezra Returns Artaxerxes I	Nehemiah’s 2 nd Return

- (1:3) The problem defined: Wall broken down and gates burned leading to _____ .
- (1:3) Tragic news from Jerusalem prompted Nehemiah to _____ .
KEY POINT: When conditions became _____ Nehemiah respond with prayer.

(1:4-11) Elements of his prayer included: Praise to God, confession of sin, reminding God of his promise, request for favor and success for the mission.

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- (1:1/2:1) Though conditions were unacceptable, Nehemiah waits three to four months to approach the king. These are important weeks. God is apparently gestating a plan in Nehemiah’s heart and mind.
- (2:3) Having _____ on God, Nehemiah watches and ceases the right time to present his problem and proposed solution to the king.
- (2:4) Nehemiah prays again before “opening” his mouth.
- (2:8) Through this principled, deliberate process, God _____ Nehemiah success with the king.

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS

- “The experience of Nehemiah is repeated in the history of God’s people in this time.” *Signs of the Times*, December 13, 1883.
- Unacceptable conditions come in all shapes and sizes. What are the ones God has brought to your mind or even now is raising to awareness? What is God asking you to “Step Up and Out in Faith” to deal with?
 - Some “sin” issue in your life. Could be a character flaw, an addiction. It’s a “Babylon” that has your heart held hostage and God longs to release its hold on you.
 - Some unacceptable situation such as a social issue or some Kingdom of God issue.

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS, CONTINUED

C. An Unacceptable situation might be a trust issue—something or some part of you that you’re holding back from God.

10. So where is your *Faith Factor* with God today? **X**

FAITH FACTOR LIVING

Presently

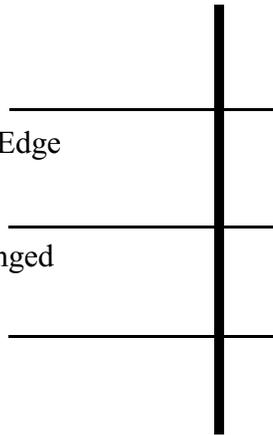
Preferred
Future

Presumptuous

Robust—Out-on-the-Edge

Comfortably Challenged

Under Challenged



11. Where is your *Faith Factor* when it comes to investing financially in God’s kingdom through the ministries of this church. **\$**

“Stepping Out and Up in Faith” continues on October 8, 2011 with
“Part 2”