

Nehemiah

Important Details to Consider:

*The Hebrew month of **Kislev** (1:1) runs from mid-November to mid-December on our calendar.

*The Hebrew month of **Nisan** (2:1) runs from mid-March to mid-April on our calendar.

*Four months have passed since the close of chapter one and the beginning of chapter two.

***Cupbearer** – Historically, a cupbearer was an individual with strong character. He was trustworthy and loyal. The cupbearer was handpicked to serve as a high-ranking official in charge of the king's safety. He literally tasted the cup before drink was served to the king to ensure it had not been poisoned. The cupbearer's position often gave him influence in the royal court.

Three character traits of Nehemiah:

1. Nehemiah is _____.

Nehemiah 2:1-3 ¹In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, ²so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." I was very much afraid, ³but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

2. Nehemiah is _____.

Nehemiah 2:4-8 ⁴The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it." ⁶Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. ⁷I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? ⁸And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

3. Nehemiah is _____.

Nehemiah 2:17-18 ¹⁷Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." ¹⁸I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.