

## Chapter 2

*Nehemias obtaining comifsion from king Artaxerxes cometh to Ierufalem: 11. secretly vieweth the broken walles, and ruines of the citie, 17. and exhorteth al the Iewes to the reedifying therof.*

**A**nd it came to paffe in the moneth of Nifan, the twentieth yeare of Artaxerxes the king: and there was wine before him, and I lifted vp the wine, and gaue to the king: and I was as it were languifhing before his face. <sup>2</sup> And the king fayd to me: Why is thy countenance fad, whereas I doe not fee thee ficke? this is not without caufe, but fome euil I know not what is in thy hart. And I was very much excedingly afrayd: <sup>3</sup> and I fayd to the king: O king for euer mayft thou liue: why fhould not my countenance be heauie, becaufe the citie of the houfe of the fepulchres of my fathers is defolate, and the gates therof are burnt with fire? <sup>4</sup> And the king fayd to me: For what thing makeft thou request? And I prayed the God of heauen, <sup>5</sup> and I fayd to the king: If it feme good to the king, and if thy feruant do pleafe before thy face, thou fend me into Iewrie to the citie of the fepulchre of my father, and I wil build it. <sup>6</sup> And the king fayd to me, and the Queene that fate by him: Vnto what time wil thy iourney be, and when wilt thou returne? And it pleaed before the king, and he fent me: and I appoynted him a time. <sup>7</sup> And I fayd to the king: If it feme good to the king, let him geue me letters to the gouernours of the country beyond the Riuer, that they conduct me, til I come into Iewrie: <sup>8</sup> and a letter to Afaph the keeper of the kings foreft, to geue me timber that I may couer the gates of the towre of the houfe, and the walles of the citie, and the houfe that I fhall enter into. And the king gaue according to the good hand of my God with me. <sup>9</sup> And I came to the dukes of the cuntry beyond the Riuer, and gaue them the kings letters. And the king had fent with me captaynes of foldiers, and horfemen. <sup>10</sup> And Sanaballat an Horonite, and Tobias a feruant an Ammonite heard

it, and <sup>a)</sup>were greiued with great affliction, that a man was come, which fought the prosperitie of the children of Irael. <sup>11</sup> And I came to Ierufalem and was there three dayes. <sup>12</sup> And I arofe in the night, I and a few men with me, and I told not anie man what God had put in my hart to doe in Ierufalem, and there was no beaft with me, but the beaft wheron I fate. <sup>13</sup> And I went out by the gate of the valley by night, and before the fountayne of the dragon, and to the gate of the dung, and I viewed the wal of Ierufalem broken downe, and the gates therof confumed with fire. <sup>14</sup> And I paffed to the gate of the fountayne, and to the kinges conduite, and there was no place for the beaft whereon I fat, to paffe. <sup>15</sup> And I went vp by the torrent in the night, and viewed the wal, and going backe I came to the gate of the valley, and returned. <sup>16</sup> But the magiftrates knew not whither I went, or what I did: yea and to the Iewes, and the Prieftes, and the nobles, and the magiftrates, and the reft that did the worke vntil then I had fhewed nothing. <sup>17</sup> And I fayd to them: You know the affliction wherin we are, becaufe Ierufalem is made defolate, and the gates thereof are confumed with fire: Come, and let vs build the walles of Ierufalem, and let vs be no longer a reproch. <sup>18</sup> And I fhewed them <sup>b)</sup>the hand of my God, that it was good with me, and the kings wordes, which he had fpoken to me, and I fayd: Let vs rife, and let vs build. And their handes were encouraged in good. <sup>19</sup> But Sanaballat the Horonite, and Tobias the feruant an Ammanite, and Gofem an Arabian heard of it, and they fcornd vs, and defpyfed vs, and fayd: What is this thing, that you doe? Why do you rebel againft the king? <sup>20</sup> And I answered them, and fayd to them: The God of heauen he helpeth vs, and we are his feruants: let vs rife and build: but you haue no part, nor iuftice, nor memorie in Ierufalem.

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<sup>a</sup> Infideles & Heretikes are greued, that others endeouore to repayre the ruines of the Church in any countrie.

<sup>b</sup> Gods hand was clearly fhewed in the effect of obtaining the kings fauourable letters.