

# Nehemiah 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.

## Analysis

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**And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.**

This verse within Nehemiah 2 addresses themes of providence, courage, planning, vision. The narrative shows God's providence in moving the king's heart while honoring Nehemiah's faithful preparation through months of prayer. The construction work (banah, בָּנָה) symbolizes restoring what sin and judgment destroyed. This passage demonstrates biblical principles applicable across both testaments—God's sovereignty combined with human responsibility, faith expressed through obedient action, and the necessity of both individual and corporate commitment to covenant faithfulness. Nehemiah models leadership that combines vision, prayer, courage, integrity, and perseverance amid sustained opposition.

## Historical Context

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Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. The post-exilic community had returned to Judah but remained politically subject to Persia, living under imperial

administration while attempting to rebuild covenant identity. Archaeological evidence confirms Persian-period occupation of Jerusalem and the wall's route. The Persian period was crucial transitional time when Jewish identity shifted from monarchical nationalism to Torah-centered covenantal community. Without political independence, the people's cohesion depended on shared scripture, temple worship, and covenant obedience. This established patterns persisting through the Second Temple period into New Testament times. Understanding this context illuminates Jesus's ministry among a people shaped by these reforms and challenges.

## **Related Passages**

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does Nehemiah 2:5 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific contribution can you make to building up Christ's church in your local community?
3. How does understanding your work as part of God's larger purposes transform your approach to daily responsibilities?

## Interlinear Text

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וַאֲמַר	הִמָּלֵךְ	אִם	עַל	הִמָּלֵךְ	ט וּב	וְאִם	יֵטֵב
And I said	the king	H518	H5921	the king	If it please	H518	have found favour
H559	H4428			H4428	H2895		H3190
וְעַדְכָּ	לְפָנַי	אֲשֶׁר		תִּשְׁלַח	נִי	אֶל	
and if thy servant	in thy sight	H834		that thou wouldst send		H413	
H5650	H6440			H7971			
יְהוּדָה	אֶל	עַיִר	קְבָרֹת	אֲבֹתַי		וְאֶבְנֶנָּה	
me unto Judah	H413	unto the city	sepulchres	of my fathers		that I may build	
H3063		H5892	H6913	H1		H1129	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezra 5:17** (Kingdom): Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.