

# Nehemiah 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

## Analysis

**And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.**

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. 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

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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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does Nehemiah 2:6 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific action or attitude change does this verse call you to make in your walk with God?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

## Interlinear Text

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לֵאמֹר בַּת־קֶדֶם לְבַת־וֶשְׁבָת אֲצֵל־עַד וְיִאָמֶר  
said H0 And the king unto me (the queen) also sitting by him H5704  
H559 H4428 H7694 H3427 H681

מִתְּלַכֵּב וְמִתְּמַתֵּן וְמִשְׁׁבַּת וְמִתְּמַתֵּן  
H4970 H1961 For how long shall thy journey H4109 H4970 be and when wilt thou return H7725

לְפָנָי שְׁלַח־נִי בְּפָנָי תַּאֲתִין־הָנִיט־בָּהּ  
So it pleased H6440 And the king to send me and I set him a time H0 H2165  
H3190 H4428 H7971 H5414

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 13:6** (Kingdom): But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king:

**Isaiah 65:24** (Kingdom): And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

**Nehemiah 5:14** (Kingdom): Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.

**Isaiah 58:12** (Parallel theme): And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

**Nehemiah 2:4** (Kingdom): Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

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