

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 20/03/2022

Text(s): Nehemiah 2:1–20

Sermon Title: Sovereign Over Us

Preacher: Ps Isaac Tan

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Nehemiah 2:1–13 (ESV)

1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

2 And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid.

3 I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

4 Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.

5 And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ graves, that I may rebuild it.”

6 And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

7 And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah,

8 and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king’s forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.” And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

9 Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king’s letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

10 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

11 So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days.

12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode.

13 I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. Between the end of chapter 1 and the beginning of chapter 2 there is a gap of 4 months. Nehemiah waited for 4 months before God worked out what he prayed for. Share a time when you waited many months or many years before your breakthrough came. What did you learn from that experience?**
- 2. Whether during a time of waiting or not, what would have happened if God's people took things into their own hands with regards to the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem? Which other scripture has something to say on this matter of relating to the authorities? What thought should undergird our hearts when conflict arises?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. We have been discussing on the matter of waiting. How can you make better use of your waiting time? In your own words, how can you experience "purposeful waiting"?**
- 2. The preacher suggested we ask 3 questions as we consider our response to God's Word—asking why, who and how. How did it go for you? Share what you gained when you spent time reflecting on these 3 questions.**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to have the patience to wait for God's time in answering our prayers and the willingness to let God shape our character in that process of waiting.
- Pray for our church to be a people who understand why we are placed in Pasir Ris, who God is molding us, and how wants to use us to fulfill His purposes.
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and to stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.