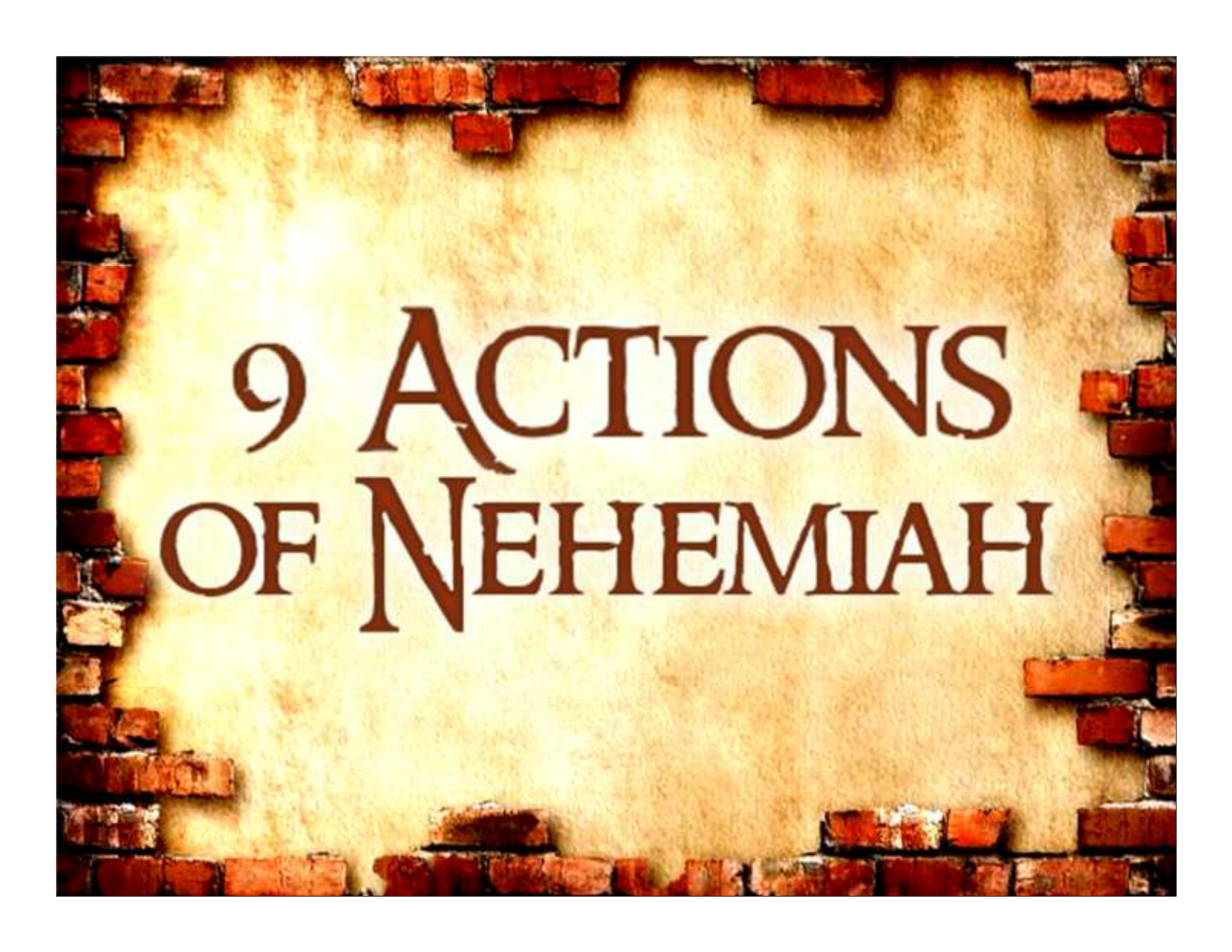




A TIME TO BUILD

NEHEMIAH

Chapter 2:1-20



9 ACTIONS
OF NEHEMIAH

WAITING

In 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

v. 1-3

WAITING

Waiting does not mean doing nothing

**We already know
Nehemiah was praying**

**We're going to find out
he was planning**

**Not only what he planning,
he was preparing**

TRUSTING

...so 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, but 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?”

v. 2-3

TRUSTING

**All of Nehemiah's planning did not
remove all of his fears**

**The king could have
taken this request badly**

Nehemiah trusted his vision

**Nehemiah stated
the issue boldly**

PRAYING

The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven

v. 4

PRAYING

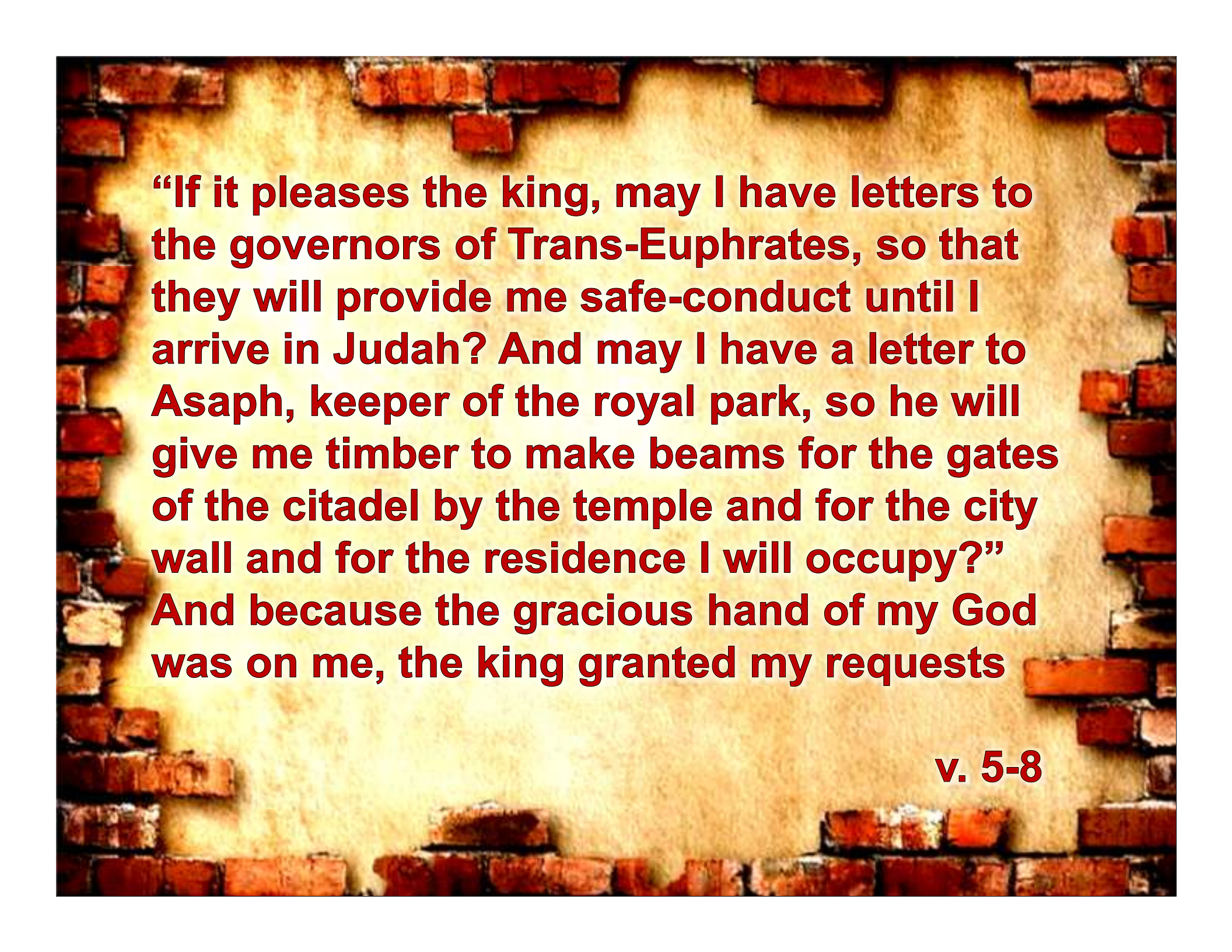
**The king asked a simple question
"What do you want?"**

Before he answered he prayed

**Nehemiah's prayer makes sure
the answer to the question is not
what I want but what God wants**

SEEKING

and 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.” Then 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. I 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? And 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**

v. 5-8



SEEKING

**He sought the blessing of
the powers that be**

He set a time table

He sought safe travel

He sought supplies

His plan was well thought out

**He gave God the credit
for his success**

GOING

So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me. When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

v. 9-10

GOING

The key action in this verse is "I went"

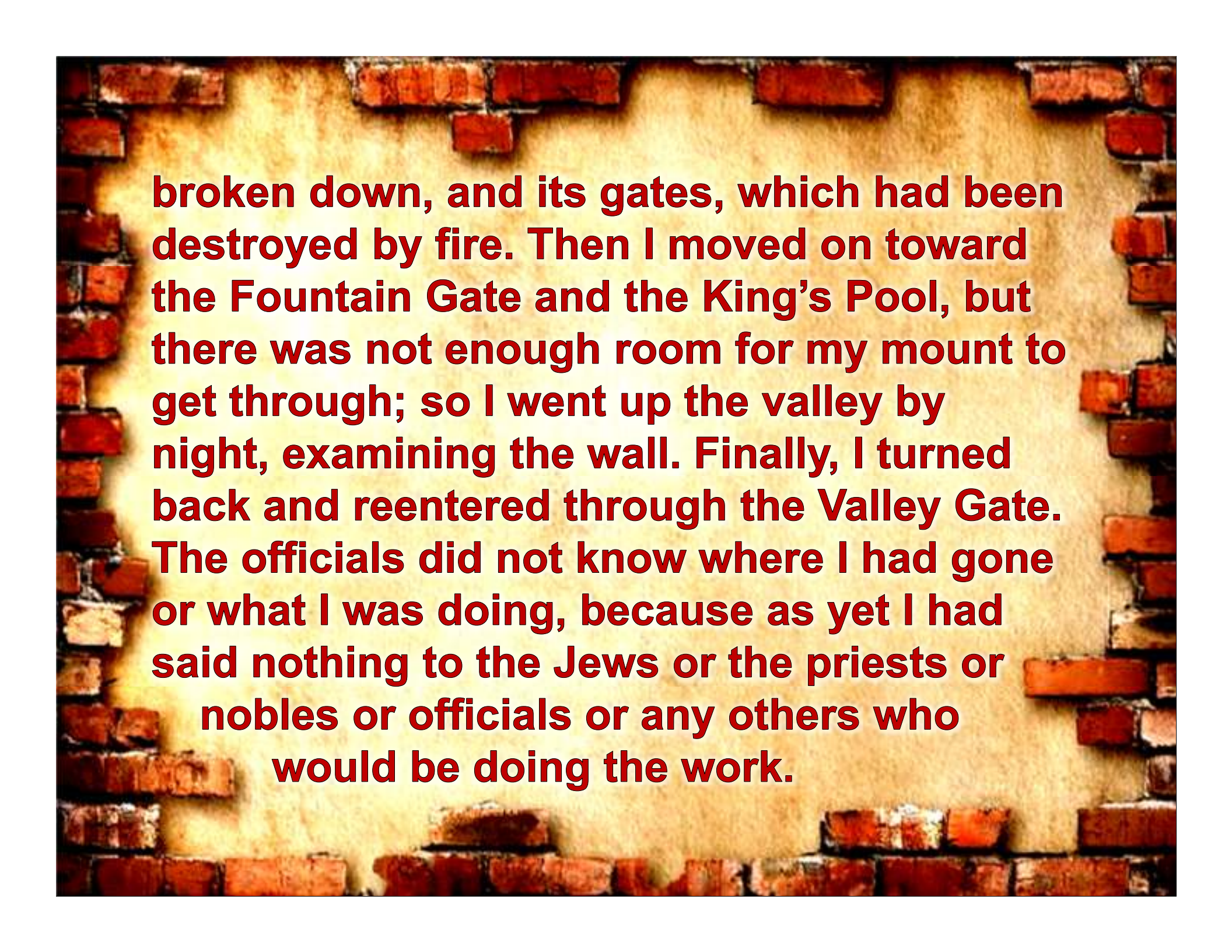
**Praying is good, but is
must lead to action**

**Seeking is good but
only if leads to action**

**Nehemiah simply followed the
next logical step, he went**

ACCESSING

I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been



broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

ACCESSING

**When he arrives and Jerusalem
he does not start barking orders**

He is accessing the people

He is assessing the job

**Nehemiah already knew this was
going to be a big task, but he still
needed to see the damage himself**

ACCESSING

Nehemiah knew he would need the support of the people so he wanted to make sure he was ready with the facts

INFORMING

Then 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.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

v. 17-18

INFORMING

Nehemiah's words "We" not "You"

He stated the obvious

**Nehemiah told them about his
conversations with God and the King**

He told them its time to build

The background is a textured, light-colored wall with a border of red bricks. The word "BEGINNING" is written in large, dark, serif capital letters across the top center.

BEGINNING

**They replied,
“Let us start rebuilding.”**

**So they began
this good work**

v. 18

INSPIRING

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”

INSPIRING

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:11-12

NEHEMIAH

IT IS TIME TO
BUILD



A Passion for God and Compassion for People