

# I Refuse To Conform

## Nehemiah 8:9-10

Nehemiah was a descendant of the Jewish exiles living in Persia. His occupation was that of a cupbearer for King Xerxes.

So it was that Nehemiah inquired of some brethren who had traveled from Judah, about the Jews that had escaped captivity and the conditions in Jerusalem. They responded by saying the people were in great distress, the walls were broken down and the gate burned. The church was still standing, but Jerusalem was open and exposed.

Nehemiah prayed and sought the Lord for direction. He then approached the King, interceding on behalf of the city of Jerusalem. He requested to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall and was granted permission to do so, which he was able to accomplish in 52 days.

Ezra read the Book of the Law of Moses to the people and they worshiped and prayed. Ezra and Nehemiah declared it a holy day and celebrated with food and drink. They sent portions to people who had nothing prepared to eat. They said, "Do not be sorrowful, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Nehemiah did not sit on the sideline, but he saw a need and petitioned the King to allow him to satisfy it. He could have said that this was Jerusalem's problem, but he cried for the city of his ancestors.

Let us not be conformed to this world's way of thinking, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we might prove what is the good and perfect and acceptable will of God.

