



# Nehemiah 2

And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, that wine *was* before him, and I picked up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

So the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, though you are not ill? This is nothing but sadness of heart.”

Then I was very much afraid. And I said to the king, “May the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the <sup>l</sup>site of my fathers’ tombs, is desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?”

Then the king said to me, “What would you request?”

So I prayed to the God of heaven. Then I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, *I request* that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.”

**And Then the king said to me, with the queen sitting beside him, “How long will your journey be, and when will you return?”**

**So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a definite time...[and Nehemiah also asks for various supplies and official authorizations]**

**And the king granted *them* to me because the good hand of my God *was* on me.**

**And when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard *about it*, it was very displeasing to them that someone had come to seek the welfare of the sons of Israel.**

**So I came to Jerusalem and was there for three days.**

**And I got up in the night, I and a few men with me. I did not tell anyone what my God was putting into my mind to do for Jerusalem, and there was no animal with me except the animal on which I was riding...[Nehemiah made a secret inspection]**

**However, the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing.**

Then I said to them, “You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates have been burned by fire. Come, let’s rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a disgrace.” And I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king’s words which he had spoken to me.

Then they said, “Let’s arise and build.” So they put their hands to the good *work*.

But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard *about it*, they mocked us and despised us, and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?”

So I answered them and said to them, “The God of heaven will make us successful; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no part, right, or memorial in Jerusalem.”

# Finding the Way of Faith



# Godly Leadership

**1. Vision**

**2. Faith**

**3. Perseverance**

# Vision

“Where there is no vision, the people **perish**...”

Prov. 29:18

# Vision

“Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained...”

Prov. 29:18

“Where there is no vision, the people **are unrestrained**;

But happy is he who keeps the Law...”

Prov. 29:18

*Antithetic Parallelism*

# The Big Point:

You do not want “visionary leadership”...

...unless the vision comes from God.

# Visionary Leadership

Two aspects:

1. A steady vision **of the Word of God...**  
coupled with...
2. An **accurate** assessment of present circumstances.

# Leadership



# Leadership



# Godly Leadership

**1. Vision**

**2. Faith**

# Faith Demands Action

- When you know what's right to do, you do it.



Caravaggio,  
"The Sacrifice of Isaac," 1603

# “Risk” is a Reality

Only that which you cannot do alone, or even what *seems* impossible, is an “act of faith.”

# Godly Leadership

**1. Vision**

**2. Faith**

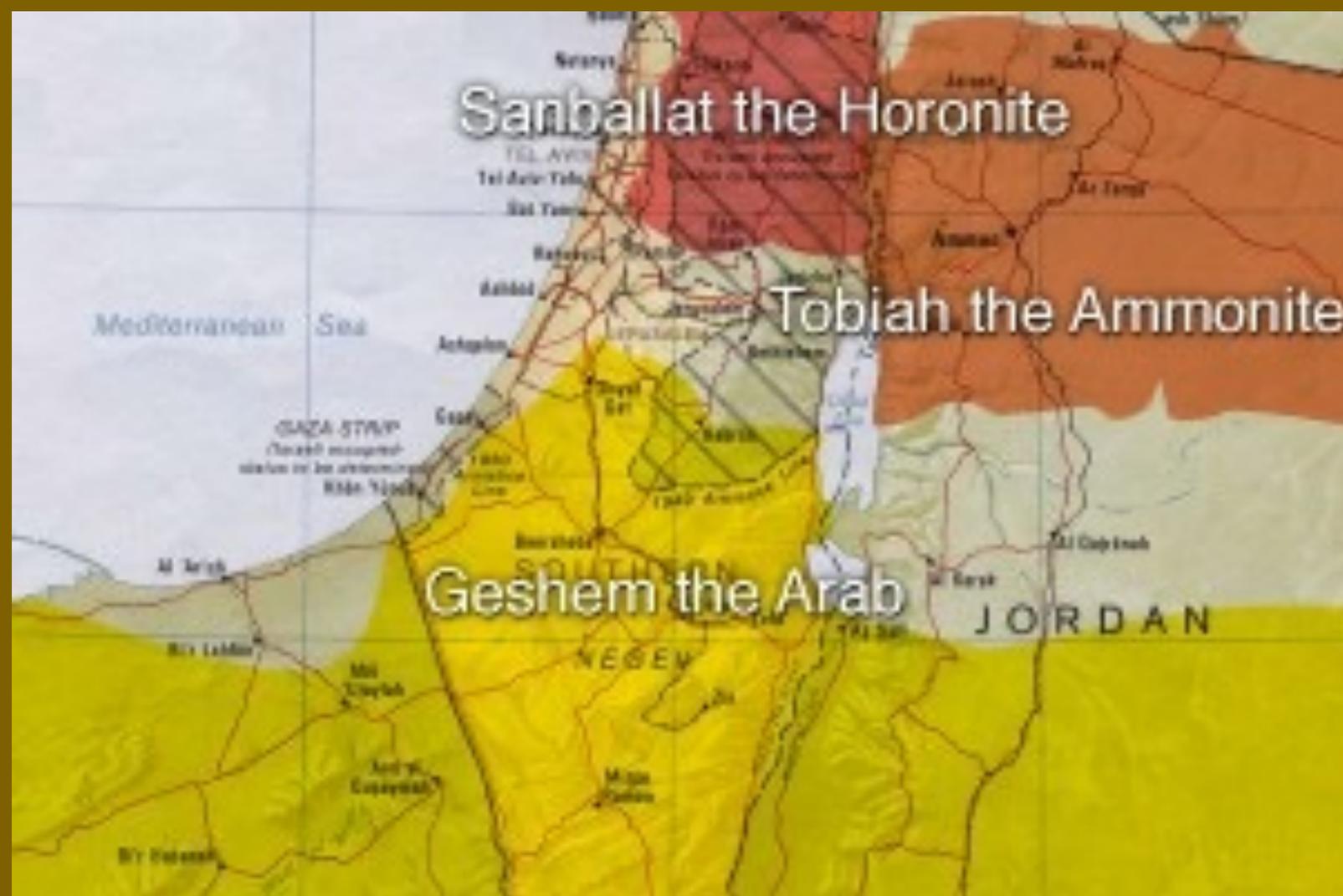
**3. Perseverance**

# The Courage of Conviction

See it – discern God's will

Do it – Take action: obey

Never quit – God's will is ultimate



**Out on a limb  
for God ?**



God + 1 = a majority,  
in any situation

