

Rebuilding *for* God's People

*A Study of Nehemiah
and 2 Corinthians*



Lesson 3: Jody Harrington

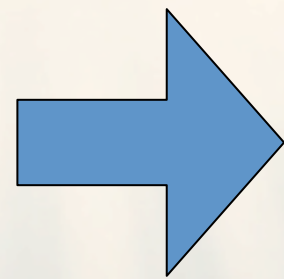


Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6



Concern (Ch 1)



Construction (Ch 2–3)

Conflict (Ch 4–6)

Consecration (Ch 7–12)

Cleansing (Ch13)

Outline of Nehemiah



The story of Nehemiah is a classic example of the way that God directs his servants into the ministry tasks that he has in mind for them. It is the same today as it was in his time.

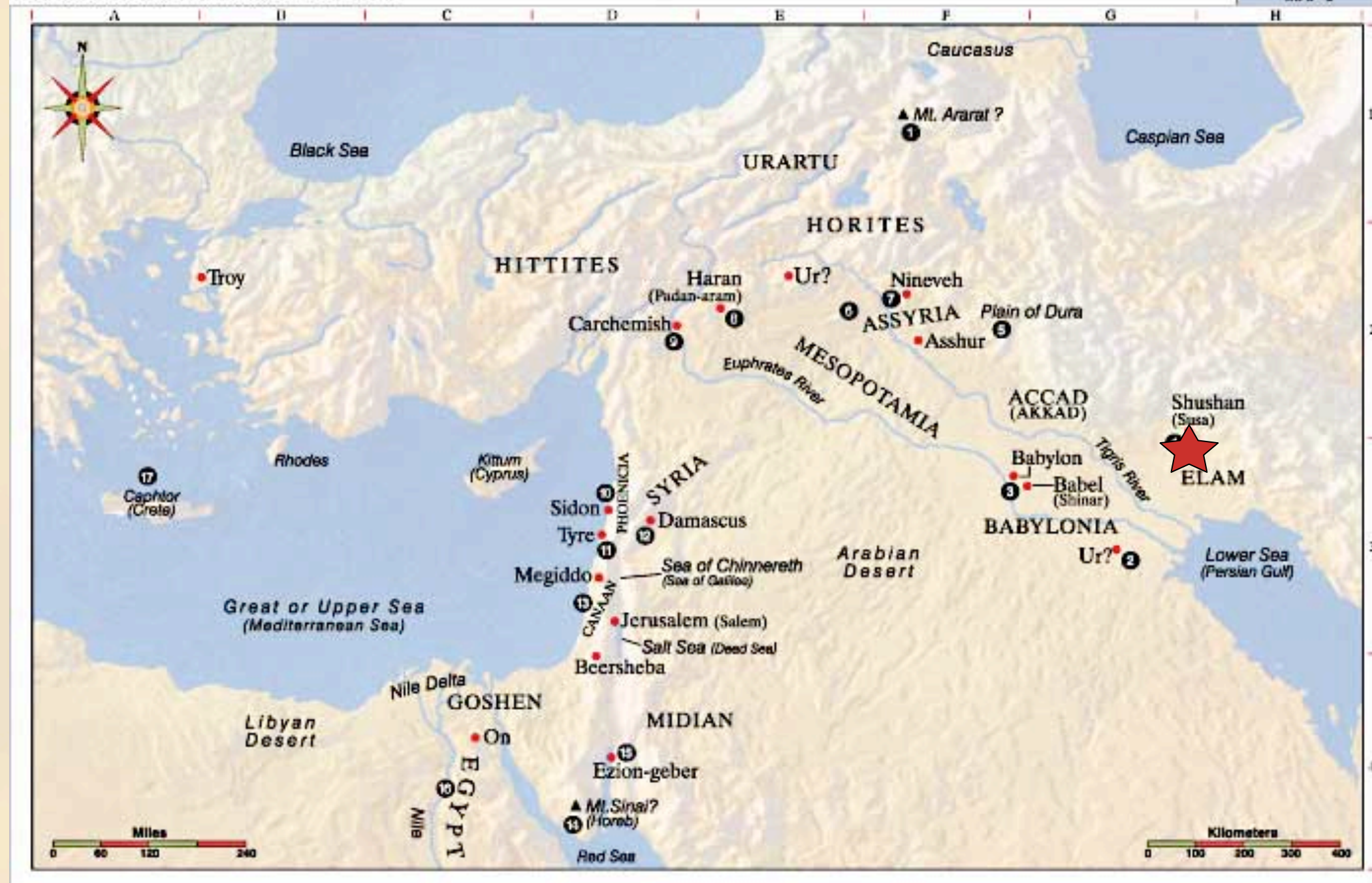
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by J.I.Packer





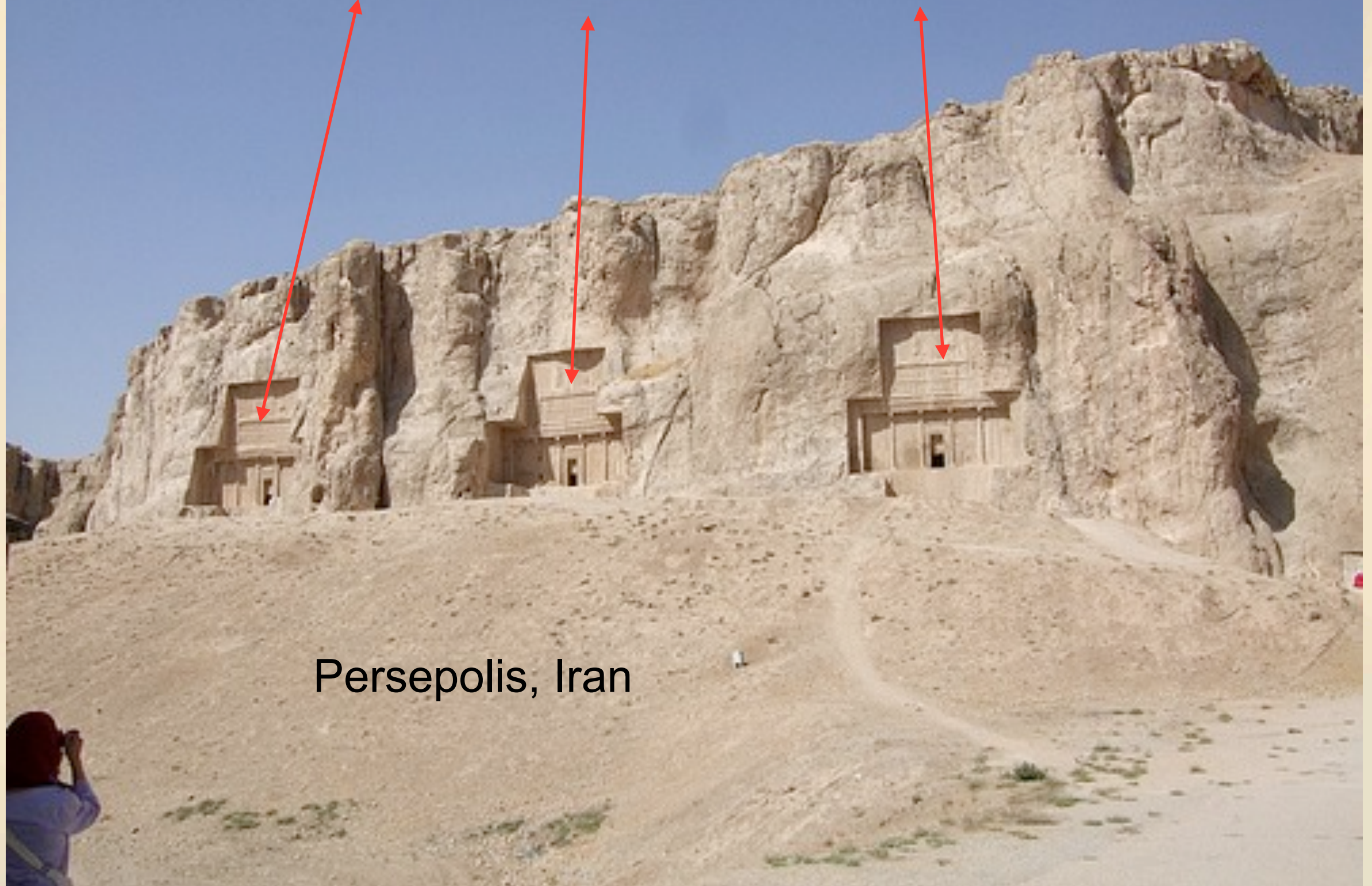
A 3-D view of Nehemiah 2: 1-10





Susa, known today as Sushan, is located in western Iran near the borders of Iraq and Kuwait. It was the capital of ancient Persia and the winter palace of the kings.

Tombs of Darius, Artaxerxes I, and Xerxes



Persepolis, Iran



Introducing....

The Good Guys

Artaxerxes = Righteous Ruler

Ezra = Help

Hacaliah = Wait for the Lord

Hannaniah = The Lord is gracious

Nehemiah = The comfort of the Lord

The Opposition

Sanballat = Strength

Tobiah = The Lord is good

Geshem = Rain



- RECOGNITION
- RESPONSE
- REQUEST
- RELEASE
- RESISTANCE



Recognition

- Of the key players
- Of recent history



- Son of King Xerxes, murdered by the commander of the royal bodyguard
- In the 20th year of his reign
- Recently put down revolt of one of his generals in Egypt which is part of province of Trans-Euphrates
- Needed loyal official in Judah, located in troublesome Trans-Euphrates province

King Artaxerxes



Three Returns From Exile

	<u>First Return</u>	<u>Second Return</u>	<u>Third Return</u>
Date	538 BC	458 BC	444 BC
Led By	Zerubbabel	Ezra	Nehemiah
Accomplishment	Temple Rebuilt	People Reformed	Wall Rebuilt

Two Previous Complaints About Rebuilding

- to King Xerxes (Ezra 4:6)
- to King Artaxerxes (Ezra 4:7–24)



- “I was the cupbearer to the King”
- From a prominent family
- Learned in the law of Moses
- Faithful to God of Israel
- Loyal to the King
- Skilled public servant
- Trusted leader

NEHEMIAH



RESPONSE

- Affirmation of loyalty
- Appeal to sympathy
- Diplomatic approach

Nehemiah 2:3



REQUESTS

- Send me to rebuild the city where my fathers are buried
- Give me letters of safe conduct
- Give me a letter authorizing use of timber

Nehemiah 2: 4–8a



RELEASE

- Requests granted
- Armed escort ordered

Nehemiah 2: 8b–9



RESISTANCE

Sanballat, Tobiah are “very much disturbed”

NEHEMIAH 2: 10



The Two-fold Call of God

To Belief and Service

To a Particular Task

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Call to Belief and Service

St. Paul uses the verb “call” to mean “bring to faith”

~ example: “ to all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints” Romans 1:7



Summons to a Particular Task

All believers are gifted for and called to some form of service

- Romans 12:4-6
- 1 Corinthians 12: 7-11
- Ephesians 4: 7-16



How does God guide us into the specific roles for which He has gifted us?

- The biblical factor
- The pneumatic factor
- The body factor
- The opportunity factor



The Biblical Factor

The Bible points to goals, guidelines and values for shaping our lives.

Within these limits, in pursuit of these goals, following these priorities you will find your ministry.



The Pneumatic Factor

- God gives desires to the renewed heart
- The nudging of the Holy Spirit
- Special burdens of concern sent from God



The Body Factor

Affirmation for specific ministry from the local body of believers.



The Opportunity Factor

God provides the opportunity to move into that ministry.



Applying the Lesson in Your Life

Are you having Holy Nudges?

How will you test them?

