

# Believe *His* Prophets

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This Morning Watch Calendar  
follows the  
Believe His Prophets  
2019  
Daily Bible Reading Guide

## NOVEMBER

Each chapter has a study verse to be used as  
the Youth Morning Watch verse of the day

A chapter Summary Statement  
is provided each day



## NOVEMBER 1

**Chapter: 2 Chronicles 18**

**Theme: Jehoshaphat's Unwise Alliance**

**Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 18:6**

**STATEMENT:** Jehoshaphat was wise in other ways, but he allied with Ahab by marrying his son to Ahab's daughter, a very bad idea which will come back to hurt Judah later. This alliance means Jehoshaphat promises to help Ahab in battle. In this chapter we see Jehoshaphat trying to get Ahab to change his mind about an unwise battle. He makes a point of asking for a true prophet, rather than the court liars Ahab gathered around him, and the prophet says it will be a disaster. But Ahab insists, and Jehoshaphat honors his word and goes with him. God forgave him, because He did save the king's life in battle. But Ahab died, as prophesied.

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**PRAYER:** Faithful God, You have patience even with our weakness. I am grateful. But help me not to join with evil in any way.

## NOVEMBER 2

**Chapter: 2 Chronicles 19**

**Theme: God Rebukes Jehoshaphat**

**Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 19:4**

**STATEMENT:** Here is confirmation that God was not happy with what Jehoshaphat had done, but still accepted him as His child. Jehoshaphat took the rebuke to heart and continued the good reforms he had begun, even going into some of the northern tribal territories to bring them back to God. It's a lesson in what we can do after we repent from our mistakes.

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**PRAYER:** Forgiving Lord, , I know I sometimes make foolish choices even when I am trying to do the right thing. Help me to learn from my mistakes, and to always have as my priority teaching others about You.

**NOVEMBER 3**

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 20  
**Theme:** What Israel’s Story Should Have Looked Like  
**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 20:12

**STATEMENT:** This is one of the most important stories in the Bible. It is literally the only time recorded that a king called his people together and specifically drew on the original prayer of Solomon when they were in trouble. Read it over very carefully, noting the details: What happened first? Next? Next? You can use these steps whenever you are in any kind of trouble, and God will always answer as He did Jehoshaphat in verses 15-18. What He asks you to do will vary in each situation, but His care of you will not.

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**PRAYER:** O Lord, burn these lessons on my heart! Help me to remember just what to do when I am afraid or in trouble and don’t know what to do but keep my eyes on you.

**NOVEMBER 4**

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 21  
**Theme:** The Results from Jehoshaphat’s Mistake  
**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 21:7

**STATEMENT:** The daughter of Ahab that Jehoshaphat’s son Jehoram married was Athaliah, if anything more wicked than her mother. She becomes the power behind the throne for three reigns to come. Here we see the results—Jehoram is so wicked that he kills all his own brothers, even though he already has the kingdom. He compounds wickedness on wickedness, and even terrible illness does not make him reconsider and repent. He dies in agony, but Athaliah is still in control.

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**PRAYER:** Holy One, You are still sovereign, even when earthly rulers mess up so badly. You allow the results of our evil acts, but the moment comes when You put a stop to it.

## NOVEMBER 5

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 22

**Theme:** Murder and Bloodshed

**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 22:12

**STATEMENT:** Athaliah held her son in her bond and led him to continue to commit the same kinds of cruelty and godless rebellion as her husband. But he only lasted a year. Then she killed all the princes she thought would be her rivals, and ruled in Judah herself. Little did she know one baby had been hidden away and was being raised to be a child of God.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, how can you stand it? Still today, we have this kind of cruel, godless rulers. Aren't You going to come and put a real stop to it all soon? I will trust and follow You, regardless.

## NOVEMBER 6

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 23

**Theme:** Joash's Rule

**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 23:3

**STATEMENT:** For six years, Jehoiada and his wife raised the hidden prince to love and follow God no matter what. Then, when he was seven, they set up strict security and brought him out to proclaim him king. Can you imagine being king at seven years old? Of course, Jehoiada and other wise adults helped and counseled him, but Joash was old enough to covenant to follow God, and he led his people to do the same. And that was the end of Athaliah and all Ahab's wicked family.

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**PRAYER:** Dear Father, You always do show Your greatest strength and wisdom through the small and the weak, don't You? Show Your strength and wisdom through me, too.

## Chapter: 2 Chronicles 24

## Theme: Joash Reforms...for a While

### Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 24:16

**RESPONSE:**

**PRAYER:** Lord, it must grieve You so much to see people who start out right and then turn away and do evil. I promise I won't do that. Keep me faithful.

## Chapter: 2 Chronicles 25

### Theme: Half-hearted Ruling

### Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 25:15

**RESPONSE:**

**PRAYER:** Lord, may I be as patient with those I see doing wrong as You are with those You try and try to bring back to Yourself. Let me remember You are the only judge.

## NOVEMBER 9

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 26

**Theme:** Uzziah

**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 26:5

**STATEMENT:** Uzziah started out doing right. He was a great military leader, and updated Jerusalem's defenses, among other things. But in the end, pride got him. When we do right, the most dangerous thing of all is to start giving ourselves credit. Uzziah went into the holy place and tried to burn incense. 80 faithful priests stopped him, and if he had bowed to their reminder of God's law, all would have been well. But he was enraged at the rebuke—and became a leper then and there. We do not know whether, in his private leper house, he repented. We can hope so. His son ran the kingdom for him.

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**PRAYER:** Holy One, sometimes You give us enforced time-outs, and we can rethink our positions. I don't know what Uzziah did with his, but I will try to pay attention and always turn back to you if I discover myself straying.

## NOVEMBER 10

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 27

**Theme:** Jotham

**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 17:6

**STATEMENT:** Jotham continued to build up and fortify Jerusalem. Like his father, he became strong because he did right and followed God's ways. Unlike his father, he did not get proud and arrogant about it, and did not enter the temple. But his people did not follow him; they continued to corrupt their worship with idolatry and paganism.

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**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, when I am grown I will follow You in the ways of my fathers and mothers if they are faithful, but I will learn lessons from their mistakes and not follow their ways if they do not follow you.

**NOVEMBER 11**

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 28  
**Theme:** Repentance!  
**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 28:15

**STATEMENT:** Here is a story that starts out the usual way: a wicked king falls into the hands of his enemies because he and his people turned from God. Even Israel, their own tribal brothers and sisters (see verse 8) take them as slaves. As always, God sends a prophet to rebuke them... and wonder of wonders, they listen and repent! There must be rejoicing in heaven, as well as in the homes of these released captives. But Ahaz does not learn his lesson; see vs. 22-23. His compromises with Assyria help to bring the coming judgement closer.

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**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, may it be a lesson to me that You will always accept a repentant heart. I like reading that they also tried to make up for their cruelty at least a little before sending the people back. I want to not sin to begin with, but if I do, let me repent wholeheartedly like this.

**NOVEMBER 12**

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 29  
**Theme:** Hezekiah's Reforms  
**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 29:10, 11

**STATEMENT:** When we read these same stories in Chronicles that we read in Kings, we get new details and new insights. This is a nice one: Hezekiah recognizes and openly acknowledges God's righteous anger, and draws the people to make a new covenant with him. Temple worship is restored, and God draws judgment a little back from them.

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**PRAYER:** My God, sometimes I grow careless or less faithful in my worship. Help me to remember that it is not the ritual which pleases You—it's giving You my heart every day.

**NOVEMBER 13**

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 30  
**Theme:** A Humble Passover  
**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 30:18b-20

**STATEMENT:** Here they were, re-consecrated to God, ready to follow His ways, but it was too late for Passover, and there weren't enough priests purified and prepared. What could they do? Raised in that wicked environment, how did Hezekiah know that God was not an angry, vengeful God, but one of mercy and love? He was right, of course. They could change the date for these special circumstances, and pray special prayers for those who had not had time to consecrate themselves in advance, and God would be pleased and accept their efforts. And He did.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, You are so merciful! You meet our broken efforts halfway—more than halfway! You run to catch us in Your arms, like the father of the prodigal son. Help me to spread the news that this is how You are, not angry and demanding like so many people have been taught.

**NOVEMBER 14**

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 31  
**Theme:** Repentance and Abundance  
**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 31:5

**STATEMENT:** What a lovely story. With his whole heart, Hezekiah sets out to order things the way they ought to be, and the people follow him with joy. If only all kings had acted this way! Many people might have waited until after this was all done to have Passover, or have skipped Passover and gone to the next feast. Do you think it helped the re-consecration process that the people had that beautiful experience of God's forgiveness first even though they weren't quite ready? Why or why not?

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**PRAYER:** Merciful One, You love us all the time. You love us now, no matter what we have done. You don't wait for us to clean up—You clean us up after we come to You!



## NOVEMBER 15

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 32

**Theme:** God Saves the People

**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 32:7

**STATEMENT:** Assyria has already taken over Israel; now they come after Judah. Had Hezekiah been the kind of king his father was, that might have been the end. Would he stay faithful even when things got scary? Yes, he would! He gathered the people and bid them to pray and trust God, and his prayers were answered. This chronicler is even merciful about the matter of Hezekiah showing off his treasures to the king of Babylon. God was forgiving. We know that from 2 Kings 20. He will be forgiving with us, too, if we do our best to follow Him.

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**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, I have things I'm afraid of, too. Help me to trust You about them.

## NOVEMBER 16

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 33

**Theme:** Manasseh's Change

**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 33:12, 13

**STATEMENT:** Here is a story that definitely has more details than the Kings version. The writer of 2 Kings 21 did not mention that Manasseh not only repented of his wickedness when he was rebuked, but changed, and God accepted his repentance and honored him for it. It's hard to see how a son can go so opposite of his father, from wicked Ahaz to faithful Hezekiah to wicked Manasseh! But Manasseh's life shows that God will always accept broken and contrite hearts, even if He does not always remove all consequences.

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**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, be merciful to me, too. But first help me not to turn against the good things I have been taught!

## NOVEMBER 17

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 34

**Theme:** Faithful Josiah

**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 34:21

**STATEMENT:** After another wicked king, Josiah was crowned at 8 years old. Which way would he turn? At 16, he devoted himself to God. At 20, he began to purge the land—again—of paganism and idolatry. At 26 he repaired God’s house—again—and set up faithful worship. It’s enough to make your head spin. The best part of the story is Josiah’s humble submission to God when he saw how far they had strayed from God’s law. He sent for the prophet, and Huldah assured him that although the land would still be judged, it wouldn’t be in his time, because of his faithfulness. (Perhaps, if the kings after him had remained faithful, the judgment would have been stayed altogether, as it was in the days of Jonah. If only...)

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**Prayer:** Lord, You never show us what might have been, only what is and what was. I don’t know what choices the leaders of my country will make, but I know the choices I will make. I am Yours.

## NOVEMBER 18

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 35

**Theme:** Understanding God’s Voice

**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 35:16

**STATEMENT:** Josiah had another Passover, as his grandfather had done. Apparently, Hezekiah had not continued with the seven days of Unleavened Bread, according to verse 18. Unfortunately, when Neco of Egypt went to war against a nearby nation, Josiah did not believe him when he said he was doing God’s will. He disguised himself and battled Egypt anyway, and was killed in battle. His people mourned him bitterly—they weren’t used to having a king who loved them and whom they could love, and they were very sorry to lose him.

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**PRAYER:** Dear God, I pray for the leaders of my country, whether they are good or evil. If they are good, strengthen and help them; if not, please send them word in whatever ways they will understand. And if they won’t, then keep us all safe.

## NOVEMBER 19

**Chapter:** 2 Chronicles 36

**Theme:** The End for Judah

**Study Verse:** 2 Chronicles 36:15

**STATEMENT:** Josiah was the last good king. Babylon was rising, and the next three kings felt its power. God kept sending prophets, begging the people to return to Him, but they would not, mocking and even killing the prophets. Finally, “there was no remedy.” Off they went in captivity to the great Babylonian Empire, and Jeremiah told them to pray for peace where they were, because they were not coming home for 70 years. Can you imagine? Are you or someone you know a refugee? It’s a painful thing to not be able to go home, but imagine how much worse to know it was because of your own sin!

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**PRAYER:** Dear God, I know this wasn’t really the end for the Israelites. You still had plans to restore them, and when things look dark for me, You still have plans to restore me, too. Help me stay faithful throughout.

## NOVEMBER 20

**Chapter:** Ezra 1

**Theme:** Going Home

**Study Verse:** Ezra 1:3

**STATEMENT:** Unlike Kings, Chronicles ends with a mention of Cyrus’ decree allowing the Israelites, now called Jews, to go back home. The book of Ezra tells that story. Seventy years have passed, Babylon has given way to Medo-Persia, and God has said that the people who want to can go home and start anew. And they will. No more idolatry and false pagan worship for Judah! The story begins with the first batch of people to return, and Cyrus even gives them back the temple treasures Nebuchadnezzar stole, to take with them.

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**PRAYER:** Faithful God, how they must have sung and praised You on that long journey home! Some, perhaps, were old enough to remember. Most had been born in Babylon and had never seen their homeland. What lay ahead of them? Would they be faithful to You now?

## NOVEMBER 21

**Chapter:** Ezra 2

**Theme:** Records of the Return

**Study Verse:** Ezra 2:68

**STATEMENT:** It must have been a confusing and long-term job, to gather up all the Jews in Babylon who wanted to go home and rebuild Jerusalem, figure out their tribes, and count them. Especially important is to determine who were from the tribe of Levi, and of those, who were in the priestly line. The numbers are relatively few. For example, instead of 4,000 gatekeepers and 4,000 singers, we have 139 combined (vs. 41-2). Some people who believe they are of the priestly line but can't find records are told to stand aside until a priest with Urim and Thummim can determine the truth from God. They are determined to do things right this time!

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**PRAYER:** Holy One, I watch with interest to see how Your people will live this time. They have had a long period—a whole lifetime—in which to consider their previous rebellion and decide to reform.

## NOVEMBER 22

**Chapter:** Ezra 3

**Theme:** New Beginnings

**Study Verse:** Ezra 3:11

**STATEMENT:** The first feast period that the people were all settled into their old towns in time for was the fall series: Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Booths. No rebuilding had yet occurred in the temple, but they managed to get the altar rebuilt on its original foundation, and that was enough to begin the sacrificial system. By the second year, they'd gotten the foundation of the temple re-laid, and they had a massive celebration. The end of the chapter, from 10-13, is very moving. The old ones, who remember the splendor of the temple from before, weep tears of mingled joy and sorrow, and the young ones shout with joy, and you can hear them for miles. Have you ever felt like that?

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**PRAYER:** Loving Lord, You promised them You would bring a remnant back, and You did it. Some of these people had only heard the stories all their lives; others had been consciously waiting for 70 years. You must have been even happier than they were!

## NOVEMBER 23

## Chapter: Ezra 4

## Theme: Disheartening Delay

### Study Verse: Ezra 4:

**STATEMENT:** After a good beginning, the people were delayed by the local inhabitants, now called Samaritans. These were people of mixed heritage, Israelite and pagan, and their religion was, too. It's possible that their first offer of help was sincere, but the Jews are rightly wary of any possible temptation to mix true worship with paganism. The real motives of these "helpers" are then made clear. Not only do they prevent work by any means necessary, they even write to the Persian king and get construction stopped entirely. The reputations of the earlier, trouble-making Jews is now coming back to haunt their children.

**RESPONSE:**

**PRAYER:** Holy God, Your children were trying to obey now, but as is always the case when we try to follow You, difficulties arose. How disheartening it must have been for them!

## NOVEMBER 24

## Chapter: Ezra 5

## Theme: Starting Again

### Study Verse: Ezra 5:5

**STATEMENT:** For about 15-16 years (best guess; see BC 3, pp. 96-98), the people allowed their discouragement and the opposition of the locals to keep them from continuing to rebuild God's house. But the prophets Haggai and Zechariah (you can read what they said in their own first chapters) rebuked the people for first becoming discouraged, and then getting involved in rebuilding their own homes but not the temple. So the people, heeding the prophets, began again. This time, the local governor, instead of being angry and fighting against them, simply asked for their side of the story, and then sent to Susa to inquire of the king's records.

**RESPONSE:**

**PRAYER:** Lord, I admit there have been times when I set out to do something I believed You asked of me, and then fell aside from my good intentions and began to procrastinate. Help me to restart and have new devotion for doing all You call me to do.

## NOVEMBER 25

**Chapter:** Ezra 6

**Theme:** Completion!

**Study Verse:** Ezra 6:22

**STATEMENT:** Darius did find the original decree, and not only did he tell his governor to let the people finish, he even said his own treasuries would pay for the whole thing! How wonderful it must have been for the faithful workers who had risen up to take up their work again after their long hiatus. With royal support and funding, it only took about 4-5 more years to finish the temple and dedicate it, and what a celebration they had then! Once again, for the third time in this long Old Testament record, a newly rebuilt and rededicated temple oversees a Passover Feast, but this time, notice v. 20: they are all purified, consecrated, and ready to worship God.

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**PRAYER:** One true God, You restored the fortunes of Your people and restored their hearts and their worship, just as so many prophets had promised. I praise You!

## NOVEMBER 26

**Chapter:** Ezra 7

**Theme:** Ezra Joins the Jews in Jerusalem

**Study Verse:** Ezra 7:27, 28

**STATEMENT:** Up to now, Ezra the scribe has been telling the story of the first people to return, years before his time. According to BC 364, about 58 years passed between the events of the first six chapters and this chapter. Now, he gets to join those who have gone home and begun to rebuild Judah. As you can see from the last verses of this chapter, he is overjoyed, not only to go to the land of his ancestors, but to be sponsored and encouraged by the Persian king.

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**PRAYER:** Ruler of the heavens, You dwell outside of time, so our long (to us) years of historic timelines are spread out before Your gaze. You were working out Your will in those days, and I trust that You still are.

## NOVEMBER 27

**Chapter:** Ezra 8

**Theme:** Setting Out

**Study Verse:** Ezra 8:21

**STATEMENT:** Just as the earlier recorders kept lists, which Ezra incorporated into his account, so now he, too, keeps lists of the heads of households who go with him. They set up a camp by the river, and over several days, the people who want to go pack up their things and join him. Ezra realizes they don't have Levites, so he sends out a call, and gets some. Then, instead of asking for military protection for their journey, which will take almost four months, they fast and pray for God's protection. Can you imagine that long trip, carrying everything you will need, camping every night, packing up every morning? God was with them and brought them safely to Jerusalem.

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**PRAYER:** Dear Father, I know You were with those returning exiles, just as You are with me every day of the long journey of my life.

## NOVEMBER 28

**Chapter:** Ezra 9

**Theme:** Unfaithful Marriages

**Study Verse:** Ezra 9:6

**STATEMENT:** Remember how careful the first exiles were to not get mixed up with pagans and their worship? It didn't last. During these 58 years, not only the people, but even the priests and Levites have intermarried and brought pagan beliefs and idols into their homes. Ezra is horrified. He tears his clothes and sits until evening, just as if he were mourning a death. This is what got them captured by Babylon to begin with, and now they are doing the same thing? Again?! Ezra's prayer is a beautiful example of intercessory prayer. Notice he uses the word "we," identifying himself with where the people are, even though he has not sinned, himself.

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**PRAYER:** Lord, when I see a brother or sister sinning, give me the grace to put myself in their place and pray inclusively for us—rather than looking down on them and pointing judgmental fingers, even in prayer.

## NOVEMBER 29

### Chapter: Ezra 10

Theme: Confession and Restitution

Study Verse: Ezra 10:1

**STATEMENT:** The first step to restoration is to recognize one's sin. That has been done. The second is to repent, and as the people learn how terribly Ezra is grieving, they begin to weep, too. More and more gather, until everyone is in mourning. The final step is to do something about it—make restitution, if possible, and make new choices. In this case, there is a mass divorce of all pagan spouses. Since God says He hates divorce (Mal. 2:16), this is a dire proceeding, and it is possible that there were honest converts who were no longer considered pagans and who stayed. But no compromise can be made with false worship—Israel's greatest besetting sin from the very beginning.

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**PRAYER:** O Lord, I know You loved even the people who were sent away, and I hope that You were able to reach at least some of them. But I also know that You require each of us to face whatever our personal strongest temptations are, and cut them off completely.

## NOVEMBER 30

### Chapter: Nehemiah 1

Theme: Nehemiah's Prayer

Study Verse: Nehemiah 1:5, 6

**STATEMENT:** Another 13 years passed, during which the king of Persia was dealing with a rebellion and it seems that little news of Judah could get through to Susa (See BC 3, p. 392). When Nehemiah, who was cupbearer to the king, finally heard that the Samaritans had attacked Jerusalem's newly rebuilt wall and burned part of it, he was distraught. He had already been sorrowful that he didn't get to go back with the exiles. Now he weeps and prays before God, giving us another example of a beautiful prayer in which he groups himself with the exiles—"we have sinned." He begs for God's continued mercy and for compassion from the king.

**RESPONSE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**PRAYER:** Holy One, You watch over us at all times. Perhaps it was Your own doing that the news reached Nehemiah and he was able to rouse the king's compassion.



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