





LAKE STREET FROM MICHIGAN AVE., BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRE OF 1871.

And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

Nehemiah 2:8b (ESV)

THE GOOD HAND

¹In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ²And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid.

Nehemiah 2:1-8 (ESV)

³I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 2:1-8 (ESV)

⁵And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." ⁶And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

Nehemiah 2:1-8 (ESV)

⁷And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

Nehemiah 2:1-8 (ESV)

Rubble Requires:

- A. Clean Up
- B. Rebuilding
- C. Resistance

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Matthew 7:11 (NIV)

“Often success is nothing more than putting yourself in a position to take advantage of unexpected opportunities. A lot of people waste time trying to accurately predict the future when they could ensure success by positioning themselves for multiple possible futures.”

Shane Parrish

**The Good Hand Gives
Us Safe Passage**

Ira Sankey

1840-1908

Worship Leader for D.L. Moody



Ira Sankey was traveling on a steamer down the Delaware river when he was asked to sing. He led the group in singing “Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us.” When he finished, a man stepped from the shadows and asked, “Did you ever serve in the Union Army?” “Yes,” Sankey replied, “in the spring of 1860.”

“Can you remember if you were doing picket duty on a bright, moonlit night in 1862?” “Yes,” Sankey replied.

“So did I, but I was serving in the Confederate army. When I saw you standing at your post, I thought to myself, ‘That fellow will never get away alive.’ I raised my musket and took aim . . .

Ira Sankey

1840-1908

Worship Leader for D.L. Moody



... I was standing in the shadow, completely concealed, while the full light of the moon was falling upon you. At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to Heaven and began to sing. 'Let him sing his song to the end,' I said to myself, 'I can shoot him afterwards. He's my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him.'

But the song you sang then was the song you sang just now. I heard the words perfectly: 'We are Thine; do Thou befriend us. Be the Guardian of our way.' Those words stirred up many memories. I began to think of my childhood and my God-fearing mother. She had many times sung that song to me. When you had finished your song, it was impossible for me to take aim again. I thought, 'The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death must surely be great and mighty.' And my arm of its own accord dropped limp at my side."



“I don’t need to do more smart things. I just need to do fewer dumb things. I need to avoid making emotional decisions and swinging at bad pitches. I need to think!”

Keith Cunningham, *The Road Less Stupid*

**The Good Hand Gives
Us Provision**

...and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

Nehemiah 2:8 (ESV)

The Good Hand Will Give You Timber for:

A. The Temple

B. The City

C. Your Own Home