

Bible Stories: Perseverance



圣经故事：毅力

Elijah Prays for Rain

The Old Testament prophet Elijah prayed for rain when there had been a severe drought in the land of Israel for three and a half years. Then Elijah said to his servant, “Go up higher and look toward the sea.”



天降大雨

在旧约圣经里的先知以利亚，为以色列国长达三年半的严重旱灾，祈求上帝降雨。他吩咐仆人：“你去向海的方向观看。”

The servant went and looked. He came back and said, “I saw nothing.”

Elijah told him to go look again. This happened seven times. The seventh time, the servant came back and said, “I saw a small cloud the size of a man’s fist that was coming in from the sea.”

After a short time the sky was covered with dark clouds. The wind began to blow, and a heavy rain began to fall.



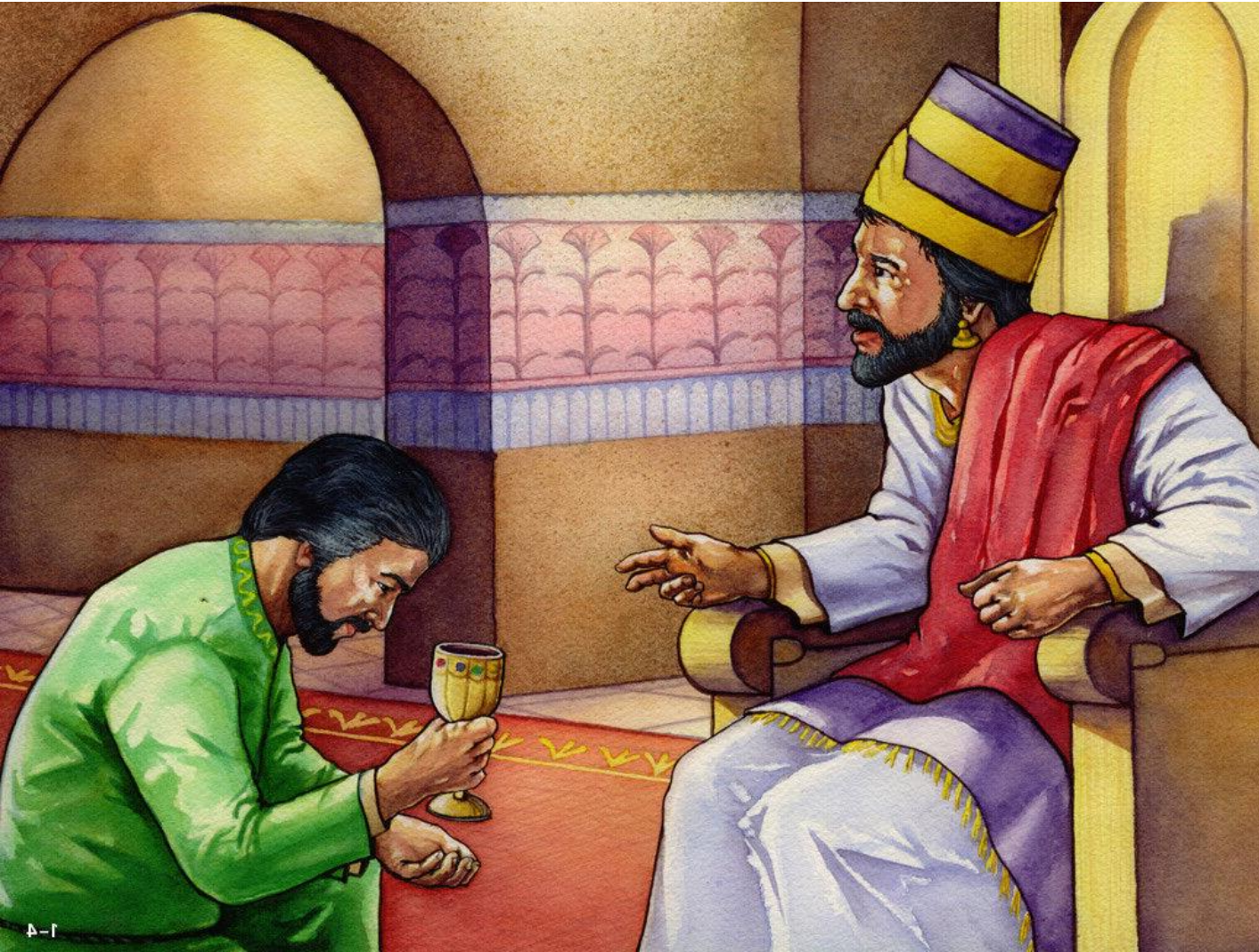
仆人就去观看，然后说：“什么也没有。”

以利亚又让他去观看，前后共七次。第七次，仆人说：“我看见一朵手掌那么大的云从海里升起来了。”

霎时间，天上乌云密布，狂风大作，下起大雨。

Nehemiah

Nehemiah was the cupbearer for a foreign king. His heart, however, was to help his own people. So God set it up so that he would be in the palace at the right time to have a chat with the king, who then gave him permission to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls that had crumbled due to foreign occupations.



尼希米

尼希米本来是在为一位外国国王担当酒政的工作。然而，他的心却渴望帮助自身的人民。因此上帝做了安排，让他刚好在合适的时间在皇宫里与国王聊天，国王随后允许他返回耶路撒冷，重建因外邦人占领耶路撒冷城而倒塌了的城墙。

Nehemiah inspired people to help him and get the work started, but the Israelites had a lot of enemies who didn't want the walls rebuilt and constantly threatened them.

People got discouraged, saying, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." Their enemies were also taunting them, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work." The people who lived near the construction site kept warning, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."



尼希米激励以色列人去帮助他，于是开始建造城墙的工作。可是他们有很多敌人，不希望他们重建城墙，并不断威吓他们。

以色列人感到灰心洩气，说，“搬运的人气力已经衰弱，但瓦砾仍多，我们不能再建城墙了！”他们的敌人也嘲弄他们，“趁著他们不知道，还未看见之前，我们就进入他们中间，杀死他们，使那工程停止。”住在建築工地附近的人不停地警告说，“他们将从各方上来攻击你们。”

So Nehemiah set up guards to protect the builders and he gave them a pep talk, saying, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

Thanks to Nehemiah’s dedication and inspiration, the wall was rebuilt in only 52 days.



于是尼希米就派保安来保护建造者，并对他们说鼓励的话，“不要怕他们。当纪念主是大而可畏的。你们要为弟兄、儿女、妻子和家产争战。”

城墙仅仅在52天内就被重建成功，这在上要归功于尼希米对这个目标的全心投入和对人民的激励。

The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

“There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ The

judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’”



寡妇与法官的比喻

耶稣讲了一个比喻来教导门徒要常常祷告，不要灰心。

祂说：“某城有一位既不敬畏上帝也不尊重人的审判官。那城里有一位寡妇常常来哀求这位审判官，说，‘求你为我申冤，惩办我的对头。’ 审判官总是充耳不闻，但后来心里想，‘虽然我不怕上帝，也不在乎人，可是这寡妇一直来烦我，还是替她申冤好了，免得她再来烦我！’”

Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his children who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly!”



主接着说：“你们听，这不义的审判官尚且这么说，难道上帝听到祂拣选的人昼夜呼求，不替他们申冤吗？难道祂会一直耽延不理吗？我告诉你们，祂必很快为他们申冤。”

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