

Questions in Nehemiah

Seeing the questions will help us understand the author, the addressees and the purpose of writing more clearly. The following points are taken into account:

1. Identify who asks the question (God, author or addressee).
2. The question is answered or is a rhetorical question.
3. The question affirms or defines the author's purpose.

	Nehemiah (NASB)	Who asks?	Answer or rhetoric	Purpose
1	2: 2 So the king said to me, " Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was very much afraid.			
2	2: 3 I said to the king, " Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire? "			
3	2: 4 Then the king said to me, " What would you request? " So I prayed to the God of heaven.			
4	2: 6 Then the king said to me, 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.			
5	2:19 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard <i>it</i> , they mocked us and despised us and said, " What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"			
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7	4: 2 He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy <i>men</i> of Samaria and said, " What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore <i>it</i> for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?"			
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12	5: 8 I said to them, " We according to our ability have redeemed our Jewish brothers who were sold to the nations; now would you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us? " Then they were silent and could not find a word <i>to say</i> .			
13	5: 9 Again I said, " The thing which you are doing is not good; should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies? "			
14	6:11 But I said, " Should a man like me flee? And could one such as I go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in."			
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16	13:11 So I reprimanded the officials and said, " Why is the house of God forsaken? " Then I gathered them together and restored them to their posts.			

17	13:17 Then I reprimanded the nobles of Judah and said to them, “What is this evil thing you are doing, by profaning the sabbath day?”			
18	13:18 Did not your fathers do the same, so that our God brought on us and on this city all this trouble? Yet you are adding to the wrath on Israel by profaning the sabbath.”			
19	13:21 Then I warned them and said to them, “Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will use force against you.” From that time on they did not come on the sabbath.			
20	13:26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? Yet among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin.			
21	13:27 Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil by acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?”			