

FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017
THEME – COVENANT WITH GOD
UNIT II – CALLED INTO COVENANT WITH GOD

“RENEWING A COVENANT COMMITMENT WITH GOD”



Sunday School Lesson No. IX – October 29, 2017
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

- Lesson Text:** Nehemiah 9:32-38; 10:28-29
- Required Reading:** Nehemiah 9:1 – 10:39
- Motto Text:** Nehemiah 9:33, *“Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly.”*
- Reliable Resources:** Logos Bible Software; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Worship by A. P. Gibbs; The Outline Bible, H. L. Wilmington; Word Search 10 Electronic Library, MacArthur Study Bible Notes; Wesley’s Commentary; Life Application Bible Study Notes; 10 Steps to Spiritual Renewal by Dr. David Jeremiah

INTRODUCTION

Beloved, in the year 1,445 BC, the Nation of Israel traded in their slavery shoes to walk in the freedom of Jehovah. After being delivered from the hands of Pharaoh in Egypt, the mighty hands of God by the leadership of Moses, brought them to the foot of Mt. Sinai where they accepted the Mosaic Covenant. Remember they declared in Exodus 19:8, “...*All that the Lord hath spoken we will do...*” But after years of ups and downs, being led by Moses and Joshua, and the overtaking of the Promised Land, the much-loved Israelites struggled mightily to keep their promises to God. They failed to be faithful and God allowed their enemies to subdue them. God raised up Judges to deliver them, but after every deliverance came more failures. The people of God cried for a King and God gave them Saul, David and Solomon, and after their sinful failures caused the kingdom to split. Even then the mercy of Jehovah maintained the name of David, even though the Northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrians. Sin and godless rebellion finally sent the Southern Kingdom of Judah into 70 years of captivity under the Babylonians.

Our lesson this week picks up about the year 445 BC, as a remnant of the former captives returned to their homeland, and under the leadership of Nehemiah this remnant now seeks to covenant with Jehovah to be faithful and obedient to renew the covenant they had received from Jehovah at Mt. Sinai. Now they are seeking to persuade God that they will be faithful and obedient.

Let us turn our attention to the lesson I entitle, “**Renewing a Covenant Commitment with God.**” The Life Application Notes discloses: “God puts no limit on the number of times we can come to Him to obtain mercy, but we must come in order to obtain it, recognizing our need and asking Him for help. This miracle of grace should inspire us to say, ‘What a gracious and merciful God you are!’”

If there is a recurring problem or difficulty in your life, continue to ask God for help, and be willing and ready to make changes in your attitude and behavior that will correct that situation.”

Anticipated Power Points, “Renewing a Covenant Commitment with God” begins with...

- **Hearts being Revealed. Nehemiah 9:1-5a**
- **Highest being Revered. Nehemiah 9:5b-7**
- **History being Reviewed. Nehemiah 9:8-30**
- **Help is Requisitioned. Nehemiah 9:31-38**
- **Hope is Realized. Nehemiah 10:28-29**

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Hearts being Revealed. Nehemiah 9:1-5a

There was great confession, rededication, and worship as Ezra and other Priests read the Word to the people. Their hearts manifested sorrow for the lifestyles which had been contrary to the will of God. The sorrow of the people caused them to stand for six hours while the Lord was revered and worshipped in the street!

II. Highest being Revered. Nehemiah 9:5b-7

According to the Bible Knowledge Commentary: “The prayer in 9:5b-31 was voiced by the Levites on the people’s behalf. It rehearses major events in Israel’s history.” When we think about the greatness of the Lord, it should move all to great rejoicing!

III. History being Reviewed. Nehemiah 9:8-30

(Please read these scriptures aloud to just marvel over the goodness of the Lord to His people!)

But why so much reporting and remembering of Israel’s history with Jehovah? The Life Application Bible Notes declare: “Many prayers and speeches in the Bible include a long summary of Israel’s history because individuals did not have their own copies of the Bible as we do today. This summary of God’s past works reminded the people of their great heritage and God’s promises.” Sad to admit, with all God had done for Israel, She utterly failed to properly express Herself, and so do we!

IV. Help is Requisitioned. Nehemiah 9:31-38

H. L. Wilmington reports the following: “Ezra then surveyed the present circumstances which were not good: The people were in essence, slaves in their own land. He ended by calling on the people to make a covenant with God.”

Thank God for His merciful kindness and longsuffering. **“Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”**

V. Hope is Realized. Nehemiah 10:28-29

Nehemiah, as the highest leader who had high rank, added himself in making a binding covenant with God to repent and rekindle a covenant relationship. It became a catalyst that caused the other leaders to get on board. These leaders, about 85, put their lives and reputations on the line. Because of them, Israel as a people were reestablishing a covenant relationship that they had walked away from!

CLOSING

Read more about making vows in Numbers 30!



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LOOKING AHEAD:

November 5, 2017

Numbers 25:10-13; I Samuel 2:30-36

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.

Pastor Davis invites you to hear him teach the Sunday School lesson at Bibleway each Wednesday at noon.