

**Just to clarify right up front**

Revival is **NOT** for **UN-believers**

Revival is for **Believers**

**Evangelism** is for **unbelievers**

**Revival** is **RESTORING** **believers**

*to a Joyful & Right relationship with God*

**Let me say that again**

*Revival* is **RESTORING** **believers**

*to a Joyful & Right relationship with God*

& We are in the Midst of an **Incredible Revival** in the Book of NEH

In began in **CH 8** soon after the wall was finished

& it is **STILL rolling**

& seeing this **Revival** in the people of God

has been **really exciting** for me

**Because** we have been going thru a **REBUILDING** here

as we **REFOCUS** our Ministry on **Making Disciples**

& **what we see** in Nehemiah – is the **Rebuilding** of God's people

into **FULL-TIME FOLLOWERS** of God – in a word - **DISCIPLES**

& it is this **Rebuilding** of the People into Followers of God

**THAT brings Revival**

& **Restores** the people to a **Joyful & Right Relationship with GOD**

Which is ***Our Exact purpose*** here  
& so ***today*** in Nehemiah – we see **FOUR Marks of True Revival**

These are the **EVENTS** (steps, if you will) that ***Restore God's People to a Joyful & Right Relationship with Him***

My **outline** is adapted from **Alan Redpath** today  
whose teaching I Greatly Appreciate

Here are the **FOUR MARKS of TRUE REVIVAL** we'll see today

**Repentance & Brokenness**

**Remembering God's Goodness**

**Recognizing our True Condition**

**Renewing our Obedience**

That's **the PATH** we'll be **walking** in Nehemiah today

**Let's Pray**

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Let me just **remind you** – I'm **teaching** Nehemiah out of the **NLT**  
just to give you a **FEEL** for that Translation

But I haven't **SWITCHED** Teaching **Translations**  
I'm still **committed** to teaching from the **ESV**

so **don't stop** bringing your **ESV's**  
cause I'll **be going back** to the **ESV** when Nehemiah's done

Alright - **Let's start** with a quick **review**:

**The reading** of the law was on the **1st day** of 7th mo

On the **2nd day** of 7th mo - the **leaders** studied the Bible together  
Then *Feast of Tabernacles* began on **15th day**  
& lasts **7 days +1** – so it lasts thru the **23rd day** of the 7<sup>th</sup> mo.

& **Today**, as we pick it up – it is the **24th day**  
Or . . . **THE VERY NEXT DAY (Oct 31 in the NLT)**

& **so** this has been a **Mind-Boggling** – **Marathon Revival**

### **Nehemiah 9:1 - NLT**

***1 On October 31*** (24th day of the 7th mo) ***the people assembled again, and this time they fasted and dressed in burlap (sackcloth) and sprinkled dust on their heads.***

The **FIRST MARK** of True Revival is  
**Repentance & Brokenness**

**All thru** the Bible we see **Fasting**, **Sackcloth**, & **Ashes** (dust)  
as clear signs of **Mourning**, **Repentance**, & **Brokenness**

**Fasting** is an **outward sign** of an **inward commitment**  
It's a sign that our **Spiritual Need** is *greater* than our **Physical Need**

### **It's a sign to God (& to us)**

that we're willing to **sacrifice** our **Physical** needs  
in order to **focus** completely on our **Spiritual** Needs

**Fasting** is a sign that we're willing to **crucify** our flesh  
in order to be **devoted** to our spiritual needs – (*make sense?*)

& **Fasting** is often connected to times of **Mourning** & **Brokenness**  
& to **Crying out** to God in Great **NEED**

& so the people start – with **FASTING**

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**Next**, they dressed in **Burlap** (Sackcloth)

This was also a classic **sign** of **Repentance** & **Mourning**

**Sackcloth** is very **coarse** cloth – made from **goats hair**  
& **worn** next to the **skin** or tied around the waist

it was **designed** to be *uncomfortable*

& it symbolized **Humility** & **Brokenness** & **Mourning**

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Next - **Dust** – which (in this use) is **synonymous** with **ASHES**  
was **commonly** used IN times of **Deep Repentance** & **Mourning**

**People** would put **dust** or **ashes** on their heads  
to symbolize the **lowest** & **most humble** position before God

it was a picture of **deserving judgment** (ashes)  
or being at the **lowest place possible** (dust of the earth)

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You know - **So often** we see Christians  
in **great need** of **Repentance** & **Brokenness** before God

but **instead** they try to go **toe-to-toe** with God  
& **demand answers** from Him

Or they try to **force God** to do things their way  
**As if** God could be **FORCED** – by our **WILL**

**Contrary** to that *False Teaching* . . .

The **FIRST MARK of True Revival** – is a clear sign  
that we understand our **RIGHT position** before God

that we are LOW - & He is HIGH  
that we are HUMBLLED - & He is EXALTED  
that we are REPENTANT - & Deserving of His Judgment

THAT is the First Mark of True REVIVAL

Alan Redpath says: "God only plants the seed of His life in a soil which has been broken up by repentance."

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Next - In V.2 - we see the people make a SERIOUS Commitment  
AND begin to confess their sins – Which is Part of Repentance

Nehemiah 9:2 - NLT

***2 Those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners as they confessed their own sins and the sins of their ancestors.***

This 'Separation from all foreigners' goes back to the command  
God gave Israel before entering the Promised Land

& it is the same as the NT command in 2Cor 6:14  
for Believers not to be Unequally Yoked

Meaning we are not to be "BOUND TO" or "PARTNERED"  
with unbelievers

& so they separated themselves from Foreigners - *& notice this*  
they confessed their own sins AND the sins of their ancestors

To Confess means "*To Agree with God*"

& so here the people are Agreeing with God about their own sin,  
& the sins of their ancestors

**Confession** is a **critical part** of our **Repentance** & **Brokenness**

Because it is our **PRIDE** that prevents us  
from **AGREEING** with God about our Sin

& **PRIDE** will always be the **number one thing**  
that **separates** us from God

**Confession** ALSO **means** to agree with God  
about **WHO** HE is & **WHAT** He's done

& we're **going to see** a **TON** of that **type of confession** in a minute

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& so - **Repentance** – **Humility** – & **Confession** of sin  
is **ALWAYS** the starting point of **True REVIVAL**

**NEXT** – we get an idea of **how COMMITTED**  
the people were to this Revival

**Remember** – These people have **ALREADY been**  
**Responding** to God's Word - & **Worshipping** God – for **3 WEEKS**

Now – in **V's.3-4** – we get a **An Overview** – of what happened  
on this **DAY AFTER** the *Feast of Tabernacles*

**Nehemiah 9:3 – NLT** → →

## Nehemiah 9:3 - NLT

***3 They remained standing in place for three hours while the Book of the Law of the LORD their God was read aloud to them. Then for three more hours they confessed their sins and worshiped the LORD their God.***

Like we saw in Ch 8 – this is a summary statement of all that happened that day

## This was A 6 HOUR EVENT

**3 Hrs of the public reading of God's Word - &  
3 Hrs of Confession & Worshipping God**

& while, in today's culture, a 6 hour church service would be considered a HOSTAGE SITUATION . . .

**Besides the 6 HOUR part – if you think about it  
We follow the same basic format in Worship Services today**

## Our Worship Service is basically split in HALF

**HALF the Proclaiming of God's Word - &  
HALF Worshipping God & Confession of Sin**

## So – at the core of what we do here each Sunday

it's basically the same as Nehemiah's Worship Service over 400 years Before Christ – & ***that is Very Cool***

& **then** - even what we see in V.4  
we hope you see here in our services

**Nehemiah 9:4 – NLT**

***4 The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Kenani—stood on the stairway of the Levites and cried out to the LORD their God with loud voices.***

**These Levites stood on a Raised platform  
& Cried out to the Lord with Loud Voices**

**Proclaiming God's Word**

& **encouraging** the people in **Worship & Confession**

& **that's exactly** what we do here – we just **have the convenience**  
of an **incredible Sound Team** to help us w/ - the "Loud Voices" part

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Alright – **NOW** - Remember I said that **CONFESSION** also means  
to **agree with God** about **WHO** He is - & **WHAT HE's** done?

Well – that takes us to - the **SECOND Mark** of True Revival  
**Remembering God's Goodness**

& to begin this 2<sup>nd</sup> MARK - in Vs. 5 – we see again  
**exactly** what we call **this congregation** to  
at the **beginning** of every single **service**

When we say "***Let's stand up & Praise the Lord – For He ALONE is Worthy to be Praised – So LET'S PRAISE HIM . . .***"

**When we** do that – It's **not** **Motivational Hype**  
It is a Scriptural **CALL TO WORSHIP**

& it's **exactly** what we see in **V.5**



**Nehemiah 9:5 - NLT**

***5 Then the leaders of the Levites—Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah—called out to the people: “Stand up and praise the LORD your God, for he lives from everlasting to everlasting!” Then they prayed: “May your glorious name be praised! May it be exalted above all blessing and praise!***

**THAT is Exactly what we call you to – & Exactly what we Pray - EVERY Single Sunday at the beginning of the Service**

***Let’s stand up & PRAISE the LORD – Because of WHO He IS - & WHAT HE’s done***

***& we pray – “Lord, may your Glorious Name be praised, & may it be exalted above ALL ELSE”***

**Right ?? Haven’t you heard me say almost those EXACT words??**

So next time you hear me **start** the service like that  
Just KNOW - - that is very scriptural

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Alright – Now - starting in V.6 – we have very probably the LONGEST Public Prayer in the OT

But before we dive in - I need to point out a couple things

**One** – Notice that God’s People SEE themselves as “One Body” which is just what the **NT** teaches

They realize that the sins of their ancestors Affect them  
& that their current sins Affect ALL of God’s People

& we really need to understand this more today

In **General** – Christians **don't really see** their actions as **Negatively Affecting** the Church Body

But **what we see here** is just the **Opposite**

God's people **recognize** – the **sins of others** Affect **them** & **their sins** Affect **God's People** as a **WHOLE**

So – **look for that** lesson here

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The **SECOND THING** critical to notice in this prayer is that it comes **straight out of SCRIPTURE**

**Much** of this prayer actually **quotes scripture** & it is **ALL** (at the very least) - a **paraphrase** of scripture

**One Ref book** said **EVERY LINE** of this prayer could be **footnoted** with **References** to other Bible Verses – **EVERY LINE**

**Which brings up** a very **interesting point**

**Very seldom** are Christians actually **TAUGHT** to pray

& **most of us** assume that **prayer** is just **ASKING God** for what we **WANT** – & hoping for the best

But **Jas 4:3** says – **ESV**

***3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.***

**On the other hand – 1Jn 5:14** says

**1Jn 5:14 – ESV**

***14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.***

& **IF** we are praying **GOD’S WORD** - IN correct **CONTEXT**  
then we will be **praying according** to God’s **will**

And **praying According** to God’s Will – is **the basis**  
of **Effective** - & **Answered** - Prayer

We’ve **GOT** to **LEARN** to pray **“Accordance to God’s Will”**

& the **sure fire way** to do that  
is to ***“Pray His Own Word, Back to Him”***

& if you **want to learn** how to ***Pray God’s Word*** –  
**I’m** going to be **teaching** that at **My** Discipleship **Table** today

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& Remember now – the **2nd Mark of Revival** is  
**Remembering God’s Goodness**

& **that** is the actual **PURPOSE** of this prayer

& if will **follow me** thru this prayer  
& **stay focused** & **attentive** to the **Holy Spirit**

You will **see truths** & **lessons** in this prayer  
that **SPECIFICALLY Apply** to your life – ***so stay with me, OK?***

The **prayer** starts – **where** all prayers of **Confession** & **Adoration**  
**should** start – by **acknowledging** God’s **rightful place** in creation  
**Nehemiah 9:6 - NLT**

**6 “You alone are the LORD. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you.**

**AMEN – THAT is a GREAT way to start EVERY PRAYER**

And **then** we go to the **beginning** of **God’s Covenant** with His people

**Nehemiah 9:7-8 - NLT**

**7 “You are the LORD God, who chose Abram and brought him from Ur of the Chaldeans and renamed him Abraham.**

**8 When he had proved himself faithful (by believing), you made a covenant with him to give him and his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Girgashites. And you have done what you promised, for you are always true to your word.**

& **then** the prayer goes to **God’s deliverance** of His people from **Egypt** – which is a **picture** of our deliverance from **sin**

**Nehemiah 9:9–12 - NLT**

**9 “You saw the misery of our ancestors in Egypt, and you heard their cries from beside the Red Sea.**

**10 You displayed miraculous signs and wonders against Pharaoh, his officials, and all his people, for you knew how arrogantly they were treating our ancestors. You have a glorious reputation that has never been forgotten.**

**11 You divided the sea for your people so they could walk through on dry land! And then you hurled their enemies into the depths of the sea. They sank like stones beneath the mighty waters.**

**12 You led our ancestors by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night so that they could find their way.**

& then the prayer goes to the giving of the LAW  
which shows us our need for Christ

**AND** we also see the Manna from Heaven  
& the Water from the Rock – both pictures of Christ

**Nehemiah 9:13–15 - NLT**

**13 “You came down at Mount Sinai and spoke to them from heaven. You gave them regulations and instructions that were just, and decrees and commands that were good.**

**14 You instructed them concerning your holy Sabbath. And you commanded them, through Moses your servant, to obey all your commands, decrees, and instructions.**

**15 “You gave them bread from heaven when they were hungry and water from the rock when they were thirsty. You commanded them to go and take possession of the land you had sworn to give them.**

Next we see - the Stubborn sin nature of MAN

& the Unconditional MERCY & LOVE of GOD - -  
WHILE His people wandered in the Wilderness

which still today – accurately pictures  
where some of us are at with God

**Nehemiah 9:16–21 - NLT**

**16 “But our ancestors were proud and stubborn, and they paid no attention to your commands.**

**17 They refused to obey and did not remember the miracles you had done for them. Instead, they became stubborn and appointed a leader to take them back to their slavery in Egypt! But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love. You did not abandon them,**

**18 even when they made an idol shaped like a calf and said, ‘This is your god who brought you out of Egypt!’ They committed terrible blasphemies.**

**19 “But in your great mercy you did not abandon them to die in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud still led them forward by day, and the pillar of fire showed them the way through the night.**

**20 You sent your good Spirit to instruct them, and you did not stop giving them manna from heaven or water for their thirst.**

**21 For forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell!**

But **then** – when the next Generation **DID BELIEVE**

God **took them** into the **Promised Land**  
& **gave** them incredible **VICTORY**

**Another** critical Lesson **for many** of us today

### **Nehemiah 9:22–25 - NLT**

**22 “Then you helped our ancestors conquer kingdoms and nations, and you placed your people in every corner of the land. They took over the land of King Sihon of Heshbon and the land of King Og of Bashan.**

**23 You made their descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and brought them into the land you had promised to their ancestors.**

**24 “They went in and took possession of the land. You subdued whole nations before them. Even the Canaanites, who inhabited the land, were powerless! Your people could deal with these nations and their kings as they pleased.**

**25 Our ancestors captured fortified cities and fertile land. They took over houses full of good things, with cisterns already dug and vineyards and olive groves and fruit trees in abundance. So**

***they ate until they were full and grew fat and enjoyed themselves in all your blessings.***

What **incredible blessings** from God !!

You would think after **ALL** that **VICTORY**  
the people of **God** would **serve the Lord** all their days

but the **SIN** Nature is **Strong** - & it is **Stubborn**

**& so - watch this cycle of**

God **saving** His people

Then them **turning** from Him in Rebellion

& experiencing the **consequences** of their sin

& then God **saving** them again in His Mercy

**Nehemiah 9:26–28 - NLT**

***26 “But despite all this, they were disobedient and rebelled against you. They turned their backs on your Law, they killed your prophets who warned them to return to you, and they committed terrible blasphemies.***

***27 So you handed them over to their enemies, who made them suffer. But in their time of trouble they cried to you, and you heard them from heaven. In your great mercy, you sent them liberators who rescued them from their enemies.***

***28 “But as soon as they were at peace, your people again committed evil in your sight, and once more you let their enemies conquer them. Yet whenever your people turned and cried to you again for help, you listened once more from heaven. In your wonderful mercy, you rescued them many times!***

**Really , Honestly – How many of our lives  
does that **perfectly describe??****

& so the people continue to Rebel against God  
& God continues to give Grace & Mercy, instead of Judgment

**Nehemiah 9:29–31 - NLT**

***29 “You warned them to return to your Law, but they became proud and obstinate and disobeyed your commands. They did not follow your regulations, by which people will find life if only they obey. They stubbornly turned their backs on you and refused to listen.***

***30 In your love, you were patient with them for many years. You sent your Spirit, who warned them through the prophets. But still they wouldn’t listen! So once again you allowed the peoples of the land to conquer them.***

***31 But in your great mercy, you did not destroy them completely or abandon them forever. What a gracious and merciful God you are!***

Many people think the God of the OT was the harsh judge  
& He somehow became the God of Love in the NT

But God never changes - & what the OT really shows is

the incredible Grace & Mercy of God  
in response to the incredibly stubborn SIN of His people

But the real point here is – The SECOND MARK of True Revival is  
Remembering God’s Goodness

& that’s exactly what this prayer is doing

It’s Remembering God’s Goodness  
Even in response to our Rebellion

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We are generally so busy ASKING God for what we want next

that we seldom take the time to Remember

His Incredible Goodness toward us – over our entire Lives

& I can assure you – Rehearsing God's Goodness

IS FAR MORE Valuable

than trying to DEMAND that He give us

the next thing we WANT

So Please – take the time to CONFESS to God

His Goodness in your life

Remember His Grace & Mercy toward you

when you really deserved nothing but His Judgment

& then Confess His Goodness - BACK to Him

Tell Him How GOOD HE's been to you

& how little you've deserved it

That is a Very Powerful Part of REVIVAL . . .

*of being RESTORED to a JOYFUL & RIGHT Relationship with God*

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The FIRST MARK of True Revival is

Repentance & Brokenness

The SECOND MARK of True Revival is

Remembering God's Goodness

& now – starting in V.32

we see the **THIRD MARK of True Revival**  
**Recognizing our True Condition**

This **Public Prayer** now turns to Acknowledge  
the **Honest Condition** that **SIN** has **put** God's People in

**Nehemiah 9:32–37 - NLT**

***32 “And now, our God, the great and mighty and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of unfailing love, do not let all the hardships we have suffered seem insignificant to you. Great trouble has come upon us and upon our kings and leaders and priests and prophets and ancestors—all of your people—from the days when the kings of Assyria first triumphed over us until now.***

***33 Every time you punished us you were being just. We have sinned greatly, and you gave us only what we deserved.***

***33 Our kings, leaders, priests, and ancestors did not obey your Law or listen to the warnings in your commands and laws.***

***35 Even while they had their own kingdom, they did not serve you, though you showered your goodness on them. You gave them a large, fertile land, but they refused to turn from their wickedness.***

***36 “So now today we are slaves in the land of plenty that you gave our ancestors for their enjoyment! We are slaves here in this good land.***

***37 The lush produce of this land piles up in the hands of the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They have power over us and our livestock. We serve them at their pleasure, and we are in great misery.”***

Remember – **Jerusalem** is still under – **PERSIAN RULE**  
God's people are still **SERVANTS** of the **King** of **PERSIA**

& it is **so important**  
that we **Recognize our True Condition** before God

We think we're all that – but often we are just **SLAVES**  
in this ***Good Land that God has given us***

**Slaves** to our **Self-Centered, Material Driven World,**  
**Slaves** to our **LUSTS** - **Slaves** to our **SIN**

We have Demanded that **SELF** be our **LORD**  
& **God** has allowed us the **consequences** of Serving **Lord SELF**

& so the **THIRD MARK** of True Revival  
is to **Recognize our True Condition** before God

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& so now we've seen **THREE MARKS** (signs) of **True Revival**;

- 1) **Repentance & Brokenness**
- 2) **Remembering God's Goodness**
- 3) **Recognizing our True Condition**

& **Finally** – in **Vs 38** - & **into Ch 10**  
we see the **FOURTH MARK of True Revival**

The **FOURTH MARK** of True Revival is  
**Renewing our Obedience**

We are going to **Primarily Save** this **Final Mark** for **Next Week**

**But** to **see** the **Big Picture** – Let's just **read** a few **Vs's**

**Nehemiah 9:38 - NLT**

***38 The people responded, "In view of all this, we are making a solemn promise and putting it in writing . . .***

**Nehemiah 10:29(B) [last sentence] - NLT**

***29 . . . They solemnly promised to carefully follow all the commands, regulations, and decrees of the LORD our Lord:***

& then **FOUR Specific Commitments** to Obey God in **CH 10**

**Nehemiah 10:30 - NLT**

***30 We promise not to . . . let our daughters marry the pagan people of the land, and not to let our sons marry their daughters.***

**Nehemiah 10:32 - NLT**

***32 In addition, we promise to . . . obey the command to pay the annual Temple tax of one-eighth of an ounce of silver for the care of the Temple of our God.***

**Nehemiah 10:35 - NLT**

***35 We promise to . . . bring the first part of every harvest to the LORD's Temple year after year—whether it be a crop from the soil or from our fruit trees.***

& the End of **Nehemiah 10:39 - NLT**

***39 . . . We promise together not to . . . neglect the Temple of our God.***

The **FOURTH MARK** of **True Revival** is

**Renewing our Obedience**

But Now – **stopping here** leaves me with a **Dilemma**

I am **afraid** there may be **SOME – WHO** . . . **Knowing** that we **might** be talking about **Obedience** Next Week

**might** already be **planning** to be **sick**, **busy**, or otherwise **indisposed**

So – If you are not here next week  
I might just call you, & hunt you down

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This CH is WONDERFUL Overview  
of FOUR MARKS of True Revival in the people of God

& Remember – REVIVAL is

RESTORING believers to a Joyful & Right relationship with God

& Every Single One of Us – Needs that

We all need to:

Return to Repentance & Brokenness

Take time to Remember God's Goodness

RE-Recognize our True Condition before God

& Renew our Obedience to the Lord

& so please - take some time this week

& really Meditate on these FOUR MARKS of True Revival

Because if you will bring

these FOUR MARKS of Revival into your Life

God will REVIVE YOU

*He will RENEW you, & RESTORE you*

*to a JOYFUL & RIGHT Relationship with Him*

YOU HAVE HIS WORD ON IT !!!

Let's Pray