

Lesson 7, NEHEMIAH 9 & 10

The Hebrews of the restored Jerusalem had just completed celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles where they commemorated God's provision of freeing them from slavery in Egypt and providing for them in their wilderness journey. They remembered and praised God and lived in community. This can equate to our being freed from the slavery of sin and God providing for us when we wandered from Him. During this time, the people were soaked in the Word of God. Chapter 9 marks the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur.

1. Read Nehemiah 9:1-5. What is the attitude of the people? Why do you think they are mourning? What is the solution for their sadness? Ephesians 5:26, John 17:17 James 1:21. What is the role of the Holy Spirit according to John 16:7-11?

2. Read the rest of chapter 9 which is the longest prayer in the Bible. As you read, imagine the people gathered in mourning over the past sins of their country and their forefathers. Ray Stedman says, "You will always be encouraged and strengthened when you pause to remember what God has done for you in the past." With that in mind, what are the attributes of God they record in these verses: 6, 8b, 17b, 19a,21,23,27b,28b,31,32a, 33?

3. Nehemiah 9:36 is stating the issues of these current Israelites. What is it? The Hebrews were slaves and in great distress. Looking at our country, what are we slaves to and what is our great distress? What do these verses encourage you to do about our nation?

4. The conditions of the people cause them to make a covenant with God. What are the promises the people made to God in Chapter 10? What promises do you think we should commit to God for our church? For our country?

5. In Nehemiah 10:29, we read the people “bound themselves with a curse and an oath”? What do you think that means? How does this relate to Galatians 3:13-14? The ancient Hebrews failed at achieving their commitment. According to Philippians 4:13, how is it different from what we can achieve as our Christian commitment?

Application: Studying the Word of God brings us face to face with the holiness of God which in turn exposes our sins. If the Holy Spirit convicts you of a sin in your life, it is gentle and loving. The Lord God convicts so that we can be set free. Write down a prayer of thanksgiving for the revelation of any sin and know Philippians 4:13 applies to you.

Prayer: Ever loving Father, full of love and compassion, we praise you that you forgive our sins but refuse to let us stay in our sin. You provide us with the Holy Spirit that gives us strength and courage to rid our lives of those things that hamper us. Thank you that your Son was given to be the curse that each of us deserves. We will forever worship and adore you as we strive to build your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. In the matchless name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.