

# Nehemiah 9

Fear God

## I. Revival: Getting Serious

**Rut:** Coffin with both ends kicked out. Dead.  
**Revive:** Make alive, Save, Quicken, and Recover

1 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were **assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads.**

- **First: Deny self...**

1. **Fasting:** Denying pleasure of food
2. **Sackcloth:** Denying the pleasure of comfortable clothes
3. **Dust on heads:** Denying the pleasure of a bath

**Shutting up the shouts of our flesh to be able to hear the voice of the Spirit**

**People are proving they are serious by action**

**James 1:7** [Don't doubt/be wishy-washy when you come to God] ...let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

**If you are really serious about doing business w/ God He will do business with you**

- **First :** Deny the flesh
- **Next:** Deal with sin...

2 Then those of **Israelite lineage separated** themselves from all foreigners; and they **stood and confessed their sins** and the iniquities of their fathers. 3 And they **stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God** for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the Lord their God.

- **Dealing with Sin:**

1. **Separate from world:** Sex, drugs, idolatry, ungodliness, money, stuff

**1 John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

**James 4:4** [Can't serve God and world at same time] You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?...

- **Separate yourself from** whatever is between you and a Holy God. **Hurt a little.**

**Hebrews 12:1...** let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which **so easily ensnares us,**

and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who **for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- **Serious about dealing with sin?**

1. **First...**Separate/disengage from things of the world. Repent
2. **Next: Confess of sin**

**...they stood and confessed their sins**

**1 John 1:9** If we **confess our sins** [agree with God], He is faithful and just to **forgive us** our sins and to **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.

- **Forgiven/Cleansed:** Ready for revival
- **Revival:** Begins with one. Draw circle around yourself, start w/ the one in the circle

**We don't read Scripture/listen to the Word to fix other people...**

**Matthew 6:3** And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! **First remove the plank from your own eye**, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- Stirring up excitement **is not** the beginning of revival
- Self-Introspection **is** the beginning of revival...

Perhaps we imagine that if we could only *get up a* revival, we should easily secure large additions to the church? Is it worthwhile to *get up a* revival? Are not all true *revivals to be got down?* [Spurgeon] [I must decrease and He must increase]

[Tent Revivals?] Revivals, if they are genuine, do not always come the moment we whistle for them. Try and whistle for the wind, and **see if it will come.** [Spurgeon]

...in reference to his **experience of revivals**, that the real success, he always found, was in **inverse proportion to the excitement**; that is to say, that the more permanent the revival was the **less of noise there was about it**, and the more there was of mere carnal stir, the less there was of God and his grace. [McDonald]

- **This is a true revival...**

1. Separation from sin
2. Confession of sin
3. **Excitement of freedom from our sin...**

4 Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood on the stairs of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to the Lord their God. 5 And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said: **"Stand up and bless the Lord your God Forever and ever! "Blessed be Your glorious name, Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!**

- **Worship Leaders:** Levites lead the people in praising God

**“Stand up and bless the Lord your God Forever and ever!**

**“Blessed be Your glorious name, Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!**

**6 You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven,** The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

- **You alone are God:** One God
- **You alone are Creator:**
  1. You made the Heavens
  2. You made the Angels
  3. You made the Earth
- **You are the Preserver/Sustainer of all You created:**
  1. Keep earth spinning in space
  2. Keep our lungs breathing/heart beating while we sleep
  3. **Keep sea in its place...**

**Job 38:8** “Or who **shut in the sea with doors**, When it burst forth and issued from the womb; 9 When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; 10 When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; 11 When I said, ‘This far you may come, **but no farther**, And here your **proud waves must stop!**”

4. Keeps man from destroying Himself; Restrainer till Tribulation
5. **Keeps/Preserves/Sustains believers for Heaven...**

**Jude 1:1** ... To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and **preserved in Jesus Christ...**24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to **present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy...

**You are worthy of worship!**  
**Judgment awaits those who deny God as Creator**

**Romans 1:18** ...the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness, 19 because what **may be known of God** is manifest [made known] in them, for **God has shown it to them**. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are **clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools

- **Judgments in Book of Revelation:** Denying God as **Creator**
- **Lukewarm Church:** Embrace *Theistic Evolution*: 6 days actually millions years

**Revelation 3:14** [Laodiceans/Lukewarm Church] ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning [Source] of the **creation of God**: 15 “I know your works,

that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, **because you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

- **Tribulation:** Last chance for the world to embrace obvious; i.e. **God as Creator...**

**Revelation 14:7** [Angel preaching Gospel] ...saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and **worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.**"

**Creation is reason enough to worship God  
You alone are to be worshiped. You made Heaven**

- **Prayer/Praise continue..**

**7 "You are the Lord God**, Who chose Abram, And brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, And gave him the name Abraham; 8 You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give the land of the Canaanites, The Hittites, the Amorites, The Perizzites, the Jebusites, And the Girgashites— To give it to his descendants. You have performed Your words, For You are righteous. 9 "You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, And heard their cry by the Red Sea. 10 You showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, Against all his servants, And against all the people of his land. For You knew that they acted proudly against them. So You made a name for Yourself, as it is this day. 11 And You divided the sea before them, So that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; And their persecutors You threw into the deep, As a stone into the mighty waters. 12 Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road Which they should travel. 13 "You came down also on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven, And gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments. 14 You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, And commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, By the hand of Moses Your servant. 15 You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, And brought them water out of the rock for their thirst, And told them to go in to possess the land Which You had sworn to give them.

- **History of God's promises delivered...**

1. Delivered Abram from idolatry and promised him Land of Milk and Honey
2. Raised up Your servant Moses and delivered your people from enemies
3. Guided Your people through wilderness and gave them Your law

**16 "But they and our fathers acted proudly, Hardened their necks,** And **did not heed** Your commandments. 17 They **refused to obey**, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion. They **appointed a leader** To return to their bondage.

- **History of promises taken for granted: But they...**

1. **Became Prideful:** Taking the glory for what God had done
2. **Hardening necks/Refusal to Obey:** Fought God's leading
3. **Not mindful:** Purposely forgot God's answered prayers
4. **Appointed a leader of rebellion**

**Numbers 14:3** Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"  
4 So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." [Korah Ch.16?]

**17...But You are God,** Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them. 18 "Even when they made a molded calf for themselves, And said, 'This is your god That brought you up out of Egypt,' And **worked great provocations**

- **Who God really is...**

1. Ready to pardon
2. Ready to show grace
3. Ready to show mercy

**Even when they provoked you/ Even when they dared you to forsake them?**

**19 Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them** in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, To lead them on the road; Nor the pillar of fire by night, To show them light, And the way they should go. 20 You also gave **Your good Spirit to instruct them,** And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst. 21 Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell.

- **Even after the Golden Calf...Finger to the sky in rebellion**

1. You did not forsake them
  2. Continued to lead them
  3. Continued to reveal more Light
  4. Holy Spirit instructed them...patient with them
  5. Fed them with honey wafers from the sky
  6. Provided water from rock. Jesus the bread of Life and Living Water
  7. Clothed and shoes lasted 40 years [Gilligan's Island?]
- Manifested your Manifold [Abundant/multiplied] mercies
  - You wooed Your people with kindness...hoping for repentance

**22 "Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations,** And divided them into districts. So they took possession of the land of Sihon, The land of the king of Heshbon, And the land of Og king of Bashan. 23 You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, And brought them into the land Which

You had told their fathers To go in and possess. 24 So the people went in And possessed the land; You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, The Canaanites, And gave them into their hands, With their kings And the people of the land, That they might do with them as they wished. 25 And they took strong cities and a rich land, And possessed houses full of all goods, Cisterns already dug, vineyards, olive groves, And fruit trees in abundance.

- **Fulfilled Your promise of a good land for your people...**

1. Victory over Your enemies
2. Land for Your people
3. Provisions for our families

**25...So they ate and were filled and grew fat, And delighted themselves in Your great goodness.**

- **Grew fat...**and purposely forgot God's deliverance...

**26 "Nevertheless they were disobedient** And rebelled against You, Cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations. 27 Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven; And according to Your **abundant [manifold]mercies** You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies. 28 "But after they had rest, They again did evil before You. Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, So that they had dominion over them; Yet when they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; And many times You delivered them according to Your mercies, 29 And testified against them, That You might bring them back to Your law. Yet they acted proudly, And did not heed Your commandments, But sinned against Your judgments, 'Which if a man does, he shall live by them.' And they shrugged their shoulders, Stiffened their necks, And would not hear. 30 Yet for many years You had patience with them, And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

- **Nevertheless;** i.e. In spite of your goodness

1. **People were disobedient/Rebelled**
2. **Cast Your Law "behind their backs"** [as if that changes the consequences]
3. **Killed those sent by God to lead them**
4. **Provoked God:** Presumptuous sin; "What are You going to do about it?"

### **Taking God's Goodness for granted**

- **Cycle for God's people in Book of Judges**

1. Israel turns from God to serves idols
2. God turns Israel over to their enemies
3. Israel turns to God and cries for help
4. God raises up a deliverer

**Familiar? Rebellion, Hard Discipline; Repentance, Deliverance/Refreshing**

- **God not mocked...**God delivered us to enemies. **Not forever...**

**31 Nevertheless in Your great mercy** You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You are God, gracious and merciful. 32 "Now therefore, our God, The great, the mighty, and awesome God, Who keeps covenant and mercy: **Do not let all the trouble seem small before You** That has come upon us, Our kings and our princes, Our priests and our prophets, Our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria until this day.

- **Prayer to a God's mercy:** Entitlement/Rights not in view.
  1. **Mercy:** Not getting what I deserve; **God's wrath**
  2. **Grace:** Getting what I don't deserve; **God's favor**

**Don't let all my trouble seem small before You...**

**"Lord, In the midst of keeping the universe going...  
Work in my marriage, my health, my job, my kids..."**

- **Prayer for God's Mercy...**

**33 However You are just** in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly. 34 Neither our kings nor our princes, Our priests nor our fathers, Have kept Your law, Nor heeded Your commandments and Your testimonies, With which You testified against them. 35 For they have not served You in their kingdom, Or in the many good things that You gave them, Or in the large and rich land which You set before them; Nor did they turn from their wicked works.

**We deserved to be Judged for the past and don't deserve anything now  
Whatever you decide to do with us will be right... We leave our lives in your hands**

**36 "Here we are, servants today!** And the land that You gave to our fathers, To **eat its fruit and its bounty**, Here we are, servants in it! 37 And it yields much increase to the **kings You have set over us**, Because of our sins; Also they have dominion over our bodies and our cattle At their pleasure; **And we are in great distress.**

- **Honest with a God who already knows...**

**Hebrews 4:13** ...there is no creature hidden from His sight, **but all things are naked and**

**open to the eyes of Him** to whom we must give account.

1. Here we are and we deserve nothing
2. Here we are and we have nothing...**nothing but our lives so...**

38 "And because of all this, **We make a sure covenant and write it;** Our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it."

**Nehemiah 10:29** ...a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes...

- **Promises, promises:**

**Our promises are useless without God's grace and mercy to catch us  
We are not the Promise Keepers...He is**