

“A History of Progress” Nehemiah

9:6-38

A new year many people look back at the past to see the good and the bad. This is what is happening in Nehemiah in preparation for the future.

We have messed up, but God has stayed with us. God has done great things for us before and He will do them again. There is a great record of God doing what He said he would do even though we have acted disobediently.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Looking back: A history of God's promises, power, faithfulness, prosperity, and mercy. Also, a history of our confession and repentance.

1. A HISTORY OF GOD'S PROMISES – ABRAHAM (VERSES 6-8)

- i. *2 Peter 1:3–4 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*
- ii. *Hebrews 6:13–20 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.*
- iii. “God never made a promise that was too good to be true” – DL Moody
- iv. “I believe the promises of God enough to venture an eternity on them” – Isaac Watts

2. A HISTORY OF GOD'S POWER – MOSES (VERSES 9-15)

- A. From the exodus, through the wilderness, to mount Sinai, God's power was clearly seen.
- B. The power was seen in the signs and wonders and in the giving of the word of God.

- i. *Acts 14:3* So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.
- ii. *1 Thessalonians 1:5* because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction....

3. A HISTORY OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS – WILDERNESS WANDERING (VERSES 16-21)

- i. *Isaiah 49:14–16* But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.” 15 “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. 16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

4. A HISTORY OF GOD'S PROSPERITY – PROMISED LAND. (VERSES 22-25)

- i. *James 1:17* Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

5. A HISTORY OF GOD'S MERCY – JUDGES (VERSES 26-31)

A. God never gets tired of forgiving and restoring.

- i. *Matthew 18:21–22* Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.
- i. *Luke 15:22–24* ²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.
- ii. “Compassion will cure more sins than condemnation.” - Henry Ward Beecher

2. A HISTORY OF OUR CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

A. We've done wrong, we are paying the price, but you are merciful and can deliver us again! (Verses 32-38)

- i. *Isaiah 55:7* let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon
- ii. No matter how many steps away, it's only one step back.