

NEHEMIAH

**REBUILDING
DURING
COVID**



The most important question you will ever answer is...

What will I do with Jesus?

How I answer the previous question will affect how I respond to these questions...

What will I do with my free time?

Who will I spend my life with?

Not taking a day off! Ne. 13:15-16

In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food. 16 Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself!



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Genesis 1:31;2:1-2

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.



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Why do the Jewish people refuse to rest?

Rejecting God's example of enjoyment Gen. 1:31;2:1-2

Exodus 31:12-17

And the Lord said to Moses, “You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.’”



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Exodus 31:12-17

Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.”



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Why do the Jewish people refuse to rest?

Rejecting God's example of enjoyment Gen. 1:31;2:1-2

Unwillingness to be different from the other nations Ex. 31:12-13

Lack of dependence upon Him to provide Ex. 31:17

Why do I refuse to rest in God's rhythm?

How do I respond to the concept of a Sabbath? As a gift or as a burden?

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When is the last time I sat still and waited in silence to listen to God's voice to speak?

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How does my concept of who God is keep me from resting weekly to enjoy what He has given to me?

Who shall I spend my life with? Ne. 13:23

In those days also I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people. And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, “You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.



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Deuteronomy 7:2-5 Why not intermarry?

You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, ***for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods.*** Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.



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Who will I spend my life with?

Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?"



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Examining myself in this area....

- When was the last time I asked Jesus for wisdom in how to deal with marital issues and to lead my children in whom to marry?
- Where is Jesus in my communication with other people especially with those who are close?
- What is keeping my life from shouting out the power of God's salvation through me?

Examining how my culture seeks to...

- Prioritize personal happiness from my perspective at whatever cost
- Promote sexual morality separate from other convictions in my life
- Plan self-destructive habits that hurt others and the next generation

Ne. 13:28-31

And one of the sons of Jehoiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite. Therefore I chased him from me. Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.



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Nehemiah 13:28-31

Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.



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