

Together Again

Nehemiah 10

Re-building is a RE-SETTING

The temple on its foundation – Ezra

The Stones upon each other for the wall – Nehemiah

The people upon the Word of God – GOD

Jesus and those who do it I will liken to a wise man

No horoscopes, palm readers, phycologist

Read Nehemiah 10:1 & 28-29

- Civic Leaders, Levites, Priests – names go on for a while (1-27) (84 names)
 - 6 of them are named with the readers with Ezra
 - A few were directly over portions of the wall project
 - Others from earlier lists in Nehemiah, as well as far back in Ezra's project
- The less familiar or new names are either those who branched out or are recent arrivals

For what purpose have they gathered together...

For the purpose of publicly renewing themselves together with God on a personal level.

A sure covenant and personal seal:

Contract with no loopholes (Covenants are not negotiated)

Curse and Oath – Because God takes it seriously, so will they.

Deut. 11 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known."

Sealed it... the weight of the pen.

Like a contract that you commit to, you sign it. It is sealed with your legally binding mark (name). Watching your dad or grandfather, when he signed your family's name that means your family was now in this covenant, which means you are now in this covenant.

Like the signers of the declaration

When signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776

Benjamin Franklin made the statement, "We must all hang together or we will all hang separately,"

From oldest to youngest there was a unified commitment

"When God's people align themselves with God's Word they enjoy God's blessings."

Side Note: we are under the NEW COVENANT. We get to learn a lot today.
The **practices** may not be 100% applicable, but the **principles** are.

1 Peter 4:18-19 Now *“If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”* Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Even the demons believe and tremble...

(29c) THE LORD our Lord

The LORD: Jehovah, existing one
our Lord: display of reverence and acknowledgment of position.

No more living in two worlds
No more living a split personality

Comfort or Covenant

The Laodicean Church I wish that you were either hot or cold...

THE LORD our Lord

If it matters to God, then it matters to me.

Welllllll, what is it that is sacred to God? Does not matter... as I grow in my relationship with the Lord, as my faith increases all the more day by day, ***as I turn the page and discover more about God and what is important to Him I have already decided... whatever is on the next page, if it is important to my Lord is important to me.***

Abraham – Circumcision

Moses – Sabbaths

Jesus – The Cup

Mosaic Covenant had three aspects [1. Law/Rules, 2. Sacrificial System (priests, temple sacrifices etc.), 3. the choice. Blessing or cursing – If you obey, I will bless.

Which was given by Moses

To observe

To do

- **Commandments/Law:** Things God is telling you to do (613)
- **Ordinances:** Prohibitions – things that are to be done away with
- **Statutes:** Application, how to do the rules... keep the sabbath, how?

BASICALLY – THEY ARE ALL IN!

God does not need to renew His covenant with us... it is we who need to return and commit again our ways to Him.

The LORD our Lord

In the weeks of Bible reading and explaining they would have heard Lev. 20

Leviticus 20:26 ‘And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.

No more living a split personality - No more living in two worlds.

3 primary issues that seem to be paramount to the people of Nehemiah's day.
Human nature does not change... very real challenges in our day as well.

1. Intimacy
2. Industry
3. Income

(30) Arranged marriages...

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 “Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. “For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.

- Exodus 34:12-16
- Malachi 2:10-16
- Ezra dealt with this in chapters 9-10
- Nehemiah will enforce this in 13

NOT RACIAL BUT RELIGIOUS

Idol worshipping pagans (it was more obvious then) **What church do you go to?**

The social and economic ladder to climb (like kingdoms getting married)

What does the kingdom of light have to do with the kingdom of darkness

Like taking ½ of one puzzle and ½ of another puzzle, expecting them to fit and work.

2 Corinthians 6:12-16

Do not be unequally yoked (A horse or an ox, multiple horses or a team of oxen, but not a horse and an ox). Different way of doing things.)

Sex and things of a sexual nature belong within the confines of marriage.

Fire... awesome in a ring, destructive in the forest.

Attraction vs. Reaction – *know how to possess your own vessel... in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust like the gentiles who do not know God; (1 Thess. 4:4-6)*

(Nehemiah 10:31)

The sabbath was sacred TO GOD! – and so, as the pages turn, what is important to God is important to me.

Exodus 20

Leviticus 23:3 Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work *on it*; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

Comparatively speaking... *The Israelites, being a small religious community in a larger world of heathens who did not hold the sabbath law, it became more and more difficult to keep.* (Treasure Valley Sunday restaurants)

No sales on sabbath

Loss of profit – The Sabbath is an issue of faith and priorities. (Fear)

What if you have less money and more joy? Smaller house and better family?

Sabbath Year – Leviticus 25:5-7

forego the seventh year's produce and the exacting of every debt.

The practices may not be 100% applicable but the principles are.

(32-39) **God and God's work was no longer a side item or afterthought**

First Fruits – you still have 90%

Last Portions – you have to give up 100% of what you have left

It's not important to me... we'll it's important to God (Will you rob Me?)

Made ordinances for ourselves

Hebrews 12:1b 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
(What slows your soul down?)

Carried wood... was not an eternal flame that mysteriously and continuously burned.
That thing had to be fueled every day!!!

If God impressed on your heart to be involved, "wood" you do it?

AND WE WILL NOT NEGLECT THE HOUSE OF OUR GOD.

If you want to be part of a church that;

A place to gather
TV's to learn Scripture
Bibles to send
Resources to help the hurting
Missionaries to support and fulfil the great commission
Pastors to teach and able to visit hospitals
Counseling the heavy-hearted or cloudy-minded
Outreaches to be put on,
Stuff for kids to learn Christ, etc.

AND WE WILL NOT NEGLECT THE HOUSE OF OUR GOD.

Godliness opens the heart and the wallet

The house of our GOD!

- Not pastors house
- Not leaders house
- Not worshipers house
- Not congregations house

Unified humility, intentional observance, and purposeful obedience.

They just got the ***family photo album*** and fresh on their minds was how good God actually is and how tragic a turn life takes when we are not near Him.

It bound them to the service of God but in doing so it also untied them to each other.

Spiritual beliefs were going to be lived out in practical ways

The strongest walk with God is not one of extravagant experiences but constant surrender and agreement with our heavenly Father. (How's your walk?)

It's fascinating what people will hold BACK from God. – knights getting baptized.

HOT OR COLD

Abraham – Circumcision

Moses – Sabbaths

Jesus – The Cup (THE NEW COVENANT)

To walk in the covenant promises of God was to refuse the voice and style of the world from breaking into your sabbath rest.

Now, under the new covenant that came not by bulls and rams but by the blood of Jesus. The sabbath of a past is now for us fulfilled in Christ, but are we then giving Christ His place, and not permitting our greed for gain or our lust after earth's pleasant things to break in upon that Sabbath rest we should ever enjoy in Him?

OT: Nothing was to get between you and the Sabbath day of Rest

NT: Jesus is our Sabbath, nothing is to get between life with and in Him.

BACK TOGETHER AGAIN – WITH GOD