



NEHEMIAH: *Chapters 9-10*

Week 6 | Casey Sheffield

Renewed Hearts.

I. THE PEPOLE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD (v. 9:1-3a)

A. Disregard of God's Word (v.1-3a)

- When we disregard God's Word our view of everything is skewed because
- If His word is disregarded then we don't even know what the standard for our life is.
- Don't disregard God's word. Know it, apply it, live by it.

B. Delight in God's Word (v.1-3a)

- We have seen all throughout history when God's people read His Word, remembered it, revered it, recited it and remained faithful to it they were blessed, favored, free and they experienced abundant life.
- But we also have seen throughout history that when God's people refused to read His Word, failed to remember it, neglected to revere it, refused to recite it, and rebelled against it, they were cursed, forsaken, taken captive and marked by spiritual decline.
- It is imperative that we treasure God's Word. We, like the Israelites must read His word, know what it says and live by it. God's word keeps our hearts and minds in check. It helps us to live and think rightly. It shows us how to live lives that honor the Lord.

Psalms 119:11 (CSB) says: *"I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you."*

II. THE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THEIR SIN (9:1-38)

God's people didn't simply acknowledge that they had sinned. They recognized their sin and took responsibility for it.

A. They Realized what they had done (v.1-4)

- One Source says: *"The people were confronted with their sin and overwhelmed by God's faithfulness toward them despite their unfaithfulness. Nehemiah 9 tells us that the people stood and listened to the book of the Law for many hours. As they listened, they were reminded of the history of God's people. They recognized their ancestors' sinful patterns of unfaithfulness to God's covenant, and [the fact that] God was always faithful. The people heard that, amid their rebellion, God always called them back."* (The Gospel Project)

a. It was evident in their actions (v. 1)

- They mourned in their fasting
- They separated themselves from the ungodly

b. It was evident in the attitude of their heart (v. 1)

- They confessed their sins (v.2)

Confession vs. Repentance*:

- **Confession** of sin is acknowledging our specific sins before a holy God and agreeing with the Lord about our sin.
Repentance of sin is changing our heart and mind and actively turning away from sin to follow the Lord.
- **Confession** answers the question, *"What did I do?"* by naming the sin and taking personal responsibility without making excuses.
Repentance answers the question, *"What will I do now?"* by changing our hearts, our behavior, and habits where sin is concerned.
- **Confession** looks backward at sin to seek forgiveness and clear your guilt.
Repentance looks forward with a committed step away from sin toward transformation.

**Adapted from various sources*

- They remained in the presence of The Lord (v. 3)
- They listened to and received instruction from His Word (v.3)
 - Repentance isn't just a turning away from something—sin and self, it is a turning back toward someone—The Lord and His Word.
 - Psalm 119:9 (ESV) says: *“How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word”*

c. It was evident in their adoration of The Lord

- They worshipped the Lord
 - Anytime God's word is read it should result in worship
 - When God's people gathered for the reading of His Word they not only realized their sin but the reading of His Word revealed God Himself to His people and as a result they worshipped.

B. They Remembered what they needed to (v.5-38)

a. Who God is—a faithful God (v.17)

b. Who they are—an unfaithful people (v. 26-27)

- While the Lord always remained faithful His people continually rebelled and turned their back on Him.

c. What He has done—kept His covenant (v. 7-8, 32-33)

d. What they have done—broke God's covenant (v. 34-35)

III. THE PEOPLE RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT TO OBEY (10:1-39)

A. They agree to obey the covenant (v. 1-27)

a. The covenant was sealed

- The political leaders
- The spiritual leaders (Priest and Levites)
- The community leaders

b. The community was supportive (v.28-29)

- Individuals
- Families

B. They accept the obligations of the covenant (v. 29-39)

a. Promises they make:

- Remain separated (v. 30)
 - Marry godly people (v. 30)
 - PURPOSE: To Remain Consecrated—to be set-apart from other nations
- Honor the Sabbath (v. 31)
 - Sabbath Day (Exodus 20:8–11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15)- 7th day of the week, day of rest for the God's people
 - Sabbatical Year (Leviticus 25)- 7th year, year of rest for the God's land
 - PURPOSE: To Rest and Remember—who God is and what He has done for His people
- Take care of the Temple (v. 32-34)
 - Pay the Temple tax to provide for the offerings
 - Carrying wood to be burned on the altar
 - PURPOSE: To Ready the Temple—by providing everything necessary for the work of the Lord
- Dedication of firstfruits (v. 35-37)
 - Give the first and best to the Lord- harvest (Exodus 23:19, 34:26, Deuteronomy 26:2), firstborn sons (Numbers 18:15) and animals (Exodus 13:12, Numbers 18:15-17)
 - PURPOSE: To Recognize—where their blessings have come from and give back to the Lord a portion of what He has given

WEEK 6

NEHEMIAH:

Chapters 9 & 10

STAND UP AND PRAISE THE LORD YOUR GOD,
FOR HE LIVES FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING!

Nehemiah 9:5 NLT



Day One

NEHEMIAH 9

Nehemiah 1:1-5



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah 9:1-5

Write down any key verse(s):

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- Who is the author and who is the author writing about?

- Are there any repeated words or phrases?

- What is the main idea/what is happening in the text?

- What happened before the people confessed?

- What was the result of their confession (what was their confession paired with)?

Write down what you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character?

- What does this passage teach about man and how does it apply to my life today?

- Are there any areas in my life that this text particularly applies to? If so, how?

- What is God speaking to me after reading this passage of Scripture?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture?

Write down anything the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from today's reading?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend a few moments in prayer before the Lord. As you do, take inventory—is there any sin in your life you need to confess before the Lord? If so, do that now. Don't forget to also worship the Lord for who He is!

If there was a verse from the passage that spoke to you, pray that verse back to the Lord. Ask Him to specifically recall to your heart and mind anything you just read that He wants to teach you. Write anything He reveals to you below:



Day Two

NEHEMIAH 9

Nehemiah 9:6-38



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah 9:6-38

Write down any verse(s) that stood out to you after reading Nehemiah 9:6-38:

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- What do the people declare in the very first sentence of their prayer?

- What are God's people praying (*hint: what are they recounting*)?

- Do you see any patterns concerning God or the people in their prayer?

- Why is what they are praying significant? Why do you think it has been recorded in God's Word?

- What was the result of Israel's disobedience and disregard for God's laws?

- What does this text teach about sin and/or righteousness?

Write down what you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character (There is SO MUCH in this text!)?

- What does this passage teach about man and how does it apply to my life today? There are several things to consider: Think particularly about how the people reacted in times of blessing, why they did or did not obey the Lord, the consequences they faced, why they faced them, etc..

- Are there any areas in your life that this text particularly applies to? If so, how?

- What is God speaking to me after reading this passage of Scripture?

- How does this passage call me to turn from sinful or wrong actions?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture?

Write down anything the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from today's reading of Chapter 9?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend a few moments in prayer before the Lord. Think back over your life, particularly since your salvation. Praise Him for all He has done in your life: the ways He has proven Himself faithful, how He has provided for you, pursued you when you've rebelled, forgiven you when you have sinned against Him, etc.

If there was a verse from the passage that spoke to you, pray that verse back to the Lord. Ask Him to specifically recall to your heart and mind anything you just read that He wants to teach you. Write anything He reveals to you below:



Day Three

NEHEMIAH 10

Nehemiah 10:1-29



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah 10:1-29

Write down any key verse(s) that speak to you:

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- Who is the author and who is the author writing about?

- Are there any repeated words or phrases?

- What is the main idea/what is happening in the text?

- Who is involved in the story?

- Do you notice anything interesting or noteworthy about the rest of the people mentioned in v.28? If so, what do you notice?

Write down anything else you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character?

- What does this passage teach about man and how does it apply to my life today?

- Are there any areas in my life that this text particularly applies to? If so, how?

- What is God speaking to me after reading this passage of Scripture?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture?

Write down anything the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from today's reading?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend a few moments in prayer before the Lord. If there was a verse from the passage that spoke to you, pray that verse back to the Lord. Ask Him to specifically recall to your heart and mind anything you just read that He wants to teach you. Write anything He reveals to you below:



Day Four

NEHEMIAH 10

Nehemiah 10:30-39



GROUNDWORK |

PRAY | *Begin your time of study with prayer.*

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study God's Word.

READ | *Read the following text for your time of study.*

Nehemiah 10:30-39

Write down any key verse(s) that speak to you:

OBSERVE | *Observe what the passage says.*

Some questions to consider as you make observations are—

- Who is speaking in the text?

- Are there any repeated words or phrases or ideas?

- What is the main idea/what is happening in the text?

- What do the people promise?

- What do the promises mean/why are these promises significant?

Write down what you observe from the text:

APPLY | *Apply it to your life.*

Some questions to consider as you make applications are—

- What does this passage teach us about God or His character?

- What does this passage teach about man and how does it apply to my life today?

- Are there any areas in my life that this text particularly applies to? If so, how?

- What is God speaking to me after reading this passage of Scripture?

- What changes do I need to make after reading this passage of Scripture (Think: Are there any commands of the Lord you have not been obeying)?

Write down anything the Lord reveals to you from the truth of His Word:



BUILDING BLOCK |

What is the one truth you want to remember from Chapter 10?



FIRM FOUNDATION |

Spend a few moments in prayer before the Lord. Ask Him to specifically recall to your heart and mind anything you have read this week that He wants you to hide in your heart. Write anything He reveals to you below:
