



Great Prayers

OF THE BIBLE



Nehemiah 9:1-6, 32-37 p.404-406

YOU ARE A
FORGIVING GOD











Nehemiah 1-6

On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads. Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners.

They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the Lord their God.



Nehemiah 1-6

Standing on the stairs of the Levites were Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani and Kenani.

They cried out with loud voices to the Lord their God. And the Levites—Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah—said:



Nehemiah 1-6

“Stand up and praise the Lord your God,
who is from everlasting to everlasting.”

“Blessed be your glorious name, and may it
be exalted above all blessing and praise.
You alone are the Lord. You made the
heavens, even the highest heavens, and all
their starry host, the earth and all that is on
it, the seas and all that is in them. You give
life to everything, and the multitudes of
heaven worship you.



God's
judgment

God's
mercy

Israel's
sin

Israel's
repentance

Blessing

Repeat

4

Characteristics

of this

Prayer

1

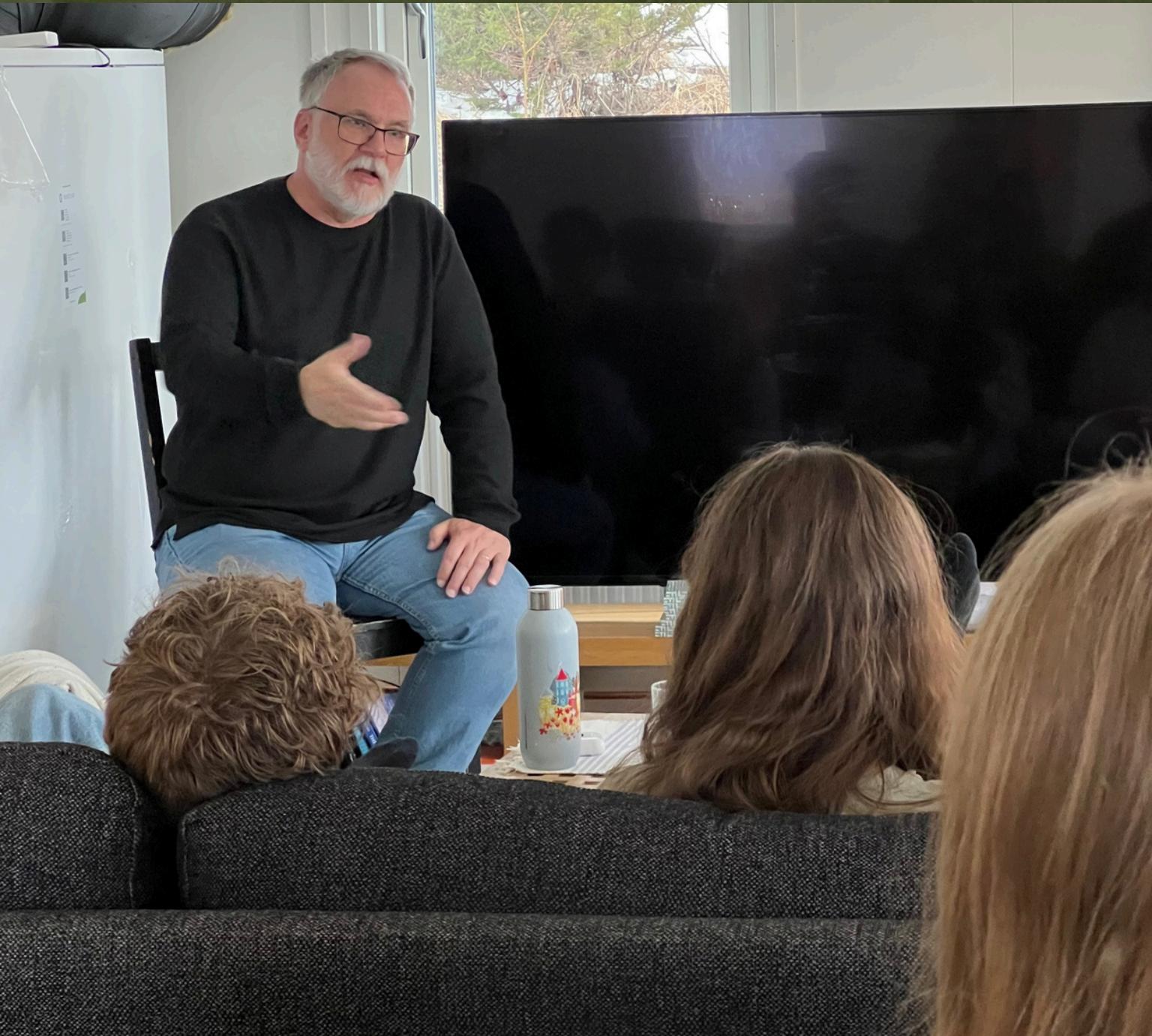
The
BIG PICTURE
of *History*

History lessons as reminders
of God's love and care:

- Psalm 78
- Psalm 105–106
- Habakkuk 2
- Acts 7

Religious holidays as
reminders of God's grace
in the people's history:

- Passover
- Feast of Trumpets
- Feast of Tabernacles
- Purim



People who ask why God
allows suffering have not
understood the depth of
their own sin.

John Piper

2

Biblical Language and Meditation

Biblical language and meditation:

- Nehemiah 9:6 - Moses
- Nehemiah 9:6 - Hezekiah
- Nehemiah 9:6,10 - Jeremiah
- Nehemiah 9:10, 17 - Daniel
- Nehemiah 9:27 - Solomon
- Nehemiah 9:31 - David
- Nehemiah 9:8 - Ezra

3

Focus on God

Focus on God:

- God alone is Lord and is creator, 9:6
- God chose and led Abraham, 9:7
- God witnessed the sufferings of his people, 9:9
- God made a name for himself through the miracles of exodus, 9:10–11
- God spoke at Sinai, 9:13
- God provided food and water, 9:15



Focus on God:

- God gave his spirit so the people were taught by the prophets, 9:20, 30
- God gave the people the land, 9:22
- God blessed the people, 9:23
- God warned them again and again when they become arrogant, 9:29
- God doesn't wipe them out, but shows mercy, 9:31

4

Sin
is the source of their
BROKEN RELATIONSHIP
with *God*

Nehemiah 9:32-37

“Now therefore, our God, the great God, mighty and awesome, who keeps his covenant of love, do not let all this hardship seem trifling in your eyes—the hardship that has come on us, on our kings and leaders, on our priests and prophets, on our ancestors and all your people, from the days of the kings of Assyria until today.

In all that has happened to us, you have remained righteous; you have acted faithfully, while we acted wickedly.



Nehemiah 9:32-37

Our kings, our leaders, our priests and our ancestors did not follow your law; they did not pay attention to your commands or the statutes you warned them to keep.

Even while they were in their kingdom, enjoying your great goodness to them in the spacious and fertile land you gave them, they did not serve you or turn from their evil ways.



Nehemiah 9:32-37

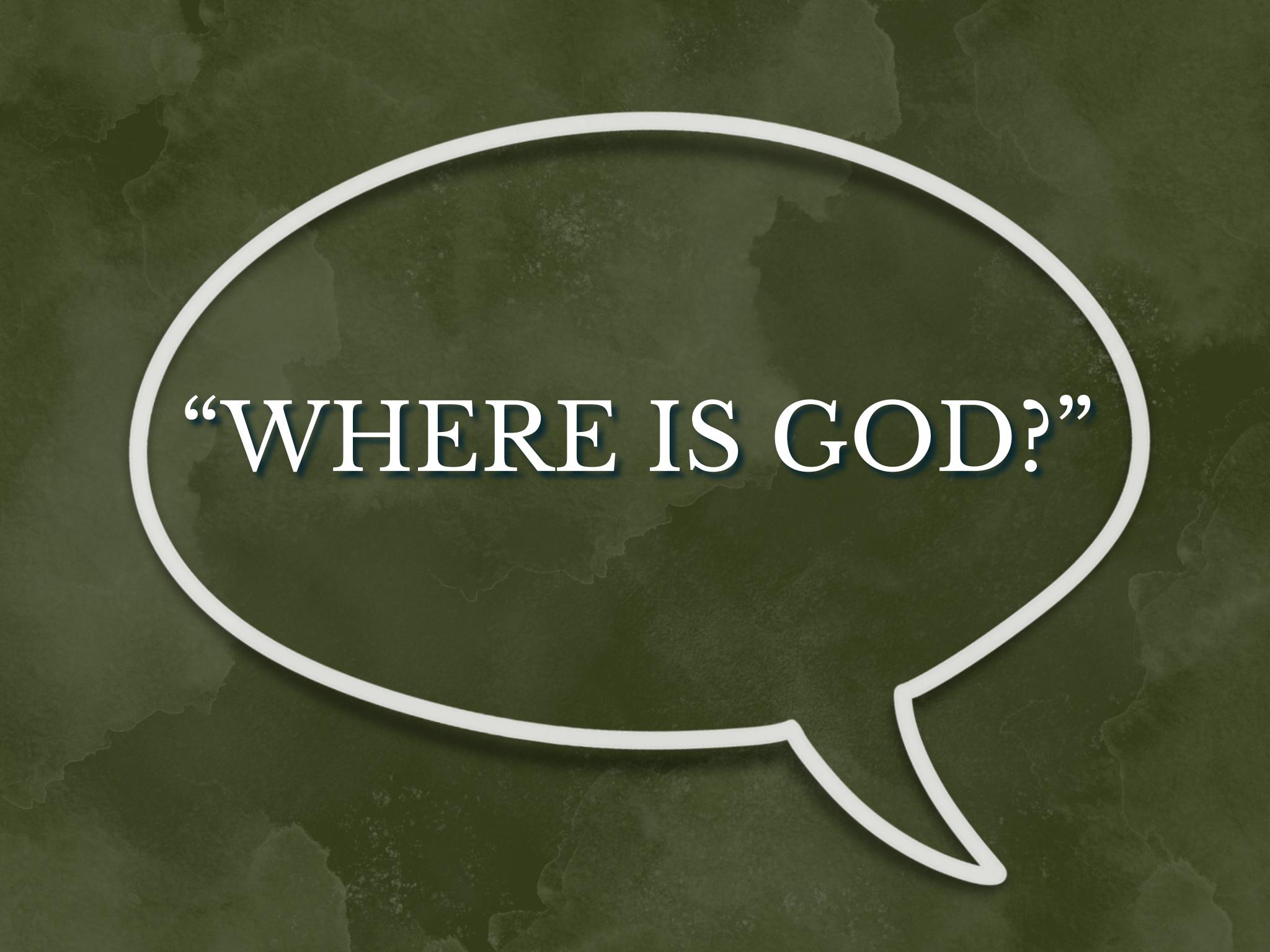
“But see, we are slaves today, slaves in the land you gave our ancestors so they could eat its fruit and the other good things it produces.

Because of our sins, its abundant harvest goes to the kings you have placed over us. They rule over our bodies and our cattle as they please. We are in great distress.









“WHERE IS GOD?”



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Nehemiah 9:1-6, 32-37

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