

## **Nehemiah (God is Faithful)**

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### **Nehemiah 10**

*28 "The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, 29 join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord and his rules and his statutes. 38 "Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.*

- At the end of Nehemiah chapter 9, the people decided to make a covenant with God. Generally, a **covenant** is an agreement between two or more parties to perform certain actions.

This specific covenant was to:

1. Being faithful to God in their romantic relationships (v. 30).
  2. Being faithful to God in their business practices (v. 31).
  3. Being faithful to God through supporting the ministry (v. 32-39).
- Many of us have done a similar thing. We probably didn't pray "God, curse me if I disobey You." But many of us have prayed prayers like, "Lord, whatever it takes I want to follow You." That is essentially praying the same thing, and that is a good prayer.

**Hosea 10:12** *Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.*

- We have a new covenant with Jesus: that God will forgive sin and restore fellowship with those who put their faith in Jesus and follow Him as their Lord. This is possible through Jesus' mediating for us through His death on the cross and bodily resurrection from the dead.

### **Luke 22:14-23**

*14 And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.*

21 *But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. 22 For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!*" 23 *And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.*

Cf. **Romans 6:14-15; Hebrews 7:22; 8:6**

**Regardless of how unfaithful people may be, God will never be unfaithful to His covenant promises.**

**Nehemiah 11 is a roster of those living in Jerusalem and in Judea, and Jewish villages and towns throughout Judea.**

### **Nehemiah 12**

27 *And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. 28 And the sons of the singers gathered together from the district surrounding Jerusalem...*

- The Levites had many responsibilities in the life and worship of Israel, but one of the most important jobs that they had was to lead the people in songs of worship and praise to God.

30 *And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall.*

- They could not effectively lead the people in worship of God unless they walked in purity before the Lord.

**2 Timothy 2:13** *if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.*

### Discipleship Homework:

Even though Israel continues to show they will not be faithful, God desires to be in covenant relationship with His people. Healthy relationships and covenant-keeping are matters of the heart. The heart is not a reference here to the actual organ, but core of who we are where our emotions and desires dwell. Take some time and look deeply into your heart with God's help.

- What are the deep issues that need God's healing?
- What are the broken relationships that need restored?
- What/who do we need to do to help make it happen?

Pray for God's heart desire to be yours:

**Jeremiah 31:33** *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

Cf. **Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26-27; Hebrews 8:10; 2 Corinthians 3:3, 16-18**