

Nehemiah 9

Review & Intro

- Ch 7 began the 2nd half of the book: 1st ½ concerns the rebuilding of the wall, 2nd ½ rebuilding the people
 - They finished the wall (ch 6) & 7 the doors. Assignments are made for porters, singers, Levites, etc.
- Ch 8 after the people request that Ezra read & teach them from the Law, they discover instructions for booths
 - 8:17 says kept for the 1st time since Joshua & did so w/gladness. Ever been to a Bible conference?

1. Ch 9

Summary: Much of this chapter is, by most, considered a prayer to God. The people confess their sins & those of their fathers, they set themselves apart (sanctify) from foreigners, they stand & listen to the reading of the law for 3 hrs, then spend the next 3 confessing & worshipping God. Verses 5-38 seem to be a prayer - & assuming that is the case, it would be 1 of the longest prayers in scripture.

Vs 1 – 24th day of the month (we keep getting references to specific days)

- 1st was feast of trumpets, 10th day of Atonement, 14th (thru 22nd) feast of tabernacles
- Now they assemble & put on sackcloth: coarse material worn in mourning or distress. Normally of black goat's hair. It was usually worn next to the skin as a band or a kilt tied around the waist.
 - Job 16 Job says he sewed it on his skin to signify his perpetual state of distress & mourning
 - **Ps 30:11** really epitomizes it
 - Interesting that in ch 8 (9-10) people told not to mourn or weep b/c it was a holy day, but now is the time to mourn – demonstrates Ecc 3 – men, don't show up to your wedding in mourning

Vs 2-3 –

- confess = acknowledge **Ps 32:5** (note the use of tenses – acknowledged, I will confess, forgavest
 - the “*I said, I will*” shows he is saying this about the past as reflected with acknowledged
 - demonstrates that confess & acknowledge are linked & define each other
 - you can sign a confession, right! A spoken confession is 1 type
 - **Acts 24:14** – Paul confesses/acknowledges he worships according to the resurrection
- ¼ part of the day (3hrs) listening to the law then 3hrs confessing & worshipping
- Reference to Sin & iniquity – are they completely different or a distinction w/o a difference – both
 - Sin def “*missing the mark*”,
 - iniquity often associated w/idolatry – but not exclusively **1 Kg 17:18**
 - Bullinger - a course of bad conduct flowing from the evil desires

Vs 5 – begins the prayer – “*blessed be thy*”

- History of God's work & Israel's iniquity/sin/rebellion – see vs 33
- Vs 6 creation, 7-8 call of Abraham, 9-14 the exodus, 15-23 in the wilderness, 24-25 conquering the land, 26-29 the period of the judges, 30-31 period of the prophets till the captivity, 32 bring to the time of Ezra
 - Note that there is no mention that their return to the land fulfilled the prophets – still future

Vs 6 – “*heaven of heavens*” fig of speech for emphasis – used only 5x (1 is repeating another vs)

- Great to consider God as creator. Consider His majesty b/c of witnessing His created works
 - **Size:** From the bacteria/micro-organisms in our gut that regulate our immune system
 - To planets, solar-systems, galaxies
 - **Complexity:** DNA, the brain,
 - Note that there is no mention that their return to the land fulfilled the prophets – still future

Vs 8 – not a complete list – Gen 15:18-21

Vs 10 – “*get thee a name*” a reason for what God did to Egypt - **Ex 9:16, Is 63:12-14, Jer 32:16-20, Rom 9:17**

Vs 17 – not a reference to events of the calf & vs 18. Tied to **Num 14:4** which says the same (*cf. 1-20*)

Vs 19 – light – remembering a past event, but that event had the future in mind – a type of Christ

- Zechariah’s prophecy about the Messiah **Lk 1:67-80** – note 71, 74, 79
- Jn 8:12 – “*I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness*”

Vs 20 – “*gave thy spirit to instruct them*” proof that H.S. had a ministry of teaching before Pentecost

- *Cf. Num 11:16-17, 25 – vs 29 makes it clear this is the H.S.*
 - Extra credit homework – go study Isa 63:11 (putting His H.S. within him)

Vs 22 – Sihon [SIGH hun] – King of Amorites.

- Moses asked Sihon to let the Israelites pass peacefully through his kingdom, located east of the Jordan River. Sihon refused and later attacked the Israelites at Jahaz. Sihon and his army were killed in the battle that followed. (Num 21:21-32) His territory was given to the tribes of Gad and Reuben (Num 32:33). Sihon’s defeat is mentioned often in the Old Testament (Deu 1:4; Jos 2:10; Psa 135:11; Jer 48:45).

Vs 23 – original promise to Abraham Gen 22:17, Isaac 26:4, passed to *Jacob Gen 27:29, 32:29*

- Jacob likely received this blessing as when wrestling with God – note the name Israel used **Ex 32:13**
- God did fulfill this prophecy **Deut 1:10, 10:22** but because of judgement became few **Deut 28:62**

Vs 24 – “*thou subduedst*” Moses called The Lord “*a man of war*” **Ex 15:13**

Vs 25 – often they moved into the Canaanites’ undamaged homes and cities & enjoyed crops & wells for which they did not have to work

Vs 26-29 – period of the Judges

- 26-27 - *Cf. Hosea 13:6*
 - God warned Moses of this & commanded a song written to witness against them **Deut 31:16-22**
 - Song Deut 32:1-43

Vs 30-31 – period of the prophets until the captivity of Assyria & Babylon

- 31 – “*nor forsake them*” – 3rd mention in this chapter – verses 17 & 19 being the others

Vs 32-38 – “*now therefore*” brings us to the time of Ezra & Nehemiah

- 33-35 – an example of confession/acknowledging sin - for nobody could be expected to list every sin
 - *Cf. Lev 16:21, Dan 9:20, Neh 1:6-7*
- 36 – “*we are servants this day*” of Persian empire instead of whom they should be Lev 25:55
- 37 – the people are having to pay tax on the produce of the land which God had originally gifted to them
- 38 – they make a covenant with God – destined to fail b/c it imposes on people what they can not accomplish. God promises in the New Covenant that He will give them a new heart & empower them. Pentecost was a foretaste of this.