

NEHEMIAH

“Chapter 10: A Visionary Agreement”

May 22, 2016

GOD’S PEOPLE SIGN A BINDING AGREEMENT (9:38-10:29)

“In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it.” Those who sealed it were: Nehemiah the governor, 38 church leaders, and 44 community and family leaders. The rest of the people... together with their wives and all their sons and daughters who are able to understand - all these now join their fellow Israelites the nobles, bind themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the Lord our Lord.” Nehemiah 9:38-10:29

GOD’S PEOPLE SIGN A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT (10:30-39)

“We promise not to give our daughters in marriage to the peoples around us or take their daughters for our sons. When the neighboring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on any holy day. Every seventh year we will forgo working the land and will cancel all debts. We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give a third of a shekel each year for the service of the house of our God: for the bread set out on the table; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, at the New Moon feasts and at the appointed festivals; for the holy offerings; for sin offerings to make atonement for Israel; and for all the duties of the house of our God. We - the priests, the Levites and the people - have cast lots to determine when each of our families is to bring to the house of our God at set times each year a contribution of wood to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the Law. We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the Lord each year the first-fruits of our crops and of every fruit tree. As it is also written in the Law, we will bring the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks to the house of our God, to the priests ministering there. Moreover, we will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God, to the priests, the first of our ground meal, of our grain offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and of our new wine and olive oil. And we will bring a tithe of our crops to the Levites, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all the towns where we work... The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine and olive oil to the storerooms, where the articles for the sanctuary and for the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the musicians are also kept. We will not neglect the house of our God.” Nehemiah 10:30-39

They pledge to guard the _____ of their relational world.
pu·ri·ty – freedom from contamination.

They pledge to maintain _____ in their work world.
in·teg·ri·ty - the quality of moral uprightness.

They pledge to pursue _____ in their social world.
char·i·ty - the voluntary giving of help to those in need.

They pledge to support the _____ of their worship world.
vi·bran·cy - the quality of having great life, activity, and energy.

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The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings... Hebrews 10:19-23

GOD'S PEOPLE SIGN A VISIONARY AGREEMENT (9:7-10)

"You are the Lord God, who chose Abraham... You found his heart faithful to you, and you made a covenant with him to give to his descendants the land... You have kept your promise because you are righteous... You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day. Nehemiah 9:7-10

God was inviting them to _____ relationship and _____ partnership.

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