

NEHEMIAH

“Chapter 9: Remembering and Refocusing”

May 15, 2016

PRAISE OF GOD’S PERSON (9:1-8)

The Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads... 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. The Levites... cried out with loud voices to the Lord their God, and said: “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. “You are the Lord God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him 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. Nehemiah 9:1-8

They praise God’s Nature – He is _____; they praise God’s Uniqueness – He has no _____; they praise God’s Power – He is the _____; they praise God’s Character – He is _____.

REMEMBRANCE OF THE PAST: GOD’S FAITHFULNESS AND OUR FAILURES (9:9-31)

“YOU saw the suffering of our ancestors... You sent signs and wonders... You led them... You came down... You gave them regulations and laws that are just and right, and decrees and commands that are good... You gave them bread... BUT THEY became arrogant and stiff-necked... they did not obey your commands... they refused to listen... they failed to remember... BUT YOU are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them... Nehemiah 9:9-31

My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes. Job 42:5-6

I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” Isaiah 6:1-5

God’s Initial Faithfulness: God _____ them to Himself, _____ them from bondage, and _____ His Words to them.

The People’s Failure: They arrogantly _____ God’s words, _____ God’s miracles, _____ God’s leadership.

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The People’s Failure: They arrogantly _____ God’s words, _____ God’s miracles, _____ God’s leadership.

God's Ongoing Faithfulness: God extends _____ to them, shows _____ toward them, and exercises _____ with them.

PETITION FOR THE PRESENT: GOD'S PRESENCE AND PROVISION (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. 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. "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. Nehemiah 9:32-37"

Their hope for their future was in God's _____ and _____ with them.

The Common Cycle of Humanity

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Jeremiah 2:13"

"There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... there is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God... there is no one who does good... there is no fear of God before their eyes." Romans 3:10-18"

The Common Response of God

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David." Isaiah 55:1-3"

"But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood - to be received by faith. Romans 3:21-25"

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