

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 9 - “The People Confess Their Sin – And Pray!!”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

EZRA – BOOK OF RESTORATION; NEHEMIAH – BOOK OF RECONSTRUCTION

Nehemiah 9:1-38 – vs 5-38 is the longest prayer in the Bible!

9:1-3 After the feast the people **assembled** for a great day of national confession. They **separated themselves from the foreigners** in their midst and humbled themselves before **the LORD**. **With fasting** and mourning, **they . . . read** the Scriptures for three hours. Then for three more hours, **they confessed and worshiped**. Confession is the road to revival.

9:4-38 Afterward the **Levites** mentioned in verses 4 and 5 led the people in a great prayer of confession (vv. 6-37) and dedication (v. 38). Some think Ezra led the prayer, although his name is not specifically mentioned. It is one of the longest prayer in the Bible, and its roots go deep into sacred history.

The overriding theme of the prayer is God's faithfulness despite Israel's waywardness.

The prayer can be outlined as follows:

Creation (v. 6);

The call of Abraham and the covenant God made . . . with him (vv. 7, 8);

The exodus from Egypt (vv. 9-12);

The giving of the law at Mount Sinai (vv. 13, 14);

God's miraculous provision during the wilderness journey (v. 15);

Israel's frequent rebellions in the wilderness contrasted with God's unfailing kindness (vv. 16-21);

The conquest of Canaan (vv. 22-25);

The era of the judges (vv. 26-28);

Unheeded warnings and ultimate captivity (vv. 29-31);

An appeal for forgiveness and deliverance from the consequences of the captivity (vv. 32-37);

The people's desire to make a . . . covenant with God (v. 38).

Another way to outline the prayer is **to follow its progress through the books of the Bible:**

vv. 6-8, Genesis;

vv. 9-13, Exodus;

v. 14, Leviticus;

vv. 15-20, Numbers (except v. 18);

vv. 21-23, Numbers and Deuteronomy;

vv. 24, 25, Joshua;

vv. 26-29, Judges;

vv. 30-37, 1 Samuel through 2 Chronicles.

That is biblical praying! Events are seen from God's point of view. His faithfulness is acknowledged throughout, and **mercy** and grace are recognized as the only foundation upon which the nation can stand.

In many ways the last verse (38) is the most significant part of the prayer. **The Jews realized that the problem was with them, not with the Lord, and they determined to do something about it (see chap. 10 for the details of the covenant).** Prayer and confession, important as they are, are no substitutes for obedience.

TIME LINE – BOOKS OF EZRA – (“Bible Hub” online)

537 BC	The Proclamation of Cyrus	Ezra 1
537 BC	The Exiles Return	Ezra 2
535 BC	Temple Work Begins (70 yrs. from 605BC)	Ezra 3
534 BC	Adversaries Hinder Temple Work	Ezra 4
534 BC	Artaxerxes Orders Work Stopped	Ezra 4:17
520 BC	Tattenai's Letter to Darius	Ezra 5
520 BC	Temple Work Resumed by Darius' Decree	Ezra 6
(Books of Haggai & Zechariah occur here)		
515 BC	Completion and Dedication of the Temple	Ezra 6:16
(Book of Esther occurs here)		

BOOK OF ESTHER (about 60 yrs. from 1st return)

483 BC	Queen Vashti Deposed	Esther 1
478 BC	Esther Becomes Queen	Esther 2
478 BC	Mordecai Thwarts a Conspiracy	Esther 2:21
474 BC	Haman Seeks Revenge on the Jews	Esther 3
473 BC	Mordecai Informs Esther of Haman's Plot	Esther 4
473 BC	Esther Prepares a Banquet	Esther 5
473 BC	The King Honors Mordecai	Esther 6
473 BC	Haman Is Hanged	Esther 7
473 BC	Xerxes' Edict on Behalf of Esther & Jews	Esther 8
472 BC	Purim Instituted	Esther 9
472 BC	Xerxes' Tribute to Mordecai	Esther 10
458 BC	Ezra to Jerusalem (147 years from 605; 79 years from 1 st return; 57 years from last verse of chapter 6!)	Ezra 7
458 BC	Ezra Commissioned by Artaxerxes	Ezra 7:11
457 BC	Families Return to Jerusalem with Ezra	Ezra 8
457 BC	Ezra's reforms (80 yrs. from 1 st return)	Ezra 9
456 BC	Ezra's Prayer About Intermarriage	Ezra 10

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH (about 100 years from 1st return)

445 BC	Nehemiah's Prayer for the Exiles	Nehemiah 1
444 BC	Artaxerxes Sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem	Nehemiah 2
444 BC	Builders of the Walls Named	Nehemiah 3
444 BC	Builders Overcome Ridicule	Nehemiah 4
444 BC	Nehemiah Abolishes Debt and Bondage	Nehemiah 5
444 BC	Sanballat's Plot	Nehemiah 6
444 BC	Completion of the Wall	Nehemiah 6:15
444 BC	Census of Returned Exiles	Nehemiah 7
444 BC	Ezra Reads the Law	Nehemiah 8
444 BC	Israelites Fast and Repent	Nehemiah 9
444 BC	Israelites Seal the Covenant	Nehemiah 10
444 BC	People Settle in Jerusalem	Neh. 11, 12
432 BC	Nehemiah Restores Laws	Nehemiah 13

Kings of Persia in Ezra-Nehemiah:

Cyrus (539-530-9yrs); Darius I (522-486-36yrs); Xerxes (Ahasueres 485-464-21yrs); Artaxerxes I (464-423-41yrs)

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 9 - "The People Confess Their Sin – And Pray!!"

OBSERVATION

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 9 - The People Confess Their Sin – And Pray!!

Neh 9:1 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads.

Neh 9:2 Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

Neh 9:3 And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth (3 hours) of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.

Neh 9:4 Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood on the stairs of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to the LORD their God.

Neh 9:5 And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said: " Stand up and bless your God Forever and ever! "Blessed be Your glorious name, Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!

Neh 9:6 You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Neh 9:7 "You are the LORD God, Who chose Abram, And brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, And gave him the name Abraham;

Neh 9:8 You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give the land of the Canaanites, The Hittites, the Amorites, The Perizzites, the Jebusites, And the Girgashites—To give it to his descendants. You have performed Your words, For You are righteous.

Neh 9:9 "You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, And heard their cry by the Red Sea.

v. 1 The repentant nation assembles, following the wall's completion and working; after the people had heard and obeyed God's Word; after the Holy Spirit was doing a significant work, now there is a scene of significant and humble repentance.

v. 2 Those who were of the pure genealogy of Israel came forth to confess the sin of their nation. They confessed *their sins and the iniquities of their fathers*.

v. 3 They spent **3 hours, hearing the law being read**, standing; For the next **3 hours, they prostrated themselves, and confessed** their sins. They arose for the **next 3 hours, to praise God for having spared and dealt thus mercifully** with them.

v. 4 The prayer of repentance, which is thought to be the longest prayer recorded in the Bible, - and yet takes only about six and one half minutes to recite. Prayer does not need to be long to be glorious and effective.

vs. 5-6 **Stand up and bless the LORD...**After the encouragement to praise, Looking at the glory of God's creation gives us a reason to praise Him, to humble ourselves before Him, and to trust Him. **...host of heaven worships...**God wants us to praise Him, to humble ourselves before Him, and to trust Him and God gives us plenty of His own reasons.

vs. 7-8 We praise the God who chose Abraham, who and when he was an idolater, and made a covenant with him and his descendants. **You have performed..** Saying to God, "Lord, You promised this land to Abraham and his descendants. Here we are! Your promise is indeed true."

v. 9-15 Praise to the God who delivered Israel from Egypt and provided for them in the wilderness A second sure sign of revival (following brokenness of heart) is *reflection on the goodness of God*. When our pride is cast down, and our hearts humble before God, we can begin to see Him for who He is - and when we see that, we see how good God is!

v. 1 They were keenly aware of the effect of the daily of the word of God – fasting in sackcloth and ashes! They probably as broken at this moment of any time from the captivity of Babylon to the coming of the Messiah!

v. 2 "Separated" is most important to what it separates us unto and not from! Here these people were standing out there for six hours, listening to the word being read and then spending the next six hours in worshipping the Lord. They had drawn close to God, and now He is drawing them even closer! Repentance isn't something we finish after coming to Jesus. It is something that grows as are drawn closer to Jesus.

v. 3 Note the significance of time spent and the order: 3 hours reading the Word; then 3 hours of confession and finally 3 hours in worshipping the LORD their God!

vs. 4-5 **"Stand up and bless your God Forever... Blessed be Your glorious name"**. There is a shift to the first person of God and we have the longest recorded prayer in the Bible!

So they encouraged the people to begin to praise the Lord, to worship the Lord, "to bless the Lord for ever and ever and then declaring the blessedness of God's glorious name!"

v. 6 Do you know how wonderful it is for us to know His name? There is that which is God and there it that which we are not! He is the Creator and He is the sustainer! Jesus Christ holds it all together by tremendous power- much greater than all the atomic explosions at once!

vs. 7-9 They **begun by praising the Lord** and to **acknowledge God**, first, God as the **creator of the universe**. Secondly, they talk of the **faithfulness of God in creating a nation, beginning with Abraham**, to whom God made promises to give the land of Canaan to the seed of Abraham. God has fulfilled that promise. They acknowledge that He is a righteous God.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Neh 9:10 You showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, Against all his servants, And against all the people of his land. For You knew that they acted proudly against them. So You made a name for Yourself, as it is this day.

Neh 9:11 And You divided the sea before them, So that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; And their persecutors You threw into the deep, As a stone into the mighty waters.

Neh 9:12 Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road Which they should travel.

Neh 9:13 "You came down also on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven, And gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments.

Neh 9:14 You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, And commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, By the hand of Moses Your servant.

Neh 9:15 You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, And brought them water out of the rock for their thirst, And told them to go in to possess the land Which You had sworn to give them.

Neh 9:16 "But they and our fathers acted proudly, Hardened their necks, And did not heed Your commandments.

Neh 9:17 They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.

Neh 9:18 "Even when they made a molded calf for themselves, And said, 'This is your god That brought you up out of Egypt,' And worked great provocations,

v. 10 ...showed...Pharaoh.... By inflicting the ten plagues upon them. God displayed His power on Pharaoh, and His goodness to Israel, which reached all over the world, and continued to that day.

v. 11 There is never a doubt anywhere in the Bible that this was deep water, not swamp.

v. 12 Psa 121:5-7 The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand. [6] The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night. [7] The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.

v. 13 Ex. 19-20! Psa 19:7-9 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; [8] The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; [9] The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

v. 14 2-3 million people heard God

v. 15 11 million gallons of water per day! 4,500 tons of manna per day! The logistics of moving and feeding 2 million people in a wilderness desert for 40 years is just unimaginable!

vs. 16-17 The sinful response of man to God's goodness. *But they and our fathers:* This was a terrible response to the great and good works of God on behalf of Israel. God had been so good to Israel, *but they acted proudly.* Our sin is bad enough; but sinning against a God who has treated us so well is far worse. *Hardened their necks . . . refused to obey . . . were not mindful:* When we humbly seek God, and see His goodness, we can't help but notice our own sinfulness. *But You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them:* God's gracious answer to the rebellion of Israel was glorious. *Ready to pardon* is especially wonderful! There is nothing keeping God from pardoning us except our refusal to come to Him through Jesus. *He is ready to pardon*, if we are ready to receive it.

v.18. Even when they made a molded calf for themselves: This was God's gracious response to Israel - even after they made the golden calf and worshipped it, He still did not forsake them. He still provided the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, He still guided them by His spirit, He still fed them and gave them water. Together it all shows not how special Israel was, but how special God is.

v. 10 God demonstrated His awesomeness and greatness in showing signs and wonders against Pharaoh. The Red Sea crossing has been remembered to this day!

v. 11 **Many a time we need a God of the deep sea and not a God of just a swamp!**

v. 12 In the wilderness, the daytime temperatures get up to a hundred and twenty degrees, **God protected them by putting a cloud over them.** At nighttime, which is the preferable time for wilderness travel, **He put a pillar of fire to give them a light at night.**

v. 13 There is nothing wrong with the law of God. My faith in Jesus Christ does not release me from the necessity of seeking to keep the law of God. The Law cannot make me perfect. People make a mistake in seeking to have a righteous standing by keeping the law of God. The Law can't make you righteous. **We are made righteous through our faith in Jesus Christ, apart from the works of the law. The power to keep it is given to me by the Holy Spirit.**

v. 14 Then taking care of the spiritual aspects, you also took care of the physical. God intended the Sabbath to be kept, a day of complete relaxation and rest. Jesus said, "the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath". It is for man, it's for man's benefit.

v. 15 1Co 10:2-4 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, [3] all ate the same spiritual food, [4] and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

vs. 16-17 **God was good. God was faithful.** He gave them the good commandments and fed them and yet they rebelled against Him. They are not seeking to lay any blame or fault upon God for their problems. "We are the ones, our fathers are the ones who failed. God **You were faithful, You were righteous, You kept Your word but we failed.**

v. 18 **Idolatry is probably the greatest of all working of provocations against God! May we remember and be alert to that!**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Neh 9:19 Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, To lead them on the road; Nor the pillar of fire by night, To show them light, And the way they should go.

Neh 9:20 You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst.

Neh 9:21 Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell.

Neh 9:22 "Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations, And divided them into districts. So they took possession of the land of Sihon, The land of the king of Heshbon, And the land of Og king of Bashan.

Neh 9:23 You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, And brought them into the land Which You had told their fathers To go in and possess.

Neh 9:24 So the people went in And possessed the land; You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, The Canaanites, And gave them into their hands, With their kings And the people of the land, That they might do with them as they wished.

Neh 9:25 And they took strong cities and a rich land, And possessed houses full of all goods, Cisterns already dug, vineyards, olive groves, And fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and grew fat, And delighted themselves in Your great goodness.

Neh 9:26 "Nevertheless they were disobedient And rebelled against You, Cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations.

Neh 9:27 Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven; And according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies.

Neh 9:28 "But after they had rest, They again did evil before You. Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, So that they had dominion over them; Yet when they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; And many times You delivered them according to Your mercies,

v. 19 Oh, how patient God is with the sinner! How He somehow holds back His terrible judgment against those people who deserve it so badly. Yet it seems that His patience toward us is even greater, those who have received so much more from Him, but still act like Israel did.

v. 20 He didn't forsake them. He gave them His good spirit to put conviction in their hearts!

v. 21 Deu 8:2-4 And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. [3] So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. [4] Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

v. 22 The cycle began with God showing His goodness to His people. **You gave them kingdoms and nations** and with God's people being blessed.

v. 23 God keeps His covenants! Fulfilling the promise made to Abraham, their number when they came out of Egypt, being upwards of 600,000 men, and brought them into the land, which He had promised to their fathers, that they should go possess it *v. 24 ...children...* Not the fathers, but their children. ...*You subdued...* by Joshua, the general of the armies of Israel.

...*kings...* no less than thirty one kings.

v. 25 ...strong cities... said to be walled up to heaven; ...*fat land;* of a good and fruitful soil, abounding with all good things; ...*possessed houses,* ready built and furnished for them, both with good provisions and good furniture; *delighted themselves...* not in praising the Lord for it, but indulged themselves to luxury.

v. 26 Notwithstanding all these favors and mercies, they were disobedient and rebellious. bestowed upon them, which was great ingratitude, killing the prophets that bore a testimony against them. They provoked the Lord by worshipping false gods of the nations.

v. 27 Then, God brings correction, giving a "wake-up call" to His people. As a result, God's people then turn back to Him.

v. 28 Then, blessed and satisfied, God's people again turn from Him, and the cycle continues.

v. 19 God was faithful, they were unfaithful. There is this acknowledgement of God all the way along you were faithful, you were merciful, you were gracious, you didn't forsake them.

v. 20 The Holy Spirit to instruct that's part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "but the Holy Spirit whom the father will send in my name, he will teach you all things". The Holy Spirit to instruct and you gave your good spirit to instruct them.

v. 21 What complete faithfulness of God for over 40 years to a people who were there because of their unbelief, and were in a constant state of rebellion, **How often does that fit us?**

vs. 22-23 God, You blessed them! You multiplied them! You brought them into the land.

vs. 24-25 They moved into houses that were already furnished. You provided, it was all there, they became fat.

v. 26 Nevertheless, they were disobedient! The theme repeated. God was good, God was faithful, God kept His word; **the people failed, failed miserably. Yet God was merciful, gracious and forgiving.**

v. 27 Oh God, they turned their backs, they had trouble but when they called, You answered! You were faithful still.

vs. 28-29 Over and over and over again God, You spared them! You helped them! You delivered them because of your mercies. **That same God is the God that you and I serve. He is still a merciful God and He is still a gracious God. He is still a pardoning God and a forgiving God. He knows we need it.** How many times we have failed? The enemy often says, "Okay, that's enough. God is tired of you. He's given up on you; he's not interested in you anymore. You shouldn't even call on him again. You had every chance, every opportunity and you just messed up so bad. God doesn't care about you anymore". That's a lie of the enemy. God knows your frame! He knows you but oh how merciful He is! He is gracious, slow to anger! He will pardon when we come and ask for His forgiveness and He will strengthen us.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Neh 9:29 And testified against them, That You might bring them back to Your law. Yet they acted proudly, And did not heed Your commandments, But sinned against Your judgments, 'Which if a man does, he shall live by them.' And they shrugged their shoulders, Stiffened their necks, And would not hear.

Neh 9:30 Yet for many years You had patience with them, And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

Neh 9:31 Nevertheless in Your great mercy You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You are God, gracious and merciful.

Neh 9:32 "Now therefore, our God, The great, the mighty, and awesome God, Who keeps covenant and mercy: Do not let all the trouble seem small before You That has come upon us, Our kings and our princes, Our priests and our prophets, Our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria until this day.

Neh 9:33 However You are just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly.

Neh 9:34 Neither our kings nor our princes, Our priests nor our fathers, Have kept Your law, Nor heeded Your commandments and Your testimonies, With which You testified against them.

Neh 9:35 For they have not served You in their kingdom, Or in the many good things that You gave them, Or in the large and rich land which You set before them; Nor did they turn from their wicked works.

Neh 9:36 "Here we are, servants today! And the land that You gave to our fathers, To eat its fruit and its bounty, Here we are, servants in it!

Neh 9:37 And it yields much increase to the kings You have set over us, Because of our sins; Also they have dominion over our bodies and our cattle At their pleasure; And we are in great distress.

Neh 9:38 "And because of all this, We make a sure covenant and write it; Our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it."

v. 29 By sending prophets to them, to admonish them of their sins, and remind them of their duty. to regard His law and walk according it:...**dealt proudly** rejecting the counsel of God, not heeding His commandments. ...shrugged their shoulders, like oxen, that wriggle and struggle, and draw back, and will not admit the yoke upon them.

v. 30 God's longsuffering towards them throughout the reigns of many kings. **Yet they would not give ear** to what the prophets said, and the Spirit of God in them, so He gave them into their enemies in the land.

v. 31 As the cycle continues, the motions of each cycle get deeper and deeper - but God doesn't change. We sometimes feel God has forgiven us for so many times before. But God never gets tired of us, and never turns away the repentant heart.

v. 32 Because of who God is, and because of who they are (rebellious and wicked), they needed God to do the work of saving them from their enemies. Israel, at this time, was a province of the Persia, under heavy taxes and obligations. They ask God to deliver them once again from this oppression!

v. 33 This gives a good description of what real confession is all about. It recognizes that God is right and we are wrong (**but we have done wickedly**). Confession is agreeing with God about both things.

v. 34 All men, from the highest to the lowest, had shown no regard nor obeyed the holy law of God, nor paid any attention to His commandments and testimonies.

v. 35 The people were enjoying the large and rich land, which God had given them, but they did not turn from the wickedness.

v. 36 Though the people were enjoying the beautiful and fruitful land they were still in subjection to Persia.

v. 37 Though a very fruitful land, bringing forth much, but not for themselves, but for foreign kings, that had the sovereignty over them. These kings have dominion over our bodies and over our cattle, at their pleasure; to with as they please. We are in great distress!

v. 38 Israel needed to come to this place, where knowing who God is, and knowing who they are, they come and make a *covenant* with God - even writing it down - to commit themselves to His ways. We come to a place of decision, so this work of God is not just a wonderful experience, but something that shapes our future.

vs. 30-31 Notice as we read the Old Testament, we see the testimony concerning God, who though the people failed over and over and over again; He was merciful! He was gracious! He was kind, he did not forsake them. **The God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament is the same God!**

vs. 32-33 We have a tendency to blame God when anything goes wrong, when our lives get messed up, ready to turn and blame God as though God is not fair with us; God has not been dealing fairly. **Here is the truth and they're acknowledging that truth.** God You were just; we are wrong. **When we come to that acknowledgement and that confession, then God can do something with us.**

v. 34 **Our fathers just didn't listen. We haven't listened.**

v. 35 Our history is that of rebellion, even when we established the king.

v. 36 We are now in subjection to the king of Persia. We are servants, we are paying tribute and taxes though we are living in this land; we are still his servants.

v. 37 The abundance of fruit now goes to these kings of Persia that are over us because of our sins.

v. 38 Oh God, because of all of this, we want to make a covenant. We promise to serve You! We're going to be faithful to You! The results of the reading of the law and the giving of the understanding, it is the work of the word of God in the hearts of the people that wrought these changes. God is faithful, God is good, God has blessed; we have failed, we have turned our backs, we have been guilty. You've been good to me even though I have not done right. Lord. I want to do right. I want to live before you a life that is pleasing to You. God **I want You to take over and guide my life. I want You to be the authority, in control over me and that submission and surrendering of myself to the hand of God. May that be our covenant with God right now!**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

<p><u>GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS!</u> –Thomas Chisholm – Willaim Runyan – sung by Tom Fettke</p> <p><i>Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!</i></p> <p><i>Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Lord, unto me!</i></p>		
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