

# NEHEMIAH

## Lesson 8 - Chapter 9

We have seen the power of God's Word as it was read to the people in Jerusalem. We have seen weeping and joy, then obedience as they celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time since the time of Joshua. Now we see in Chapter nine the evidence of a revival among the people and a beautiful prayer expressing the character of God and a remembrance of the mighty things He has done. This Chapter is a wonderful example of how confession and obedience bring us to the praise and worship of our wonderful Lord!

Pray for the Holy Spirit to expand your revelation of the Lord this week through the prayer of this chapter and remembrance of all that God has done for you.

**Memory Verse** – This week's memory verse is Lamentations 3:22-23.

*“Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”*

### **Key Word(s)**

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. Make note of those words and their significance here.

### **Read Nehemiah 9:1- 3.**

Revival has to do with the reviving of God's people, bringing them back from spiritual decline to a place where they enjoy a spiritual life full of vitality and power. But revival begins by coming before the Lord with a humble heart.

1. In Nehemiah 9:1 we find the children of Israel gathering together again.

a. How does this verse describe the way the people assembled?

b. What does this represent in regard to their spiritual attitude?

2. Next we read in verse 2 that *“those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners...”* Make note of the specific things they did in each of the verses below.

a. Nehemiah 9:2

b. Nehemiah 9:3

c. How long did they do these things?

### **Read Nehemiah 9:4-38.**

These verses contain a beautiful prayer of the faithfulness of God with a history of the children of Israel. First we will look at the beautiful way they opened this prayer with the two declarations in Nehemiah 9:5.

1. Write out the first declaration spoken to the assembled people.

2. The second declaration is to the Lord and one we could speak in every prayer. As you write it below, think about what the words mean and Who it is we are seeking to know more as we study His character in this prayer.

### **The Character of God**

This prayer includes so much of the character of God that we will break it up into sections and look at each one.

### **Consider Nehemiah 9:6 – The God of Creation**

1. What do you see in this verse that God created?

2. What does this verse tell us that He does for His creation?

3. Take time to consider the important truth of God as Creator, a truth the world tries very hard to discredit. Below are three verses to consider in regard to our Creator. Read each and write what you find.

a. Genesis 1:1

b. Psalm 8:3-4

c. Hebrews 11:3

### **Consider Nehemiah 9:7-8 – The God of Promise**

1. What promise or *covenant* do you find in these verses?
  
2. Write a definition for *covenant* and *promise*.
  
3. The value of a promise or covenant is only as good as the one who gives it.
  - a. What do the last two lines of Nehemiah 9:8 tell us about the Lord and His promises?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. We just read the promise God made to Abraham, but He has also made promises to you throughout His Word. Share a promise God has given you and His faithfulness to do it, or a promise you are waiting on even now.

### **Consider Nehemiah 9:9-12 – The God of Power**

1. What demonstrations of God's power do you find in these verses?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does understanding the power of God help you to be encouraged by the following scriptures?
  - a. Ephesians 6:10
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. 1 John 4:4
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Add as many scriptures as you like about the power of God.

### **Consider Nehemiah 9:13-15 – The God of Instruction**

1. In Nehemiah 9:13-14, what event is described?

2. Now read Exodus 20:1-17 for God's instruction to His people in how to live. Jesus gave us the same instruction in 2 commandments. Write them below from Matthew 22:37-40.

3. What specific instruction is included for the children of Israel in Nehemiah 9:15?

4. Is there a specific instruction that God is speaking to you today? Write it here and share a scripture if you can.

### **Consider Nehemiah 9:16-19 – The God of Mercy**

1. What acts do you see of the children of Israel that would have rightly angered the Lord from verses 16-18?

2. Rather than anger, we read of the wonderful character of God in verse 17! Write the character traits you find in the last sentence of Nehemiah 9:17 below.

3. Write a definition of mercy.

4. What does Psalm 103:10-11, 17 say about the mercy of God?

5. By His mercy the Lord did not forsake the children of Israel. Instead, what does Nehemiah 9:19 say that He did for them?

### **Consider Nehemiah 9:20-25 – The God of Provision**

1. Write what God provided for His people in the wilderness from Nehemiah 9:20-21.

2. How do you see the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham in verses 22-23?
  
3. Read Nehemiah 9:24-25 and write the amazing provision described in those verses.
  
4. Before you go on to Nehemiah 9:26, read Deuteronomy 6:10-12 and write the warning below that applies here.

### **Consider Nehemiah 9:26-31 – The God of Chastening**

This prayer has reminded the people of the goodness of God in His power, His instruction, His mercy, His provision, and of the overall goodness of God. But Nehemiah 9:26 begins with the word "*Nevertheless...*" In spite of the good things the people have remembered in this prayer, now the people must remember something else.

1. What does Nehemiah 9:26 tell us of the actions of the children of Israel in spite of all God had done for them? "*Nevertheless...*"
  
2. What pattern do we see in Nehemiah 9:27-30, including the behaviors of the children of Israel and the response by the Lord?
  
3. In Nehemiah 9:31 we find "*Nevertheless...*" again! Write the words of this verse below, taking time to really think about what they are saying of the character of God.

### **Consider Nehemiah 9:32-38 – The God of Faithfulness**

As we come to the end of this prayer we see the faithfulness of God, both in His blessing and in His chastisement, and there is a plea again for mercy.

1. This sentiment is summed up in Nehemiah 9:33. Write this verse below.

2. So, by their own actions, what condition do they find themselves in now as stated in Nehemiah 9:36-37?

Consider the wonder of our merciful God! With all the children of Israel had done in rebellion, they still could come to God, humbly, with confession and repentance, and beg for His mercy.

3. What do you see about God's mercy and faithfulness in the following scriptures?

a. Psalm 36:5

b. 1 John 1:9

This Chapter and this prayer end with the people making a covenant. Nehemiah 9:38:

*“And because of all this, we make a sure covenant and write it;  
our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it.”*

We will find out more about this covenant in the next lesson.

### **In closing...**

1. In the prayer of Nehemiah 9 we have seen several aspects of the character of God. Which one stood out to you this week in your own life? Take time to write here about how the Lord met you with this aspect of His character in your particular circumstance.

2. As we read the pattern of the Israelites to rebel, repent and call out to God, it is easy for us to judge them. Instead, we should learn from them because we do the same thing. What do you want to take away from this prayer to apply to your own life?

### ***Memory Verse***

*“Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.  
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Lamentations 3:22-23*