

# NEHEMIAH

## Lesson 9 - Chapters 10, 11 & 12

As we read through the next three chapters of the Book of Nehemiah, we will see how Nehemiah faced the challenge of meeting the practical needs while still holding up a high spiritual standard. We begin with a covenant that represents the commitment of the people to the Lord after their repentance and revival. Then practical matters have to be addressed, just as they do in our own lives, but not at the cost of the spiritual priorities.

Begin your study this week by asking the Lord to speak to your heart from His Word and to direct you in keeping the spiritual and the practical in the proper place in your own life.

**Memory Verse** – This week’s memory verse is Romans 12:4-5.

*“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”*

### **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 10:1-27.**

This chapter describes the covenant made by the children of Israel who had just heard God’s Word, seen their sin and repented, then celebrated the Feast of the Tabernacles in obedience to God’s Word. As an outward sign of the newly revived commitment to the Lord, they witnessed the signing of a covenant by their leaders.

1. We need to begin back in Nehemiah 9:38. Read this verse, remembering the prayer and history in Chapter 9, and answer the following questions.

a. The verse begins with the words, *“And because of all this...”* Read through Chapter 9 again, especially verses 31-33, and write what you think is referred to by the words *all this*.

b. Nehemiah 9:38 continues with the statement, *“We make a sure covenant and write it...”* Why was it important that they *write it*?

2. Nehemiah 10:1-27 lists the names of those who sealed the covenant. Each name is important to the Lord and would be known by the people, but for this lesson we will look at just a few specifics. As we do, notice how these verses go along with Nehemiah 9:38.

- a. In Nehemiah 10:1, who was the first one to sign?
- b. The rest of Nehemiah 10:1-8 lists a certain group of people. From verse 8, who were they?
- c. What groups are listed in verses 9 and 10-13?
- d. The group of the final 44 names was described in Nehemiah 10:14. Who were they?

**Read Nehemiah 10:28-29.**

1. From Nehemiah 10:28, who joined in agreement on the covenant with those named already?
2. What did they agree with as described generally in Nehemiah 10:29?

Entering into a curse meant agreeing to the curse or the consequences of disobedience, whereas the blessing represents the blessings and benefits of obedience. The NLT translation may help in understanding this verse:

*“...joined their leaders and bound themselves with an oath. They swore a curse on themselves if they failed to obey the Law of God as issued by his servant Moses.”*

3. We find “a blessing and a curse” in other places in scripture. What do the following verses say about this?
  - a. Deuteronomy 11:26-28
  - b. Deuteronomy 30:19

**For further study:** If you would like to read more about what the blessings and cursings have meant in the history of the children of Israel you can read about them in Deuteronomy 27:9-26 and Deuteronomy 28:1-14, and Leviticus 26 (blessings Lev 26:3-13 / cursings Lev 26:14-39 / mercy Lev 26:40-42).

4. How does this principle apply to us today? Include scriptures if you can.

**Read Nehemiah 10:30-39.**

The details of the covenant are given in the last ten verses of this chapter.

1. In Nehemiah 10:30-31 the people agree to two specific commandments.

- a. What do they agree not to do in verse 30?
- b. How will they honor the Sabbath in verse 31?

2. Nehemiah 10:32-34 addresses offerings. Write any details or a summary of these verses.

3. The *firstfruits* are discussed in Nehemiah 10:35-36. Make a note of which *firstfruits* and who the first fruits are to be brought to in each verse below.

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Firstfruits of...</u>	<u>Given to...</u>
Nehemiah 10:35		
Nehemiah 10:36		
Nehemiah 10:37a		

4. Where are the *tithes* to go according to Nehemiah 10:37-38?

5. The purpose of verses 32-38 can be summed up by the last statement in Nehemiah 10:39.

- a. Write the statement here.
- b. We live in a different time and a different covenant, but this statement should still apply. How can we honor this statement in our lives today?

**Read Nehemiah 11:1-3.**

As we have seen in Chapter 10, the covenant addressed the needs of the temple. Chapter 11 now looks to the physical needs of the city.

1. Looking back at Nehemiah 7:4, what three problems do you see in the city of Jerusalem?
2. In Nehemiah 11:1, who are we told already dwell in the city?
3. From Nehemiah 11:1-3, what was done to bring more people to dwell in the city?
4. God does not always call us to the easy place or the familiar, but to the place where we are needed for His kingdom. Consider the benefits and the challenges of living in the city and write your thoughts below.
  - a. Benefits:
  - b. Challenges:

**Read Nehemiah 11:4-36.**

In verses 4-9 the names of the children of Judah and of Benjamin who lived in Jerusalem are listed with numbers in the families. Verses 10-24 show us how the work was distributed in the city.

1. Next to each verse listed below write the description of the people listed in that section.
  - a. Nehemiah 11:12
  - b. Nehemiah 11:14
  - c. Nehemiah 11:15-18
  - d. Nehemiah 11:19
  - e. Nehemiah 11:22-23
2. Those who lived outside the city are listed in verse 25-36. What necessary contributions do you think they made to the life of the city?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and describe how this applies:
  - a. ...to the list in Nehemiah 11 –
  - b. ...to the church body today –

**Read Nehemiah 12:1-26.**

This section contains several more lists of names of the priests and Levites which were recorded for a reason, for a history of these people who were given the responsibility of the spiritual leadership of the people, that they might be remembered.

1. Read through these lists and make note below of anything that stands out to you.
  
2. We have a list of spiritual leaders given to us in the New Testament in Hebrews 11. Read through this chapter and list the names we are to remember.
  
3. How does Hebrews 13:7 apply to both of these lists?

**Read Nehemiah 12:27-47.**

1. What event is happening in Nehemiah 12:27?
  - a. What did the priests do in preparation for the dedication in Nehemiah 12:30?
  
  - b. What more is said of this in Nehemiah 12:45-47?
  
2. What do you find in the following scriptures that explain the need for this?
  - a. Leviticus 11:44-45
  
  - b. Psalm 24:3-4
  
  - c. We still need to purify our hearts before we come to worship the Lord. How does 1 John 1:9 say we can do this?
  
3. It must have been an amazing sight on this day as Nehemiah took the two thanksgiving choirs up on the wall. It will help you to picture where these two groups went by looking at the map of the wall of Jerusalem on the last page of lesson 3. If both groups started at the Valley Gate, describe where they went from the descriptions in Nehemiah 12:31-37 and Nehemiah 12:38-39.

4. When we consider the effort that went into the thanksgiving choir, the singing and the worship, we should consider the importance of these things in our worship services. What do you find in Colossians 3:16 that we can apply to our own lives?

5. The completion of the wall was a great achievement. How are we told the Jews celebrated in the following verses?

a. Nehemiah 12:27

b. Nehemiah 12:42-43

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

1. The children of Israel committed to a covenant, but the better covenant is available to us! What do the following scriptures say about the New Covenant?

a. Matthew 26:28

b. Romans 8:1-4

c. Add more scriptures if you can.

2. We have seen in these three chapters how Nehemiah did not stop with the building of the wall, but went on to organize the people to continue to care for and strengthen the city and the temple. If the people continued in all they agreed to do then the city would grow, not crumble in complacency. Think about your own life and the commitment you have made to the Lord. What can you do to care for the practical and spiritual strength in your own life?

### ***Memory Verse***

*“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”*

*Romans 12:4-5*