

# Harvesters, Perimeter Church

## “Nehemiah: Faithfulness Rooted in the Word”

### Ch. 7:73- 10:39

March 10, 2024

**Darryl Jackson, MDiv**

Perimeter Lead Elder

# Where have we been /Where are we going?

- February 4, 2024 - Introduction Nehemiah 1:1-13 “Nehemiah: Faithfulness amid the Fragments”
- February 11, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness to one’s call” (Nehemiah 1:1-2:8)
- February 18, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness in one’s calling” (Nehemiah 2:1-3:32)
- February 25, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness in the face of opposition, part 1” (Nehemiah 4:1-7:72)
- March 3, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness in the face of opposition, part 2” (Nehemiah 4:1-7:72)
- March 10, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness rooted in the Word” (Nehemiah 7:73-10:39)
- March 17, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness leading to urban renewal” (Nehemiah 11:1-12:47)
- March 24, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness for the long haul” (Nehemiah 13) Wrap-up

# A Quick Review

## 539 BC – First Return

1. Led by Zerubbabel
2. King - Cyrus
3. Goal - rebuild the temple

## 458 BC – Second Return

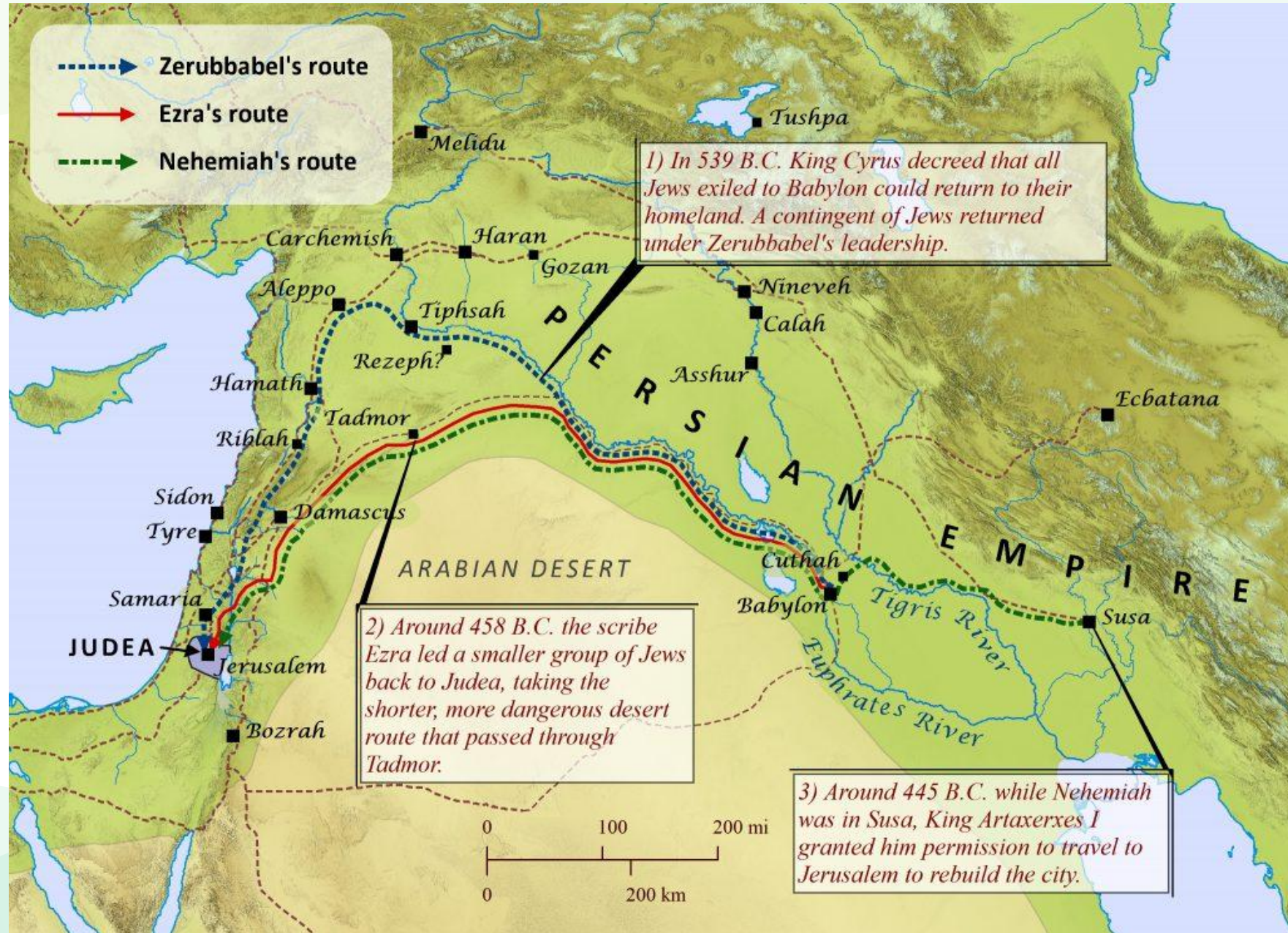
1. Led by Ezra
2. King - Artaxerxes
3. Goal – retrain God's people

## 445 BC – Third Return

1. Led by Nehemiah
2. King - Artaxerxes
3. Goal - rebuild the walls

# Context – Time and Place

## Place



# Lessons in Prayer - At Every Challenge!

1. Personal – “my God”
2. Persistent - months
3. Penitent
4. Petitionary

“Nehemiah’s public life was the outflow, and thus the revelation, of his personal life, and his personal life...was steeped in, and shaped by habitual petitionary prayer, in which devotion to God, dependence on God, and desire for the glory of God found equal expression.”

- J.I. Packer



# Nehemiah 2:1-8 – Nehemiah's call

Rooted in Humble Dependence upon God

Zealous for God's glory

“It is not wildness; it is not irresponsible enthusiasm; it is not any form of pushy egoism. It is, rather, a humble, reverent, businesslike, single-minded commitment to the hallowing of God's name and the doing of his will.”

- J.I. Packer

# Nehemiah 2:1-8 – Nehemiah's call, cont.

Rooted in Humble Dependence upon God

1. Word based
2. Indwelling Spirit led
3. Community affirmed
4. Opportunity to serve

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# Nehemiah's calling

Fulfilling one's calling is an invitation to do work: how God designed us from the beginning:

1. Work
2. Wisdom
3. Identify with the people and the plan-Ownership
4. Identify whose work it really is- God's!

# Nehemiah's calling, cont.

“If...we should become work-shy and give ourselves to pursuing leisure and amusement instead, we should sentence ourselves to deep-level dissatisfaction with life. No form of work can guarantee that virtue, love, and joy will become ours, but we need not expect that virtue, love, and joy will ever mark us out if our lives have in them no form of work.”

“Work is any exertion of effort that aims at producing a new state of affairs...the Bible is always goal-oriented; it is action with an end in view.”

J. I Packer

# Nehemiah's Approach to Handling Opposition

As a review, in chapter's 5 and 6 Nehemiah's prayer, trust, and obedience to God's plan allowed him to battle the repeated opposition from Sanballat and Tobiah with tenacity, excellence, confidence, humility and servant leadership. (Chapter 7:1-72 lists the book of genealogy to show the continuity of Nehemiah's generation with the first ones to return. The total number was 42,360 heads of households and 7337 male and female servants. God wanted the city populated by a faithful remnant of Jewish folks).

“Nehemiah reminds them of 1) the source of their strength: the power from God above, and 2) the object of their love motivated by love for family and friends.”

-Ed Dunnington

‘Discouragement, one of Satan's strongest weapons, was thus effectively countered. By the grace of God, and in the strength of God, the work of God went on.’

- J.I. Packer

# Summary Review In Preparation for the Word

1. God's Faithfulness and Nehemiah's Prayer, Trust and Obedience to God's Plan By Having a Zeal for God's Glory
2. Nehemiah Prepares God's People For the Work, the Opposition, Through Calling on the Lord in Prayer and Action. His Love of God, The People of Jerusalem, and the City Itself Drive His Posture of Humble Obedience and Strong Servant Leadership
3. All of the above happens by the grace of God, the strength of God provided to Nehemiah and the people, so that the work of God could continue. This prepares the people for Ezra's reading of the word and next steps in God's plan.

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## An Introduction and Outline to These Chapters

- Preparing to Hear the Word: (Neh. 7:73-8:8)
- Preparing Hearts and Responding to the Holy God: (Neh. 8:9-12)
- The People Practice What is Holy as a Reminder (Neh.8:13-18)
- The People Confess Their Sins (Neh. 9: 1-5)
- The People Offer Up a Confessional Prayer (Neh. 9:5-37)
- The People Recommit To God's Covenant (Neh. 9:38-10:39)



# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD Neh.7:73-8:8

<sup>73</sup> So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel, lived in their towns. And when the seventh month had come, the people of Israel were in their towns.<sup>8</sup> And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. <sup>2</sup> So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. Nehemiah Ch.7:73-8:3, ESV

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## **PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD (Neh. 7:73-8:8 ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. <sup>6</sup> And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup> Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites,<sup>[a]</sup> helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. <sup>8</sup> They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly,<sup>[b]</sup> and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. Nehemiah 8:5-8:8

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

1. How did God prepare his people for the reading of the Word?
2. Why does the author include the reading of God's Word at this juncture in the narrative? Why not move straight from the completion of the city walls in (6:15) to their dedication? (Ch.11,12) The walls were completed in 52 days from Aug. 12-Oct. 2, 445 BC. The reading of the Law just occurs 6 days after the completion of the wall on Oct. 8, 445 BC.

R.C. Sproul gives a hint: "The likely answer is that it is inappropriate to dedicate the walls before there are sufficient inhabitants in Jerusalem to constitute a functioning city." (Sproul, *The Reformation Bible*, 2015).

Note: "Sufficient" in number and in their understanding of the Word

- GENEVA
3. Look what comes next as God reveals his Word to his people.....

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## RESPONDING TO THE HOLY GOD (Neh.8:9-12,ESV)

<sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” <sup>11</sup> So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.” <sup>12</sup> And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Nehemiah 8:9-12, ESV

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## RESPONDING TO The HOLY GOD (Neh. 8:9-12)

1. How is the Lord preparing the hearts of the people as they listen to the reading of the God's law?
2. How do the leaders respond to the people? Where do you see God's grace in their response?
3. What are the people reminded of as they listen to God's word?
4. They are reminded of God's faithfulness in practice in the next verses...



## Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

“Continuing cheerful acknowledgment of their dependence on Him will be an ongoing source of strength to the community as the Lord blesses their commitment.”

R. C. Sproul, The Reformation Bible, p.722

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## PRACTICING WHAT IS HOLY AS A REMINDER (Neh.8:13-18)

<sup>13</sup> On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law. <sup>14</sup> And they found it written in the Law that the LORD had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths<sup>[a]</sup> during the feast of the seventh month,(the Feast of Booths) <sup>15</sup> and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, “Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.”

<sup>17</sup> And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. <sup>18</sup> And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.

Nehemiah 8:13-15 and 8:17-18

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

Some observations about why the Lord wanted the people to celebrate the Feast of Booths in this seventh month before the next steps of preparing the people.

1. It reminded them of life in the wilderness after the redemption from Egypt and before entering the Promised Land and how God faithfully protected the next generation. It is an act of families together acknowledging God's Covenant as he asked in the original Mosaic Covenant.
2. It lasted for seven days from Oct 22-28, 445 BC from the fifteenth to the twenty-first day of the month. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> day a solemn assembly occurs. (the difference in our calendar and the Jewish calendar here) Ezra read the book of the law during the seven days.
3. It had not been practiced as a covenantal promise of remembrance for (961 years!) 1406 BC- 445 BC

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL CONFESS THEIR SINS (Neh.9:1-5)

**9** Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. <sup>2</sup> And the Israelites<sup>[a]</sup> separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. <sup>3</sup> And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the LORD their God. <sup>4</sup> On the stairs of the Levites stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani; and they cried with a loud voice to the LORD their God. <sup>5</sup> Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, “Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

*This begins a prayer of praise from Neh.(9:5-37) that recounts the Lord's faithfulness from the Abraham covenant to Nehemiah's time in rescuing his people from their rebellion over and over again. This confessional prayer is one of the best summaries of the Israelites' journey in the Old Testament and God's great mercy and faithfulness.*

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## **A CORPORATE CONFESSIONAL PRAYER (NEH.9:5-37 ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, “Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

<sup>6</sup> [a] “You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. <sup>7</sup> You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham. <sup>8</sup> You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite. And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous.

Nehemiah 9:5-8



# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## A CORPORATE CONFESSIONAL PRAYER (NEH.9:5-37 ESV)

<sup>9</sup> “And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea, <sup>10</sup> and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day. <sup>11</sup> And you divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and you cast their pursuers into the depths, as a stone into mighty waters. <sup>12</sup> By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night to light for them the way in which they should go. <sup>13</sup> You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments, <sup>14</sup> and you made known to them your holy Sabbath and commanded them commandments and statutes and a law by Moses your servant. <sup>15</sup> You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them. Nehemiah 9:9-15

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## **A CORPORATE CONFESSIONAL PRAYER (NEH.9:5-37 ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. <sup>17</sup> They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt.<sup>[b]</sup> But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them. <sup>18</sup> Even when they had made for themselves a golden<sup>[c]</sup> calf and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ and had committed great blasphemies, <sup>19</sup> you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. <sup>20</sup> You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. <sup>21</sup> Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

Nehemiah 9:16-21

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## A CORPORATE CONFESSIONAL PRAYER (NEH.9:5-37 ESV)

<sup>22</sup> “And you gave them kingdoms and peoples and allotted to them every corner. So they took possession of the land of Sihon king of Heshbon and the land of Og king of Bashan. <sup>23</sup> You multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, and you brought them into the land that you had told their fathers to enter and possess. <sup>24</sup> So the descendants went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them as they would. <sup>25</sup> And they captured fortified cities and a rich land, and took possession of houses full of all good things, cisterns already hewn, vineyards, olive orchards and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and became fat and delighted themselves in your great goodness.

Nehemiah 9:22-25

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## **A CORPORATE CONFESSIONAL PRAYER (NEH.9:5-37 ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> “Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies. <sup>27</sup> Therefore you gave them into the hand of their enemies, who made them suffer. And in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who saved them from the hand of their enemies. <sup>28</sup> But after they had rest they did evil again before you, and you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them. Yet when they turned and cried to you, you heard from heaven, and many times you delivered them according to your mercies. <sup>29</sup> And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them, and they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey.

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## **A CORPORATE CONFESSIONAL PRAYER (NEH.9:5-37 ESV)**

<sup>30</sup> Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. <sup>31</sup> Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.  
Nehemiah 9:30-31

NOTE: Up until this point in verses 5-31 the prayer is acknowledging the rebellious sins of their forefathers, the merciful and gracious God who through his steadfast love forgives them repeatedly and stands by them and delivers them from themselves. The final part of the prayer in the next verses re-establishes the covenantal relationship between God and His people.....



# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## **The Prayer Ends With Re-Commitment to the Covenant Relationship (Neh.9:32-37)**

<sup>32</sup> “Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day. <sup>33</sup> Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly. <sup>34</sup> Our kings, our princes, our priests, and our fathers have not kept your law or paid attention to your commandments and your warnings that you gave them. <sup>35</sup> Even in their own kingdom, and amid your great goodness that you gave them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you or turn from their wicked works. <sup>36</sup> Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves. <sup>37</sup> And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress. Nehemiah 9:32-27 ESV

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## The Prayer Ends With Re-Commitment to the Covenant Relationship (Neh.9:32-38)

**BECAUSE OF ALL THIS WE MAKE A FIRM COVENANT IN WRITING: ON THE SEALED DOCUMENT ARE THE NAMES OF OUR PRINCES, OUR LEVITES, AND OUR PRIESTS.  
Nehemiah. 9:38 ESV**

**NOTE:** This recommitment to God's covenant relationship sets up Chapter 10 which lists all those who signed the covenant and the obligations that the people make under the covenant agreement. The Mosaic Covenant had to be renewed after long periods of covenant violations as cited in the prayer of confession and praise.

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## **The People Who Sealed the Covenant (Neh.10:1-27 ESV)**

“On the seals are the names of[b] Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, Zedekiah, 2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, 3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, 4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, 5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, 6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, 7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, 8 Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah; these are the priests. 9 And the Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel; 10 and their brothers, Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, 11 Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah, 12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, 13 Hodiah, Bani, Beninu. 14 The chiefs of the people: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, 15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, 16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, 17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, 18 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai, 19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, 20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, 21 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, 22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, 23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, 24 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, 25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, 26 Ahiah, Hanan, Anan, 27 Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## Why Is this list so important? (Neh. 10:1-27 ESV)

“ This list of 84 names, about half of whom are not mentioned elsewhere, reinforces one of the major themes of of the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. The people of God as a whole, not just the great leaders, are vital for the accomplishing of God’s redemptive plan. Nehemiah and Zedekiah are joined together as representing the civil powers. Many of the priestly names are those of families rather than individuals.”

R.C. Sproul, *The Reformation Bible*, p.723

Note: All clans and families of the remnant are represented: All are fully committed as one unified people of God to the Abraham and Mosaic Covenant

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## The Obligations of the Covenant (Neh. 10:28-39 ESV)

28 “The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, 29 join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord and his rules and his statutes. 30 We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons. 31 And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. And we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## The Obligations of the Covenant (Cont.) Neh.10:32-36 ESV

32 “We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel[a] for the service of the house of our God: 33 for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God. 34 We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, have likewise cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the Law. 35 We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the Lord; 36 also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks;

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## The Obligations of the Covenant (Cont.) Neh.10:32-36

37 and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor. 38 And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes. And the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse. 39 For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not neglect the house of our God."

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## The importance of the obligations of the covenant:

1. The whole community pledges fidelity to the terms of the covenant specifically identifying and applying those parts of the Mosaic ordinances that “are under the most severe pressure in their contemporary circumstances”
2. The swearing of the oath by the people emphasizes the distinctive legal nature of the Mosaic covenantal arrangement as compared to the Abrahamic covenant in which the oath is taken by God alone.
3. Throughout the history of redemption all of God’s covenantal arrangements call for obedience springing from faith in God and willingness to observe the terms of the covenant.



# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## A Few Final Important Learning Points of the Covenant Agreement

1. Under none of the God's covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and the new covenant church are people saved by their works of obedience; Justification is always and only by faith in the Lord's promises. (Rom. 4-12)
2. The people could not be back in a covenant relationship with God without the prior steps of God's redemptive plan to 1) restore the temple, 2) unite the people with their strength coming from the joy in the Lord, 3) unite the remnant as a team to rebuild the wall and secure the city, 4) overcome opposition through prayer and perseverance 5) have people confess their sins, and 6) recommit to the original covenant of the Law. All of this through God's steadfast love, mercy, grace, and faithfulness in His promises and in His Word. Nehemiah's love of the Lord and love of the people to God's glory allows him to be a true servant leader as part of this redemptive plan.

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## Final Conclusions on the Prayer of Confession and Praise and the Commitment to the Mosaic Covenant (Neh. 9:5-10:39)

“In this prayer of praise, the Levites address on behalf of the people extolling Him as creator (v.6), redeemer (vv.7-12), lawgiver and disciplinarian, savior, and judge (vv.13-31). On the basis of his character and covenant, the petition God to take notice of their distress (vv. 32-37) in preparation for their covenant renewal (vv.9:38-10:39). The sequence of (vv.9:5-10:39) resembles the form of ancient covenants; preamble identifying the overlord(vv.5-6), historical prologue(vv.7-37), acceptance of the covenant (vv.9:38-10;29), and covenant stipulations (10:30-39)”

R.C. Sproul, *The Reformation Bible*, p.723, 2015

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

**“We will not neglect the house of our God.” (Neh. 10:39 ESV)**

1. This final verse of this section in the book of Nehemiah is a pledge to maintain the temple and its services as the place of worship, prayer, and intercession with the Lord.
2. This promise demonstrates the renewed spiritual commitment of the people to the Lord who has been ever faithful in his promises in their history.
3. The rebuilding of the House of God, physically, spiritually, and relationally is a major theme in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

# Reflection Questions For This Week

1. Nehemiah is a perfect illustration of the Biblical balance between prayer and action. He was radically dependent on God as a servant leader called to carry out God's plan of restoration and redemption of his people. At this stage of our lives, how is God calling us to be kingdom disciples to flourish His kingdom in this way?
2. What lessons in Chapters 7-10 of Nehemiah can be helpful in our renewing our obligations in our member covenants at Perimeter? What does our work in the new covenant church look like where God has placed us at this time in our lives?
3. Nehemiah as a servant to God's plan is an example of love for God, his people, his city and in his trust, obedience and radical dependence on Him. Our lives have been a long journey of His intentional grace given to those who love Him. Looking back, where has God's grace, blessings, mercy, and faithfulness saved us from ourselves and brought us to this time of being available to serve Him?