



## Restoration and Renewal—The Book of Nehemiah

### Restoring Commitment *Chapters 9-10*

#### **The Process of Commitment**

After reading the Law and celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles in chapter eight, the people now turn their attention to confession, praise and commitment.

**Introduction:** Chapter nine is the longest in the book of Nehemiah and also contains the longest prayer in the Bible. As a result of repentance, prayer and praise—the people make a ‘sure’ promise to God in chapter ten.

#### **A. Commitment starts with repentance of sin** Neh 9:1-4

***An unrepented sin is a continued sin.*** CORRIE TEN BOOM (1892–1983)

1. Old Testament repentance: Fasting, sackcloth and dust on the head 9:1
2. Public confession: Standing before God and others 9:2
3. Reading the Word and repentance: They read the Word for three hours and confessed and praised God for three hours. 9:3
4. What is confession?: It is both confession of faith and confession of sin.

#### **B. Commitment deepens through prayer and praise** Neh 9:5-38

***Tomorrow I keep for God. Today I give to God.*** FRANCES J. ROBERTS

1. This is the longest prayer in the Bible
2. The entire history of Israel is included
  - a. Genesis :6-8
  - b. Exodus :9-13
  - c. Leviticus :14
  - d. Numbers :15-20
  - e. Numbers and Deuteronomy :21-23
  - f. Joshua :24
  - g. Judges :26-29
  - h. 1 Samuel through 2 Chronicles :30-37
3. As a result the people make a promise to God: “The people responded, “In view of all this, we are making a solemn promise and putting it in writing. On this sealed document are the names of our leaders and Levites and priests.” *Neh 9:38 NLT*

#### **C. Commitment includes three areas** Neh 10

1. I commit to know God’s Word so I live a holy life in obedience to the Lord 10:28-30 “...these joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God’s Law...” vs :29
2. I commit to keep one day holy to the Lord so I worship and honor Him. “...if the peoples of the land brought wares or any grain to sell on the Sabbath day, we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath, or on a holy day.” vs :31
3. I commit to a life of stewardship to give of my time, talent and treasure to the Lord and His work. Neh 10:32-39 “And we made ordinances to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house of the LORD...” vs :35

#### Nehemiah 9:1-5

**: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.

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

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

**: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.

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

#### Nehemiah 9:36-37

**: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!

**: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.