

# Let's Worship God

19th-24th August 2019  
Nehemiah





## **Monday - Nehemiah 9:32-38 - Covenants**

Following the prayer of praise and adoration for all of God's goodness to His covenant people and a rehearsal of the continual cycle of blessing, disobedience, punishment, forgiveness, and restoration, there is plea for God to intervene yet again on behalf of His own people. In joyful expectation of the favour of God, the people determine to enter into a solemn and binding covenant with God.

1. They would make a sure covenant. Israel had come to the point where they acknowledged who God was, and how they stood in relation to Him, and they wanted to bind themselves to Him solemnly and publicly. The making of a covenant with God is a solemn step which should never be taken lightly, for a covenant taken with God may be disowned and broken on the part of the human participant, but the sovereign God will always adhere to its terms and will hold the human signatories responsible to hold to their part of the agreement.

2. They wrote it down. This is an indication of the seriousness with which they took their covenanting. It is easy to forget or ignore a verbal agreement, but when it is written down and attested to with a signature it is much more difficult to ignore the consequences of the covenant.

A personal covenant made with God may only be ignored or broken at our peril – it is no less serious when a church and a nation make a solemn and binding commitment to God as our church and nation did at the signing of the National Covenant in 1638 and the Solemn League and Covenant in 1643. We need to be constantly asking ourselves how we are seeking to uphold the terms of binding covenants on a personal, church, and national level.

## **Questions**

1. Why are covenants serious?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that we would take our promises to God seriously.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

“We will not neglect the house of our God.” Nehemiah 10:39:b

**Praise: Psalm 24 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## **Tuesday - Nehemiah 10:1-27 - Taking A Stand**

At the end of chapter 9 the people of Jerusalem had come to the point where they were willing to publicly commit themselves to God in covenant and to place their names on record as having done so. Whilst it is perfectly possible, and sometimes even advisable, to be a secret disciple, it is normally much to the glory of God for the people of God to be willing to take an open stand for Him. The public testimony for God and truth, even at the cost of suffering and death, has often caused the church of the Lord Jesus Christ to prosper and grow – the blood of the martyrs has often been the seed of the church.

This covenant was not only public, it was also attested to by all ranks in society. It was truly wonderful that the nation as a whole believed that something had to be done about their sin and their failure to serve God adequately, but it would not be valid until individual people came forward and said ‘I will covenant with God’. Here the signing was led by the leaders of the people who were then followed by the spiritual and civic leaders. But this was not a commitment made by the leaders on behalf of the people; all those who had ‘separated themselves from the peoples of the lands’ and were committed to the law of God, also joined in pledging themselves to the Lord.

One necessary requirement for the people was to have knowledge and understanding. We dare not make vows to the Lord unless we have a full understanding of exactly what it is that we are pledging ourselves to, for the Scriptures make it very clear that ‘it is better not to vow than to vow and not pay’ Ecclesiastes 5:5

What about our own baptismal vows and church membership vows – how careful are we to observe them with diligence?

### **Questions**

1. What kind of people signed the covenant?
2. Why do we need to understand what we are promising?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that you would keep the promises you make to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

“We will not neglect the house of our God.” Nehemiah 10:39b

**Praise: Psalm 25 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



### **Wednesday - Nehemiah 10:28-31 - Faithful in Marriage**

When people enter into an agreement, there are always terms associated with that agreement. That is no less true when that covenant is made with God. There is no need for the responsibilities on the divine side to be stated for they have constantly been outlined in the revelation that God has given to men, and as He is the unchanging God who cannot lie, there is the absolute guarantee that He will fulfil all that He has promised.

On man's side, however, because he is so fickle, changeable, and sinful, there is an absolute need for him to state exactly what he is promising to do in the clearest possible terms. Here the promises are spelled out very plainly. The people here in the time of Nehemiah made certain very specific promises: They promised to be faithful in terms of their romantic relationships. 'We promise not to give our daughters in marriage to the peoples around us, or take their daughters for our sons'. They realised how quickly the people of God can become corrupted when God's people marry outside the faith. There is a very important principle laid down here: A follower of God should only marry another similarly committed follower of God. It is obvious by experience and observation that it is important to carefully and prayerfully choose your spouse.

The whole idea of marriage is closely connected to the idea of covenant. Malachi 2:14 says, "Yet she is your companion, and your wife by covenant." Marriage is a covenant, between the husband and wife, between them and all family and witnesses, but most importantly, between them and God. When we understand marriage as a covenant, we have something to bond us together that is stronger than society's expectations, more constant than romantic love, and more certain than happy times - we have a covenant.

### **Questions**

1. What did the people promise to do regarding marriage?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for those who are married in the congregation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"We will not neglect the house of our God." Nehemiah 10:39b

**Praise: Psalm 26 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## **Thursday - Isaiah 58:13-14 - The Sabbath**

The second area in which the people covenanted with God was in the area of business, especially as it related to keeping the Sabbath Day. It had become common practice for people to bring their produce into the city to sell and to buy from the inhabitants – there were some important principles outlined here:

1. To remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. This was something that had been known by the Jews since the giving of the law on Sinai. The problem was not lack of knowledge, but lack of obedience. At the root of the matter was greed. If they traded on the Sabbath they would make more money than if they scrupulously observed the law of the Lord. This is a particular problem for the people of God today: many professing Christian churches no longer teach Sabbath observance, and so the people have no guidance about what God requires of them.

2. Business must be conducted in order to please God. It was those conducting business that were particularly addressed in this covenant promise. If we do not glorify God by obeying Him in the way we do our work, we cause His name to be dishonoured.

3. The land and the people must be treated with care and compassion v.31b. God has given to man the care of the world that He has made, and believers especially should be careful about how earth's resources are used and preserved. Believers must also show compassion to their fellow man. This was to be demonstrated in this covenant by cancelling debts in the seventh year according to the Law of Moses.

It is important to recognise that faithfulness to God has an impact on every single aspect of our daily lives – from the kind of person we marry, to way we conduct our business, to how we spend our Sabbath days, and to the way that we treat our world and the people who live in it.

## **Questions**

1. What did the people promise to do in relation to the Sabbath?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks for the Sabbath day.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

“We will not neglect the house of our God.” Nehemiah 10:39b

**Praise: Psalm 27 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# NEHEMIAH

pray | plan | build

## Friday - Nehemiah 10:31-34; Malachi 3:6-12 - Giving

There is one area of the life of the Christian where he often feels that nobody else has the authority to enquire into or make demand on, and that is the area of his finances! It is extremely significant that the covenant made by Nehemiah dealt very robustly with this often difficult and sensitive issue. The Bible is not shy in addressing the issue of how the child of God should use his finances, and there are several principles that are important to bear in mind:

1. Everything we have belongs to God - Psalm 50:10 tells us that the 'cattle on a thousand hills belong to the Lord'. He is the creator and sustainer of all things that are in the world, and we have nothing that He has not given us.

2. The people of God have a responsibility to maintain the ministry of the church 1 Tim. 5:17,18. Right from the earliest days there were people in Israel who were set aside from the normal duties of life, so that they could dedicate themselves to the service of God, and be supported by the rest of the covenant community.

3. To fail to provide for the organisation of the worship of the covenant people was seen as robbing God Malachi 3:8-10. God in his infinite mercy and grace provided a system of sacrifices and ordinances for His people in the Old Testament by means of which the people could have access to God, and failure to maintain it through lack of giving was to rob the Almighty God. In the times of the New Testament, pastors and teachers were provided so that the gospel of free and sovereign grace could be proclaimed, and the people of God built up and edified through the preaching of the Word. This is why it was so important that the aspect of giving was included in the terms of the covenant.

## Questions

1. To whom does everything belong?
2. What does God command us to do with our money?

## Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all God has given you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"We will not neglect the house of our God." Nehemiah 10:39b

**Praise: Psalm 28 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## **Saturday - Nehemiah 10:35-39 - The House of God**

What the people were committing themselves to was the implementation of what the law of God had laid down for the covenant people of God. This is fundamental, not just for the people in the time of Nehemiah, but for the people of God in every age and in every place. We cannot please God unless we are prepared to do what He tells us to do in our personal, working, and church life.

There is a verse at the end of the chapter that goes right to the heart of the covenant that the people were making with the Lord: ‘We will not neglect the house of our God’ v. 39. This does not simply mean with respect to providing for the sacrifices and for the maintenance of the priests and the Levites; it meant that they were willing to submit themselves to all that the law required of them. For Christian people today to say that they will not neglect the house of their God means:

- a. To be regular in attendance at the services of worship and to enter wholeheartedly and enthusiastically into every aspect of that worship.
- b. To support the ministry of the Word by prayer and by giving not just of financial resources but also of time and talents.
- c. To seek to live a holy life at home, work, and in the community
- d. To diligently seek to understand more of what the Scriptures teach and in dependence upon the work of the Holy Spirit to put such knowledge into practice.

It should be that desire of every believer to so covenant with God that his life will be dedicated to do all that he can to bring honour and glory to God by living obedience to His Word and zealous desire to ‘not neglect the house of our God’.

## **Questions**

1. What did the people promise they would do at the end of this chapter?
2. How can we avoid neglecting the house of God?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God’s Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

“We will not neglect the house of our God.” Nehemiah 10:39b

**Praise: Psalm 29 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance  
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

If you have any queries please contact - [admin@rpglobalalliance.org](mailto:admin@rpglobalalliance.org)