

Return to Commitment

We _____ spiritually by increments.

We _____ from sin through decisive action.

We _____ spiritually through attention to the Word of God and the
God of the Word.



NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah 10

9:38“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.

10 “On the seals are the names of 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.

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.

³² “We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel 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; 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.”

Return to Commitment

August 14, 2022

Open: Share about any commitments or resolutions you've made recently. What motivated you to make this commitment? How are you doing so far?

Read: Nehemiah 9:38; 10:28-39

Discuss:

1. According to 9:38 (this is actually 10:1 in the Hebrew Bible), the people make a renewed commitment to God "because of all this." To what do you think this phrase might be referring? (*Review 9:5-37.*) Why do you think they chose to make a commitment to God at this point? Have you experienced a time when you thought it was important for you to make a formal commitment to God? Explain.
2. The heart of their commitment is to obey "all the commandments of the Lord and his rules and statutes." (10:29) Why is it wise to have our commitments guided by the laws of God? What tends to happen when we make commitments to God on our own terms?
3. One specific application of their promise to God was to avoid intermarriage with non-Jews. (v. 30) Why might that have been an important matter for them? Why is marrying a believer in Jesus a critical matter for a New Testament Christian?
4. Another focus of their renewed obedience was to honor God's requirements for the Sabbath. (v. 31) Why do you think God did not want them to conduct business on the Sabbath? How might disobeying these stipulations have affected their relationship with God?
5. Verses 32-39 record the various ways the people promised to provide for the "service of the house of our God" (v. 32) Why do you think it would have been spiritually important to them to have the Temple fully operational? What are some of the benefits you receive by regularly participating in a worshipping community?
6. For the care of the Temple, what did the people commit to give (vv. 34-39)? What does it mean to give our "first" and our "best" to God? Give examples. How does such a calling apply to New Testament believers?

Apply: How are you challenged by the example of God's people here? Be specific.

Pray: Ask God for strength and resolve to follow Him wholeheartedly.

Nehemiah 9:38-10:39

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