

## Nehemiah 10 – Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Nehemiah 10** -- 1 Now those who placed their seal on the document were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, and 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, and Shemaiah. These were the priests.  
- The chapter begins where the previous chapter had ended with the children of Israel renewing their commitment to the Lord.  
- This after and in concert with what's believed to be the longest recorded prayer in scripture, as they now seek to seal the oath.  
- In verses 9 through 27, we have a list of all the names of the Levites who signed and sealed it, with Nehemiah as governor.

9 The Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, and Kadmiel. 10 Their brethren: Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, 11 Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah, 12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, 13 Hodijah, Bani, and Beninu. 14 The leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath-Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, 15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, 16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, 17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, 18 Hodijah, 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 Ahijah, Hanan, Anan, 27 Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.  
- This is one of those places in the Word of God where you ask yourself the question of why we need to have this list of names.  
- Actually, there are eighty-four names recorded for us here, and God deemed it necessary that we know who these men were.  
- I would suggest that the reason is because, these men were willing to lay it all on the line as it were renewing their commitment.

28 Now the rest of the people—the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone who had knowledge and understanding—29 these joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes:  
- This mention of the "rest of the people" refers to all in addition to the aforementioned eighty-four men who signed the covenant.  
- In other words, they were all of one mind and one accord in the sense that everyone was in agreement concerning this oath.  
- This speaks to a principle of paramount importance when it comes to God's people walking in agreement one with another.

Psalm 133:1-3 (NKJV) — 1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

30 We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons;  
- Here we're told the parents made a vow not to let their daughters or sons marry the peoples of the land who were not Jews.  
- This because, in that day, the parents would actually arrange the marriages, and they were not to intermarry with foreigners.  
- In our day, this has its application to young people not being un-equally yoked in marriage to someone who's not a Christian.

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (NIV) — 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." 17 Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." 18 And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

31 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; and we would forego the seventh year's produce and the exacting of every debt.  
- The commitment they make here in this verse as it relates to their ability to earn an income can be summed up in a word, trust.  
- The reason being is that they are willing to trust God to provide all their financial needs under the banner of their obedience.  
- This is a much-needed reminder when it comes to obeying God's Word in the area of our giving of talent, treasure and time.

Matthew 6:25–34 - 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

32 Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to exact from ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: 33 for the showbread, for the regular grain offering, for the regular burnt offering of the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the set feasts; for the holy things, for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God. 34 We cast lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for bringing the wood offering into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at the appointed times year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God as it is written in the Law. 35 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; 36 to bring the firstborn of our sons and our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks, to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God; 37 to bring the firstfruits of our dough, our offerings, the fruit from all kinds of trees, the new wine and oil, to the priests, to the storerooms of the house of our God; and to bring the tithes of our land to the Levites, for the Levites should receive the tithes in all our farming communities.

- Here again, the commitment they make here can also be summed up in one word, which is "obedience," related to firstfruits.
- In other words, obedience to God's Word in the area of honoring the Lord with the first fruits of all their grains and produce.
- This is one of those commands in God's Word that comes packaged with the promise of God filling their barns to overflowing.

Proverbs 3:9–10 - 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

- This also speaks to a very important New Testament principle of giving in a way that is consistent and intentional with purpose.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV) — 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

1 Corinthians 16:1–4 (NIV) — 1 Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 3 Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

38 And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms of the storehouse. 39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God.

- Sadly by the time we get to chapter thirteen they will in fact neglect the house of their God in spite of this renewed commitment.
- But God! As we had talked about at length last week, God is always merciful and gracious to us in spite of our disobedience.
- This is how I would like to bring our Bible study to an end tonight. I would like to close with one of my favorite verses in Psalms.

Psalms 27:13–14 (NKJV) — 13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. 14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!