

**PUTTING GOD'S
TRUTH INTO
PRACTICE**

NEHEMIAH 10:1-39

INTRODUCTION

- Chapters 1-7: Rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem
- Chapter 8: Beginning of a revival as God's people gathered and listened to His Word being read and explained
- Chapter 9: The people repented and confessed their sins
- **Chapter 10: Corporate covenant to put God's truth into practice in a number of specific areas**

INTRODUCTION

- **Outline of Chapter 10**
 - Names of the leaders who signed the covenant (9:38-10:27)
 - General obligation of the covenant (10:28-29)
 - Commitment made by the Israelites (10:30-39)

A FORM OF COMMITMENT

- *“In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it.” (Nehemiah 9:38)*
- Direction that the people wanted to take in life by putting into verbal form

LEADERS WHO SIGNED THE COVENANT

- ***Signers of the new covenant:***
 - Nehemiah the governor (10:1)
 - A company of priests (10:2-8)
 - A group of Levites who serve the temple (10:9-13)
 - Leaders of the people (10:14-27)
 - Common people (10:28-29)

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE COVENANT

- A need for preserving and perpetuating the changes in their lifestyles so as to keep in step with God
- A need to hold each other accountable in their walk with God
- A commitment to fully obey God's commandments

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- ***Promise to avoid the unequal yoke***

“We promise not to give our daughters in marriage to the peoples around us or take their daughters for our sons. (10:30)

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- *Promise to avoid the unequal yoke*

Practical application to us:

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers, for what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever, or what agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?" 2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- ***Promise to keep the Sabbath***

“When the neighboring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on any holy day. Every seventh year we will forgo working the land and will cancel all debts. (10:31)

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- ***Promise to keep the Sabbath***
 - Sunday is not Sabbath, it is the Lord's Day. It is a day to rejoice, worship and celebrate God's activity in our life.
 - Seventh year teaches us to rest in God's supply (Leviticus 25:18-22). Our sovereign God supplies all our needs.

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- ***Provide for the temple offerings***

“We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give a third of a shekel each year for the service of the house of our God: for the bread set out on the table; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, at the New Moon feasts and at the appointed festivals; for the holy offerings; for sin offerings to make atonement for Israel; and for all the duties of the house of our God. “We - the priests, the Levites and the people - have cast lots to determine when each of our families is to bring to the house of our God at set times each year a contribution of wood to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the Law. (10:32-34)

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- *Provide for the temple offerings*
- The need for offering & sacrifice was so that the Israelites were never allowed to forget the cost of redemption
- God is teaching his people that their problem with sin within was of such a serious nature it cannot be solved by merely instructing the mind. Only death can cure it.

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- *Provide for the temple offerings*

Practical application to us:

- We should not forget the cost of our redemption, purchased through the blood of Jesus.
- "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." (1 Peter 1:18-19).

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- ***Promise to bring firstfruits to God***

“We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree. “As it is also written in the Law, we will bring the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks to the house of our God, to the priests ministering there. “Moreover, we will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God, to the priests, the first of our ground meal, of our grain offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and of our new wine and olive oil. (10:35-37a)

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- ***Promise to bring firstfruits to God***
- The Law stated that God was to receive the first of everything dedicated to Him (Exodus 13:11-16).
- The Law of the first fruits taught the chosen people to recognize Yahweh's ownership and right to claim their lives.
- The first born of every household, the land and the flocks belonged to God.

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- *Promise to bring firstfruits to God*

Practical application to us:

"You are not your own; you are bought with a price." (1 Corinthians 1:19-20)

- Recognize God's rights over your life, and live within those rights. You belong to God. He has the right to direct and guide you in the choices in life.

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- **Promise to give a tithe**

“And we will bring a tithe of our crops to the Levites, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all the towns where we work. A priest descended from Aaron is to accompany the Levites when they receive the tithes, and the Levites are to bring a tenth of the tithes up to the house of our God, to the storerooms of the treasury. The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine and olive oil to the storerooms, where the articles for the sanctuary and for the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the musicians are also kept. (10:37b-39a)

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- ***Promise to give a tithe***
- Malachi 3:10 - God ordained the tithes would supply the needs of the temple and its ministry. It was ten percent of everything. That was the minimum. It was owed to God.

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- *Promise to give a tithe*

Practical application to us:

- Motive is God's primary concern when we give back to God.
- Offerings do not mean a thing to God unless it is given with a cheerful spirit and from a thankful heart.

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- ***Promise to not neglect the house of God***
“*We will not neglect the house of our God.*” (10:39b)
- Commitment of the people to faithfully attend the worship services of the temple.

COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELITES

- ***Promise to not neglect the house of God***

Practical application to us:

- To allow God to dwell among us.

"Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching,"
(Hebrews 10:25).

CONCLUSION

- Choose a marriage partner who knows and loves the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Rest in the Lord, abide in Christ
- Remember that you are a redeemed person.
- Because we are a redeemed people, we are to be obedient to Him.
- Give out of the abundance of God's giving to you.
- Do not forsake assembling with other believers for worship, fellowship and service.