

Nehemiah 9

King James Version (KJV)

9 Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them. (This is 2 days after the feast of booths <Succoth>. These are signs of mourning and humility)

² And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers. (Separating themselves from strangers <foreigners> and their idol worship)

³ And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God.

⁴ Then stood up upon the stairs, of the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani, and cried with a loud voice unto the LORD their God.

⁵ Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. (Their prayer to God)

⁶ Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee. (Acknowledging God as creator of all things)

⁷ Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham; (They are remembering where they came from. Heritage is important to God. That's why God hated Esau; because he didn't care about his heritage or his inheritance)

⁸ And foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou art righteous:

(Remembering that the Promised Land was given by God to the descendants of Abraham)

⁹ And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red sea; (God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt – even parted the Red Sea so they could escape the Egyptian army. Egypt was the most powerful country in that time, and God defeated their entire army in one day)

¹⁰ And shewedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land: for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them. So didst thou get thee a name, as it is this day. (These are the 10 plagues that God used to convince Pharaoh to release Israel. God did this to deliver the Israelites but also to show the Egyptian people that there is a God in heaven. Their idols were just that – lifeless idols)

(By the time that the Egyptians released the Israelites, they knew for sure that there is a God in Heaven. His name is Yahoveh) Exodus-3:14

¹¹ And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters. (The Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry ground, not in mud. This was a miracle. They would not have been able to get their heavy wagons and pack animals through had the ground been muddy) Exodus-14:21-22

(Egyptian army drowned, trying to pursue the Israelites across the Red Sea) See 1Corinthians-10:1-11

¹² Moreover thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way wherein they should go. (God gave them a cloud to shade to protect them by day, and a pillar of fire to protect them by night, for 40 years; as they crossed the wilderness)

¹³ Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: (God gave them the Ten Commandments – so they could learn how to live righteously)

¹⁴ And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant:

(To put order to disorder. The Ten Commandments are the law, but the statutes and precepts also guided them in their daily lives)

(The statutes and precepts are no longer there in the New Testament, but the Law <Ten Commandments> are forever. Jesus fulfilled the blood ordinances on the cross. HE became our Sabbath every day, not just once a week)

¹⁵ And gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promisedst them that they should go in to possess the land which thou hadst sworn to give them. (God fed them Manna, quail and water for 40 years in the wilderness; and then led them into the Promised Land)

¹⁶ But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, (But they turned against God – to idolatry, perversion and sin. So they lost all of their blessings and eventually, their country. God is fair. We all get what we deserve)

NOTE: (Pride was also Satan's sin. He thought that he could replace Jesus Christ as the savior of man. He was wrong. God ended Satan's rebellion and abased him from being Cherubim to a lowly fallen angel who has been sentenced to die after the Millennium Period)

¹⁷ And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not. Numbers-13 & 14 (The scouts that they sent to scope out the Promised Land, came back with stories about giants. They voted to return to Egypt. Moses refused, and God punished them by making them stay in the wilderness 40 years, until the next generation would be old enough to enter the Promised Land)

(Once in the Promised Land, they rebelled against God for many centuries. God sent prophet after prophet, to try to change their minds, but they refused all of them. Now that they are repenting, God is forgiving them)

¹⁸ Yea, when they had made them a molten calf, and said, This is thy God that brought thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations; (Both in the desert <by Aaron>, and later in Ephraim <by King Jeroboam>)

¹⁹ Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go. (With all their rebellion and sin, God never abandoned them, although they would have deserved it)

(Today, Jesus Christ is the Light and the Way. HE will never abandon us either)

²⁰ Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

²¹ Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not. (Even their clothes and their shoes lasted the 40 years)

²² Moreover thou gavest them kingdoms and nations, and didst divide them into corners: so they possessed the land of Sihon, and the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan. (The Promised Land was a fertile land of milk and honey. God cleared out the giants <Raphaim> before they got there. And the few that were left <Geeber>, He gave Israel the victory over all of them)

²³ Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it. Genesis-22:11

²⁴ So the children went in and possessed the land, and thou subduedst before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gavest them into their hands, with their kings, and the people of the land, that they might do with them as they would. (God defeated the giant offspring of the fallen angels and the tribes of the Canaanites)

²⁵ And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness. (The cities were already built and the wells already dug. They received vineyards and agriculture. All they had to do was to move in. God did all that for them)

See Isaiah-5:1-7(A parable about the Israelites and their repeating ungratefulness for all that God did for them)

²⁶ Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations. (Jezebel murdered hundreds of priests and prophets and replaced them with Baal priests. The Israelites got so bad that they started to sacrifice their own children by fire to the false god Molech; just like the Canaanite tribes had done)

NOTE: (It is easy to judge the stupidity of these people; but we are no better today with atheism, multi-culturalism, Islam, sexual perversion and the murder of our own children in abortion "clinics")

²⁷ Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies. (God gave them chance after chance, saving after saving, for generation after generation; yet they never learned)

²⁸ But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee: therefore leftest thou them in the land of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and many times didst thou deliver them according to thy mercies; (But after God had saved them again, the following generation would go right back to their old evil ways)

²⁹ And testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law: yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear. See 2Peter-3:9

³⁰ Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands. (Their rebellion and sins against God eventually cost them their country)

³¹ Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God. (God destroyed the country, but not the people)

³² Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day. (terrible = awesome – this is an old English translation)

³³ Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly: (God is fair and just toward all people. HE has no favorites. HE judges us by our actions)

³⁴ Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them. (God warned them over and over; generation after generation, for centuries; but they refused to listen)

NOTE: (We are no better today. Most people have never even read the Bible. Many even believe that there is no God in heaven. Our preachers and our leaders are all corrupt. They get rich at the expense of the people that they are sworn to serve)

³⁵ For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works. (God gave them a rich and fertile land and all they did was continue to sin against Him; and refused to repent. So they ended up losing their country)

(They were taken by the heathen people that surrounded them. The Assyrians took the 10 northern tribes, and the Babylonians took the two southern tribes)

³⁶ Behold, we are servants this day, and for the land that thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it: (They have become servants in their own land. Their labors enrich the people who rule over them)

³⁷ And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress. (If God didn't make Cyrus and Darius allow them to return to Judah, they would be much worse off than they were now)

NOTE: (The next verse <38> has a lot more to do with the next chapter <10> than with this one. It probably should have been divided into that chapter, from the scrolls)

³⁸ And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it. (They are repentant and want to return to God's laws and righteous, healthy living. They pledge their repentance and sign it)