

# Renewing the Covenant

Nehemiah 9-10

## Nehemiah 9:1

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the sons of Israel assembled with **fasting**, in **sackcloth** and with **dirt upon them**.

**Fasting** ≠ Lust of the flesh

**Sackcloth** ≠ Lust of the eye

**Dirt on head** ≠ Pride of Life

## Nehemiah 9:2

The descendants of Israel separated themselves from all **foreigners** and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

נכר

(*nei-char*)

## Deuteronomy 31:16

Adonai said to Moses, “Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers; and this people will arise and <sup>(A)</sup>play the harlot with the **foreign** gods of the land, <sup>(B)</sup>into the midst of which they are going, and will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.”

## Psalm 81:9-12

Let there be no strange god among you; nor shall you worship any **foreign** god. I, Adonai, am your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it. But My people did not listen to My voice, and Israel did not obey Me. So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own devices.”

## Joshua 24:14-25

## Isaiah 56:6

“Also, the **foreigners** who join themselves to Adonai, to minister to Him, and to love the name of Adonai, to be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath and holds fast My covenant.”

# The Prayer of the Levites

(Nehemiah 9:5-38)

- 5 - The call to prayer
- 6 - God the Creator
- 7-8 - God's covenant with Abraham
- 9-12 - Redemption from Egypt
- 13-15 - God gives the Torah
- 16-21 - Israel's **rebellion** & God's continued Faithfulness
- 22-25 - Israel conquers The Land
- 26-29 - **15 Rebellions** (Book of Judges)
- 30-31 - The Babylonian Exile

**How do we break the cycle?**

- 32-38 - Renewing the Covenant

# God's 13 Attributes of Mercy

(Exodus 34:6-7)

- 1- **Adonai** (יהוה)
  - 2- **Adonai** (יהוה)
  - 3- **EI** (אל)
  - 4- **Compassionate** (רחום)
  - 5- **Gracious** (חנון)
  - 6- **Slow to Anger** (ארך אפים)
  - 7- **Abundant in Kindness** (רב חסד)
  - 8- **and Truth** (אמת)
  - 9- **Preserver of Kindness for thousands of generations** (נצר חסד לאלפים)
- Bearer of... (נשא...)**
- 10- **Iniquity** (עון)
  - 11- **and Willful Sin** (פשע)
  - 12- **and Error** (חטאת)
  - 13- **and who Cleanses** (נקיה)

**Q: Why this repeating cycle of rebellion?**

**A:** Blessings

**Deuteronomy 29:18-20**

“... so that there will not be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from Adonai our God, to go and serve the gods of those nations; that there will not be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood. It shall be when he hears the words of this curse that he will boast, saying, **‘I will have peace though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart** in order to destroy the watered land with the dry.’ Adonai shall not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of Adonai and His jealousy will burn against that man, and every curse which is written in this book will rest on him, and Adonai will blot out his name from under heaven.”

Do not view blessings merely as gifts rained down from above, view them as rungs in a ladder by which we can ascend into God's presence.

### Revelation 2:1-5

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: "I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false, and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. **But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.** Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place-- unless you repent.

## Correction:

- **Remember** what you used to be
- **Repent**
- **Do** what you used to do

## What are the “first works”?

- |                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 – <b>Purity</b> (no intermarriage) | v.30     |
| 2 – <b>Sabbath</b>                   | v.31     |
| 3 – <b><i>Shemitah</i> years</b>     | v.31     |
| 4 – <b>Temple tax</b>                | v. 32-34 |
| 5 – <b>Firstfruits</b>               | v. 35    |
| 6 – <b>Dedication of firstborns</b>  | v. 36    |
| 7 – <b>Tithing</b>                   | v. 37-39 |
-



## Quotes:

Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, "Do it again"; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again" to the sun; and every evening, "Do it again" to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we.

*G.K. Chesterton*