



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

November 8, 2020

Nehemiah 9

- 1) Reread Nehemiah 9 and then read Daniel 9:4-19. Compare these two passages. What are the authors doing? Why do you think they are looking back and recounting all of the ways God has worked in the history of the nation of Israel? Have you ever taken the time to think about the times God has worked in your own life? Why might this be a good thing—maybe even an **important** thing—to do?
- 2) In Nehemiah 9:2-3 we see the Israelites in mourning as they confess their sins against God and then in Nehemiah 9:16-18, they recount not only God's work but their own rebellion.
Why do you think it was important to acknowledge their own disobedience and rebellion? When you consider your own life, would you say you tend to dwell on your disobedience and failure or do you tend to not think about it at all?
- 3) What do we learn about God in verse 17 and verse 19? If you tend to dwell on your own rebellion, do you also embrace what we know to be true of God according to verse 17?
- 4) As we read through this whole chapter we see a cycle:
God blesses the people → the people disobey and rebel → disaster comes → the people cry out to God → God saves the people → God blesses the people → the people disobey and rebel and so on...
Do you think you are more likely to follow God closely in times of crisis or times of blessing? Why do you think you drift away? What can we do to be sure that we stay close to God even when we might normally find ourselves drifting away, or maybe even rebelling against Him?
- 5) At the end of this chapter, we see the Israelites making a promise (or we could say a vow or a covenant) to honor God and live a life of obedience. Why do you think the Israelites decided to make this vow? Think about the vows/promises you've made over your lifetime—those you've kept and those you've broken. Have you ever made promises or vows to God? Have you kept them? Why or why not?

