

NEHEMIAH - CHAPTER 13

NOTES FROM LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE _____

V1-3 THEY READ FROM SCRIPTURE AND SEPARATED FROM FOREIGNERS

- CERTAIN FOREIGNERS NOT WELCOME (DUET 23:3-5)
 - GOD TURNED THE CURSE INTO A BLESSING

V4-9 THE ENEMY DWELLING IN THE TEMPLE

- THE HIGH PRIEST WAS RELATED TO TOBIAH
- NEPOTISM IS PRESENT-FAVORITISM GRANTED TO RELATIVES ABOVE ALL OTHERS
- HE CLEARS OUT THE STOREROOMS AND LETS HIM LIVE THERE
- V8-RIGHTEOUS ANGER-THROWS ALL HIS STUFF OUT
- MOVES ALL THE TEMPLE OFFERINGS BACK IN

V6 NEHEMIAH RETURNED TO PERSIA

- HE RETURNED TO THE PALACE, AND BACK TO JERUSALEM SOME TIME LATER
 - WE DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG HAD PASSED

V10- THE HOUSE OF GOD IS FORSAKEN AGAIN

- THE LEVITES WERE NOT PAID
- THE LEVITES AND THE SINGERS WENT BACK TO THEIR FIELDS
- BROUGHT EVERYONE TOGETHER
- REESTABLISHED ORDER
- BROUGHT THE TITHE

V14, 22, 31 NEHEMIAH PRAYS WITH INCREASING CENTRAL TONE

- IT MATTERS WE GUARD OURSELVES FROM SELF CENTERED PRAYER

V14-22 REDIRECTING THE SABBATH LAWS

- WARNED THOSE BRINGING THINGS TO SELL
- EVEN THE JEWS WERE BUYING
- REMEMBER THE DISASTER THAT FOLLOWED THIS?
- SO HE SHUT AND BARRED THE DOORS ON THE SABBATH
- ONCE OR TWICE THE SELLERS EVEN CAMPED OUTSIDE
- THREATENED TO ARREST/LAY HANDS ON THEM

V23-27 MARRYING FOREIGN WOMEN

- THEY WERE SO INTERMARRIED THEY COULDN'T EVEN READ OR SPEAK THE LANGUAGE
- THINGS GOT PHYSICAL AND HEATED
 - HE CURSED
 - BEAT THEM
 - PULLED OUT HAIR
- HISTORY AGAIN-REMEMBER SOLOMON-FOREIGN WOMEN MADE EVEN HIM SIN!

V23-31 WE SEE AGAIN NEPOTISM

- WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO CALL INTO THIS TRAP WITH OUR OWN CHILDREN
- A CLEANSING WAS REQUIRED
- AN OFFERING MADE

.....all that were around them knew their work was accomplished with the help of our God!

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V31 HE PRAYS

- SOME SCHOLARS BELIEVE HE HAS ACQUIRED A NEW TONE
- AND THE OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVE ENDS ON THIS LOW NOTE
- LIKE MANY BOOKS-LIKE WHEN EVEN MOSES DOESN'T GET TO GO INTO THE PROMISED LAND
- LEAVING US HUNGRY FOR A SAVIOR

So what all happened during those 400 years before we turn the page to the angel telling Mary not to be afraid?

- THE PERSIAN EMPIRE IS OVERTHROWN BY GREEK EMPIRE (ALEXANDER THE GREAT)
- 4 GENERALS THEN ESTABLISH 2 DYNASTIES ARE ESTABLISHED
- RECORDS OF JOSEPHUS DESCRIBE ALL THE TURMOIL AND DESTRUCTION THAT COMES
 - TEMPLE IS DESECRATED BY PIGS
 - AGAINST THE LAW TO OWN SCRIPTURE OF OBSERVE THE SABBATH
 - TRIES TO KILLS ALL PRIESTS
- JUDAS THE HAMMER COMES-MACCABEES- GUERRILLA WARFARE BEAT THE SIRIAN ARMY
 - FREE TO MAKE A DAVIDIC KING, ABLE TO ESTABLISH
 - BUT INSTEAD THE INSTALL THEMSELVES UNTIL THE ROMANS TAKE OVER

This causes me to ask some questions: Why end this way? Why end on such an anticlimactic low point? Why these specific sins addressed? MARRIAGE/MONEY/REST What does all this point to?

WHILE WE STUDIED MANY THEMES THROUGHOUT THIS BOOK, NEHEMIAH IS UNDOUBTEDLY A BOOK ALL ABOUT SIN, BUT WE SEE SOME OTHER COMMON MENTIONS THAT HELP US DRAW OUT EVEN MORE

THE LINE OF DAVID

- THE DAVIDIC KING MUST COME-JESUS IS ANNOUNCED AS THE SON OF DAVID
- A POINTING FORWARD TO THE ULTIMATE HOPE
- THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE MUST COME THROUGH RESTORATION OF THE TEMPLE

THE TEMPLE & HISTORY

- JUDGEMENT/CRY OUT-REPENT/MERCY CYCLE OF GOD THROUGH REDEMPTIVE HISTORY
- GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE-TO BE THEIR CENTER
- EMMANUEL IS COMING-THE TEMPLE HIMSELF-ABOUT TO BE BORN
- TO DIE ONCE FOR ALL
- TO BECOME THE TEMPLE-THE PERFECT MEETING PLACE FOR SINNERS AND GOD
- ISAIAH:MIGHTY GOD, ALMIGHTY KING, PRINCE OF PEACE
- NO LONGER A MOBILE TEMPLE, OR A A PLACE MADE BY MAN OF MEASURED GLORY

JERUSALEM

- CITY OF DAVID-WHERE THE GREAT KING WOULD COME
- PLACE OF THE TEMPLE, WHERE GOD WOULD PLANT A PEOPLE AND HIS NAME
- CENTER OF HIS COVENANTIAL PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE OLD TEST-OUR LINEAGE IN CHRIST
- THE NEW JERUSALEM IS COMING! REV 21

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