

NEHEMIAH - CHAPTER 9

NOTES FROM LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE _____

V1-5 DESERVED AND UNDESERVED DISTRESS

- THE TIME FOR WEeping THEY SET ASIDE HAS COME
- THEY WERE IN A STATE OF GREAT DISTRESS-VERSE 37 SAYS THEY ARE IN A DISTRESS THAT THEY DESERVED BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN AND GOD PUT THEM IN IT
- NEVER TELL GOD YOU ARE NOT WORTHY OF DELIVERANCE
- THERE IS A SELF PITY THAT EXULTS ONESELF HIGHER THAN GOD WHEN WE THINK WE HAVE DONE SOMETHING UNWORTHY OF DELIVERANCE

Have you ever felt your distress was unworthy of bringing to God because you brought your distress upon yourself-it didn't just come upon you.

- IF YOU LOVE PEOPLE AT ALL, YOU WILL KNOW GREAT DISTRESS THROUGHOUT YOUR ENTIRE LIFE REGULARLY

V6-38. THE LONG PRAYER *How do they seek help in their distress?*

- THEY PRAY THEIR HISTORY-THEIR SIN AND MERCY STORY
 - THEY PRAY BACK TO GOD A RETELLING OF THE TORAH-THEY TELL GOD WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR CENTURIES BEFORE THEM IN THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL
 - THEY ARE DESPERATE TO KNOW THERE IS HOPE AND ENJOYMENT OF
 - 30 TIMES-YOU, AND YOU, AND YOU.....GOD'S
- V6-15 GOD'S POWER, RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND FAITHFULNESS TO KEEP HIS PROMISES IS SEEN
- V 16-31 WE SEE THE FOLLOWING WAYS GOD'S PEOPLE REBELLED AND HOW GOD RESPONDED
- V16-17
 - ARROGANT & STIFF NECKED, REBELIOUS, ENSLAVED
 - DISOBEDIENT, REFUSING TO LISTEN, FAILED TO REMEMBER MIRACLES
 - FORGIVING, GRACIOUS, COMPASSIONATE
 - SLOW TO ANGER, ABOUNDING IN LOVE, DID NOT DESERT
- V18-25
 - CALF IDOL, BLASPHEMOUS, IDOLATROUS
 - GREAT COMPASSION, DID NOT ABANDON,
 - GUIDING BY CLOUD AND FIRE, DAY AND NIGHT, INSTRUCTING THEM BY THE SPIRIT
 - FEEDING AND PROVIDING WATER-SUSTAINING, SO THEY LACKED NOTHING
 - CLOTHED & COMFORTED
 - GAVE THEM LAND, KINGDOMS, NATIONS
 - GAVE THEM MANY SONS- BROUGHT THEM INTO THE PROMISED LAND
 - SUBDUED ENEMIES & PROVIDED ESTABLISHED LANDS, READY FIELDS, AND FOOD
- V26-27

Under the new covenant there is not an external law pressing you toward obedience, but an internal Spirit working within you, sealing you for the day of redemption where one day we know we will never sin again.

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- DISOBEDIENT, REBELLIOUS, TURNED AWAY FROM THE LAW
- KILLED PROPHETS AND COMMITTED BLASPHEMIES
 - HANDED THEM OVER TO THEIR ENEMIES
- OPPRESSED BY ENEMIES & CRIED OUT
 - HEARD THEM FROM HEAVEN
 - COMPASSIONATE DELIVERANCE & RESCUE FROM ENEMIES
- V28
 - THEY RESTED A BIT & DID EVIL AGAIN & CRIED OUT AGAIN
 - ABANDONED TO ENEMY HANDS, ENSLAVED AGAIN
 - REPEATED COMPASSIONATE DELIVERANCE
 - GAVE WARNINGS TO RETURN
- V29 & 30
 - ARROGANT & DISOBEDIENT
 - SINNED, ORDINANCES, DEATH
 - TURNED THEIR BACKS, STIFF NECKED, REFUSING TO LISTEN
 - PATIENTLY ADMONISHED-SENT PROPHETS
- V30 & 31
 - PAID NO ATTENTION TO TRUTH
 - HANDED THEM OVER
 - MERCIFULLY SUSTAINED THEM, DID NOT ABANDON
 - GRACIOUS & MERCIFUL

What are the implications of the future of the people of God if this is the only hope?

- GOD GIVES US OVER, SO THAT WE CRY OUT, SO THAT HE CAN DELIVER THEM FROM A DESERVED PUNISHMENT- JUDGEMENT, CRY, MERCY
- REBEL, RESCUE, REST, REPEAT.... FAILURE, DO BETTER, MERCY
- IT CAN FEEL LIKE AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF UP AND DOWN
- GOD SENT JESUS TO BREAK THIS SIN CYCLE SO WE CAN CLING TO JESUS WHO BOUGHT THE MERCY BECAUSE OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS
- THERE IS NEVER A CONTRADICTION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HIS MERCY
- GOD ALWAYS ACTS IN A WAY THAT VALUES THE INFINITELY VALUABLE. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS GOD HIMSELF. HE CAN NOT ACT IN A WAY THAT DOESN'T AGREE WITH HIS OWN CHARACTER

V32-38. THEIR RESPONSE

- THEY CRIED OUT FOR HELP
- THEY MADE A NEW BINDING AGREEMENT IN WRITING
 - GOD'S PEOPLE ARE A COVENANT PEOPLE
- OWNERSHIP OF THE ENTIRE PEOPLE-THEY ARE DESPERATE TO REMEMBER THAT GOD DELIVERS SO THEY CAN TRULY LET THE JOY OF THE LORD BE THEIR STRENGTH IN THEIR GREAT DISTRESS
- OUR SIN DOESN'T CHANGE GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Under the new covenant there is not an external law pressing you toward obedience, but an internal Spirit working within you, sealing you for the day of redemption where one day we know we will never sin again.