



# 40 DAYS OF PRAYER

## SEPTEMBER 13 - NEHEMIAH 1:1-3

### **Summary:**

Nehemiah lived in Susa. He looked to serve the people of God who were hundreds of miles away.

### **Church:**

Lord, we thank You for raising up a man who had a concern for the global church. He had heard that the people of God in Austin, TX were struggling. He asked and was concerned about us ever since he heard that we lost our building in 2018, and he searched for ways to help us.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I pray for a heart like Nehemiah's that has concern for the people of God beyond my own neighborhood. I pray that like Hachaliah, I would raise up the next generation to love and serve the people of God. I pray that like Hanani, I can share the needs of the church with those who can do something about it.

## SEPTEMBER 14 - NEHEMIAH 1:4-11

### **Summary:**

When Nehemiah heard the news about the brokenness of the city of Jerusalem, God gave him a heart for the city, for the sin of Israel, and for his own sin. Nehemiah also recognized that God could use his position of influence, and he waited patiently for God's will to be revealed.

### **Church:**

Lord, we repent of any failure to care for the brokenness of the city and recognize our own responsibility for sin. Lord, let our church have a position of influence so that You might use us to transform this city.

### **Personal:**

Lord, give me a heart of brokenness over the state of our culture and the state of my own soul. Reveal to me where I have fallen short, and instead give me opportunities to use my position to influence those around me for the cause of the kingdom.

## SEPTEMBER 15 - NEHEMIAH 2:1-8

### **Summary:**

After three months of prayer and fasting, Nehemiah's face reflected the concern of his heart. The king noticed his suffering, and asked him what was wrong. In this critical moment, Nehemiah had a plan ready for the king to fund the rebuilding of Jerusalem's city walls. The king granted Nehemiah's request because the Lord was with him.

**Church:**

Lord, we recognize your authority as the King of Heaven to provide the resources we need to build a home for our church. We ask you to raise up those who are as bold as Nehemiah to present the building of a home for God's people to those with generous hearts who have resources to support the work.

**Personal:**

Father, grant me boldness when I have an opportunity to present our building vision to those who might be willing to help. Help me cast aside my pride and trust You. Lord, grant me generosity so that when God's people bring me God sized problems, I might intervene on Your behalf and bring Your Kingdom to Earth as it is in Heaven.

**SEPTEMBER 16 - NEHEMIAH 2:9-20****Summary:**

Accompanied by an army, Nehemiah made his way to Jerusalem and got the supplies he needed. After he arrived, there were two basic responses to God's commitment to rebuild the wall through Nehemiah: Excitement that even after several generations, God was with them to rebuild. Anger that Jerusalem might be restored to the Jews. Nehemiah believed God was with them in spite of the opposition.

**Church:**

Lord, we pray for perseverance beyond any resistance. Just as Nehemiah overcame Sanballat and Tobiah, Lord, we pray that we might overcome any opposition, whether it be through negativity, or the city permitting process for our building. Bless the hands of those who work alongside us.

**Personal:**

Father, I pray that whenever antagonism comes against the God-sized vision You give me, I would neither fear nor retreat. Instead, let me press into You in faith. Lord give me courage to overcome negativity to bring Your kingdom near according to the vision You have given me.

**SEPTEMBER 17 - NEHEMIAH 3:1-5****Summary:**

The construction started with the Sheep Gate and continued through the Fish Gate in the west. Nehemiah kept a careful record of all who participated in the building—and of those who didn't. The town leaders of Tekoa did not help in the build, and it is recorded for all time.

**Church:**

Father, in this time of building, unify our church as we construct our church home. Lord, we know You value all who are faithful to contribute to this work. We pray that no one gets left out from participating in this campaign.

**Personal:**

Lord, please allow me to participate in what You are calling the church to do. I pray that I never see myself as too low to contribute enough or too high to get my hands dirty. Allow me to walk by faith and not by fear in being a part of what You are doing through our church.

## SEPTEMBER 18 - NEHEMIAH 3:6-12

**Summary:**

Men from different professions—goldsmiths, perfumers, city leaders—all took part in the building of the wall. Families from different areas of the city aligned themselves for the purpose of making a secure home and future for the people of God.

**Church:**

Lord, I pray that people from different backgrounds, different professions, and different parts of the city come together side by side to build the home and future of our church. Father, give us favor with You and people as we seek to do Your will.

**Personal:**

Lord, I pray for opportunities to work alongside those of different backgrounds, vocations, and parts of the city to fulfill the God-sized vision You have for my life. Lord, allow me to see Your people as my people that we might unite to build the Kingdom of God.

## SEPTEMBER 19 - NEHEMIAH 3:13-16

**Summary:**

Men from different parts of the city and different backgrounds all worked to fulfill the purpose. Some did less-glamorous work, like working on the Dung gate. Others worked near the tombs of David and the House of David's Mighty Men. Whether working on the part of the Wall of Honor or working on a more modest gate, these people understood that it all had to be done—glorious or not.

**Church:**

Father, I pray that our church comes together to build - both the things that everyone sees, like the auditorium, and the things that no one likes to think about, like bathrooms and janitor's closets. Lord, give us a heart to value every aspect of this campaign.

**Personal:**

Lord, thank You for the times when I can do things in the spotlight that honor You and me. I also thank You for the times that I do things that are necessary but not glamorous for Your glory and not mine. Keep me focused on serving You, not people or myself.

**SEPTEMBER 20 - NEHEMIAH 3:17-32****Summary:**

Nehemiah finished recounting the building of the wall's entire perimeter. He revealed that those who worked in the temple, the priests and the Levites, also took on the work of building the wall alongside the merchants and the goldsmiths.

**Church:**

Father, I pray that those in pastoral and staff positions within Your church would work alongside the lay leaders in this great work. Lord, allow clergy to fully take on the load side-by-side with those who work in the marketplace to be lights in the darkness.

**Personal:**

Lord, I thank You for our pastors and staff. I'm grateful for those whose full-time occupation is ministering to the people of God in a unique and powerful way. God, bless them with generous hearts and multiply their time and energy throughout this special season.

**SEPTEMBER 21 - NEHEMIAH 4:1-6****Summary:**

Sanballat and Tobiah saw the work being undertaken. They openly mocked and discouraged the work. They disparaged the quality of the wall as well as the effort of the builders.

**Church:**

Father, I pray that when those far from You try to stop our work—whether the building of a church home or building for the heavenly kingdom—You give our church courage to overcome the odds to do just what seems impossible. Lord, may we “revive the stones” because You have given us a heart and mind to overcome.

**Personal:**

Lord, give me faith to overcome adversity in the workplace, school, or anywhere else in my circumstances; may I never get discouraged by those who say my God-sized vision is weak and that it is impossible.

## SEPTEMBER 22 - NEHEMIAH 4:7-14

### **Summary:**

Sanballat and Tobiah plotted an ambush to attack the Jews and destroy their work. The Jews began to fear, saying that they were surrounded. Nehemiah got a battle plan ready and challenged the families and clans to defend their city and portion of the wall through a solid perimeter.

### **Church:**

Father, remind us of your power and presence when we see the size and difficulty of the task before us. You have called us to this great project. Therefore, we know that we can trust You, and know that this battle belongs to You.

### **Personal:**

Lord, remind me of how great and how awesome You are when I am afraid of the task before me or the opposition of the enemy. You have called me to walk by faith and not by my own human wisdom or knowledge. Lord, I believe that I work according to the calling and skill that You have provided. I trust You with the rest.

## SEPTEMBER 23 - NEHEMIAH 4:15-23

### **Summary:**

With the enemy poised to attack, Nehemiah challenged the Jews to maintain security while they did the work. He told them to labor with one hand and have a weapon in the other. Together they guarded at night, and they worked during the day. Not even Nehemiah changed his clothes.

### **Church:**

Father, the enemy is always poised around us. Let us be people of both the sword and of the shovel. Keep us ready to defend against the enemy's attack with the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. We are also here to build Your Kingdom, so please strengthen our grip on the shovel. Throughout everything, please maintain our unity as we work together to build Your kingdom.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I pray to be a person of the sword and the shovel. Allow me to defend against the enemy who prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Lord, help me defend against a culture that thinks You are irrelevant and outdated. Father, may I resist being idle as I seek to build Your kingdom.

## SEPTEMBER 24 - NEHEMIAH 5:1-5

### **Summary:**

As the work continued day and night around the city, Nehemiah became aware that wealthy Jews were charging poor Jews interest. This forced the poor to become slaves of their fellow Jews. This made their living conditions unethical as well as difficult.

### **Church:**

Lord, You are the Maker of all people. We pray that no wealthy Christian takes advantage of a Christian of less means. Lord, we pray that all would be content with the unique stewardship role You have bestowed upon each member of our body. May we see each other as brothers and sisters who are equally valuable to the Kingdom of God.

### **Personal:**

Father, I know that the sinful desire for power and wealth is in my heart. Allow me to value all people as unique individuals who bear Your image. Let me love others and treat them with dignity and respect so that I never become one who benefits from the failure of my brothers and sisters in Christ.

## SEPTEMBER 25 - NEHEMIAH 5:6-13

### **Summary:**

Nehemiah got very angry and he confronted the nobles and officials who took advantage of their own people by charging interest. He commanded them to return the interest in whatever form they received it. An oath was taken. Those who continued to disobey would be “shaken out and emptied” by God.

### **Church:**

Lord, may Your church be bold in calling out injustice. Let us strive to honor You in everything we do, and may we work to ensure justice and righteousness throughout this season of building and growth. Give us a desire to right the wrongs among us and to hold each other accountable so that Your church would bring You glory.

### **Personal:**

Father, help me love Your people. Convict me in the areas of my life where I neglect to prioritize the good of others above my own. Create in me a generous heart that seeks opportunities to give instead of a greedy heart that seeks to take from others; make me more concerned with using my resources to care for others than for building my own kingdom.

## SEPTEMBER 26 - NEHEMIAH 5:14-19

### **Summary:**

Nehemiah recounted his financial situation to the people, explaining that the king appointed him governor of the land, so he could tax the people. In light of their poverty, he chose not to tax them. In fact, he provided for 150 people out of his own wealth and held a feast every 10 days in addition to the work that he did on the wall. He asked the Lord to remember what he had done for Him.

### **Church:**

Lord, I pray that our church emulates Nehemiah's generosity and attitude. Father, as we seek to build up Your kingdom by building a place of worship, please honor our work. Remember our investment in the work of the kingdom. May we seek not just to build a building, but to build a kingdom community where we take care of each other in our times of need.

### **Personal:**

Father, open my eyes to the struggle of others. Lord, give me a generous heart, and let me see people as You see them. Lord, when I care for my brother and sister in Christ, help me seek their good at my expense as You sought my good at Your expense.

## SEPTEMBER 27 - NEHEMIAH 6:1-9

### **Summary:**

The enemies of Nehemiah—Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem—tried to lure Nehemiah to a neutral location to harm him and thus prevent him from completing the work of building the city wall. Four times he received a letter that used cunning and persuasion to lure Nehemiah from the wall, but he would not come. Sanballat sent an open letter the fifth time accusing Nehemiah of treason and a coup attempt. Despite this, Nehemiah kept at the work and prayed to God to “strengthen their hands.”

### **Church:**

Father, sometimes the enemy uses cunning to try to get into our heads and keep us from following through on the vision You set before us. In those times, please strengthen our hands so that we may build the kingdom and push back against the darkness.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I pray for strength. When You give me a God-sized vision for what You have called me to do, may I not hold back from giving 100%. When the enemy intimidates me, Father, I ask You to give me wisdom, strength, and faith to follow through on Your plan.

## SEPTEMBER 28 - NEHEMIAH 6:10-19

### **Summary:**

Tobiah and Sanballat hired Shemaiah to prophesy that assassins would kill Nehemiah unless he left the wall and hid in the temple. However, Nehemiah knew God's Word well enough to know that only Levites and priests could enter the Temple. He knew that Tobiah and Sanballat were looking for ways to discredit him, and refused to abandon the people or his work.

### **Church:**

Father in Heaven, we pray that our church's actions would glorify You. We know that we will face the temptation to hide from what we are called to be and called to do. When that happens, grant us the strength to be faithful and united no matter the cost or consequences in the sight of man.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I ask that when You give me a God-sized vision, strengthen me to complete the work even if it costs me. Give me discernment between what is faith action and what is unnecessary risk. I want to live my life fully for You, not in fear but in faith. Give me the wisdom to know what is right and the courage to carry it out.

## SEPTEMBER 29 - NEHEMIAH 7:1-4

### **Summary:**

With the wall finished, Nehemiah appointed gatekeepers, singers, and Levites. Then he put Hanani (his brother) and the faithful Hananiah (the governor) in charge of Jerusalem, and gave them instructions to protect the city even though there were few people and no houses rebuilt yet.

### **Church:**

Lord, thank You for the gifts You have given to the body of Christ. Every member has a role in building Your kingdom. Help us to be diligent in our work as we serve You together. Please help and strengthen our elders and pastors to faithfully lead our church.

### **Personal:**

Father, I know that You are sovereign and that You have good works planned out for Your people. I am thankful for the church family You have placed in my life. Please help me walk confidently in my calling so that I can bring You glory as I strive to do Your work alongside my church family.

## SEPTEMBER 30 - NEHEMIAH 7:5-65

### **Summary:**

Nehemiah recorded the list of all those who had returned to Jerusalem. This is a second witness to the fact that God was faithful in His promise to bring His people back to the Promised Land. God always keeps His promises.

### **Church:**

Father, thank You that You have kept Your promises to Your people, for we can see Your faithfulness in the life of our Church. When we lost our rented building, You were faithful to put a plan into action that would give us a permanent home. Father, help us to stay faithful as You have always been.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I seek You. I know that You have been faithful in the past. I know that You have come through for Your people throughout Your Word, and I can trust You today in my circumstance. Remind me of Your faithfulness. Help me recount Your goodness and be faithful to report how You have brought success in my own life.

## OCTOBER 1 - NEHEMIAH 7:66-73

### **Summary:**

The assembly of the Jews gathered, and many gave to the work of the wall including Nehemiah, who gave over \$2M USD in gold, basins, garments, and silver. Other leaders combined their efforts and brought over \$40M USD in gold and silver. The rest of the people brought over \$40M USD in gold, silver, and garments.

### **Church:**

Father, I pray that our church gives generously to the work, starting with the leadership giving as an example, and followed by the assembly. Grant us generous hearts that focus on bringing Your kingdom closer through what we can do here on Earth.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I pray to be generous. I pray that as I look to the church and to the other works that You have placed before me, I would see giving as an opportunity to invest and take part in Your will and kingdom work. Grow my heart in generosity and trust, so that my hope is in You and not in the security I have on Earth.

## OCTOBER 2 - NEHEMIAH 8:1-8

### **Summary:**

Ezra, the priest and scribe, read to all the people from The Book of the Law of Moses. Ezra stood on a platform and led the people to praise and worship the Lord from early morning to midday. A select group of people had the task of helping everyone present understand about the Law.

### **Church:**

Father, thank You for the men at our church who You have entrusted with preaching and teaching Your word. Let our church hold Your word in high regard so that we take what we read seriously. Let us remind each other of what we have learned from Your Word, and encourage each other to grow in our faith.

### **Personal:**

Lord, make me thirsty for Your word! Give me wisdom and understanding as I read Your story. Let me grow in knowledge of You so that my faith and works can bring You praise and glory.

## OCTOBER 3 - NEHEMIAH 8:9-12

### **Summary:**

Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites told the people not to mourn or weep on that day because it was holy, but the people wept when they heard the Law because they had failed to keep it. Leadership encouraged the people to enjoy food and drink, to share with those who had nothing, and rejoice because they understood the message.

### **Church:**

Father, I am thankful to be at a church that looks forward to reading and studying scripture every Sunday. Our Sundays are filled with celebration, rejoicing, and praise as we worship together as the body of Christ. We look forward to worshiping You in our new home, and to enjoying and welcoming new visitors to hear the gospel preached.

### **Personal:**

Father, Your word convicts me of my deep need for You. It reminds me of the grace given to me because Jesus died on the cross for my sins. When I have a heavy heart, please remind me of Your love, Your mercy, and the joy I have in Christ. Let Your truth and love calm my heart.

## OCTOBER 4 - NEHEMIAH 8:13-18

### **Summary:**

The priests, the scribes, and Ezra got together to read the Law of God. They found the Feast of Booths which commemorated God's provision for the Israelites after they left Egypt and lived in the wilderness for 40 years. Ezra led the people of God to celebrate that feast in accordance with the Law.

### **Church:**

Father, we pray that our church would never stray from Your Word. When we do, let us quickly recognize our sin, repent, and align our church to Your Word. Let us be a church that never compromises truth or grace.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I ask that Your Word would convict me of sin as I read it. Show me the gap between the perfection that You have called me to, and my inability to do it. I want to see how Your death on the cross fully pays for my inadequacy and sin. Help me see that Your resurrection power lives in me to accomplish Your will on Earth as it is in Heaven.

## OCTOBER 5 - NEHEMIAH 9:1-8

### **Summary:**

The People of Israel took a position of mourning. They put dirt on their heads, they separated from non-Jews, and they assembled to worship. For six hours they listened to the reading of God's Word. For six hours they worshiped and confessed sin. They recounted that God had kept his Abrahamic promise.

### **Church:**

Father, we as a church have a history of sin. Various teachings dating all the way back to early days of the church have led us astray. Lord, we pray as a church that we would never compromise Your Word or Your Grace or Your ability to move and act in people's lives. We separate ourselves from unholy alliances and seek to serve the One True God.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I have sinned. I have sinned in my thoughts, in my words, and in my actions. I know that I have turned to functional saviors in my distress, and I confess that I make life about my comfort over Your mission. Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross for me. Thank You, Father, for raising Him from the dead. Holy Spirit, empower me to live on mission within my sphere of influence.

## OCTOBER 6 - NEHEMIAH 9:9-15

### **Summary:**

The Levites continued to pray reminding God (and the people) how he delivered them from slavery and from the oppression of the Egyptians. God did mighty miracles that made the people of Israel famous. He gave them great laws and statutes to govern the people and make them stand out from their neighbors.

### **Church:**

Father, we remember how You have made an impact on our church. You planted our church in 2009, and we watched Your hand in the midst of our church as our planting pastor died not even two years into the church's life. You were with us through planting, through moving, through sending, and you continue to be with us even when half of our building was bought and bulldozed by CVS. You are with us in the gifting of this land. We seek You to provide the funds for us to build ourselves a home worthy of You.

### **Personal:**

Lord, thank You for what You have done in my own life. I remember how You saved me. I remember how even in the hardest times, You never abandoned me. Lord, You are faithful. You are always about Your glory and my good. Lord, I think back on those times and I recount them back to You right now. I remind myself of Your forever faithfulness.

## OCTOBER 7 - NEHEMIAH 9:16-21

### **Summary:**

The Levites continued to pray and recounted God's faithfulness to Israel in the wilderness even when the leaders and the people grumbled against Him. God showed them mercy. He continued to provide manna and water even when they worshiped other gods, rebelled, or grumbled against the very God who parted the sea for them.

### **Church:**

Lord, we acknowledge that we have fallen short as a church in proclaiming Your excellencies. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have turned to idols of busyness, wealth, and comfort instead of turning to You. We thank You for Your great mercy and Your great love for us. You have been faithful, even when we haven't.

**Personal:**

Father, I pray for freedom from worthless idols in my heart and in my soul. Lord, when I turn to my idol of security or comfort, I medicate my pain instead of running to You with my broken heart. Lord, please heal me. Make a person fully dedicated to You in heart, mind, and soul.

**OCTOBER 8 - NEHEMIAH 9:22-25****Summary:**

The Levites continued recounting the history of Israel through their prayer. They remembered how God didn't give them a land that they would struggle to occupy, but he gave them wealth and honor and joy and rest from all sides.

**Church:**

Father, we thank You for the goodness You have blessed our church with. Lord, we know that You have given us a land that we did not buy. We have experienced the blessing of simply following after You. Lord, we worship You for Your faithfulness.

**Personal:**

Lord, I know that my life has had its share of good things. Lord, make me aware enough to You directing my life. Keep me faithful in every step.

**OCTOBER 9 - NEHEMIAH 9:26-31****Summary:**

The Levites continued recounting the history of Israel through prayer. They remembered the rebellion that brought exile upon them. God generously put up with their rebellion by sending prophets to warn them, but warnings were not heeded. God sent them to Babylon to remind them how serious God is about His holiness.

**Church:**

Father, sometimes we suffer because of our own sin. Sometimes we suffer because we bear Your name. In those times of suffering, we know that there is a lot to learn. Lord, walking through the valley is our time to grow. We know that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against us. Prepare our hearts and unify them in the blessing and in the struggle.

**Personal:**

Lord, I know that my sin brings consequences that I deserve. However, Your son died on the cross for my sin. I know that my ultimate home is with You. Father, use my failures and successes for Your glory that I may teach the next generation of Your glory and Your grace.

## OCTOBER 10 - NEHEMIAH 9:32-38

### **Summary:**

The Levites continued recounting the history of Israel through prayer. They asked God to hear their cries of repentance. Although they were in the promised land, the best of the land was being sent to the foreign kings who God had set over them. They made a covenant to renew their faithfulness.

### **Church:**

Father, we pray that we never have to plead for forgiveness as we seek to stay faithful to proclaiming the Truth of Your Gospel of Grace. Lord, make us Your vessel for expanding Your kingdom to do Your work. Let us love as You have loved us.

### **Personal**

Lord, I plead with You to grow me in my closeness to You. As I draw near to You, Father, please draw near to me. Help me to turn from sin, confess my sins to You, and have my relationship with You restored because I am forgiven. Lord, bring me healing as I confess my sins to others, and have them pray over me.

## OCTOBER 11 - NEHEMIAH 10:1-31

### **Summary:**

The leaders of the people all ratified the covenant that the Levites read. They signed their names and entered their people into a curse if they should ever forsake the Sabbath or the Law, or give their daughters in marriage to non-Jews.

### **Church:**

Father, we thank You for the New Covenant that You made with Your people. Lord, You sent Your son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sin, and He rose from the dead. You gave us the Holy Spirit. All of this was a free gift that we could not earn, even if we had wanted to. Thank You, Jesus, for Your promises.

### **Personal:**

Dear God, I know my heart. I know that if I tried to promise holiness, I would only end up a hypocrite. I know that I want to be faithful, but my heart continually wanders. Lord, You knew this, and You still chose me. Thank You, Lord. Your covenant is good. Your grace is so amazing. I simply sit in the presence of Your love.

## OCTOBER 12 - NEHEMIAH 10:32-38

### **Summary:**

The people took responsibility for the care of the house of God by giving  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a shekel as a yearly tax. This money went to provide services and materials needed for all of the feasts and offerings. The Levites and priests took the contributions from the people into the house of God.

### **Church:**

Father, thank You for Your provision and for all the ways You remind our church that we depend on You for everything. It brings us great joy and celebration whenever we get the chance to give to support Your work. Please help us be mindful of the resources You have provided so that we can all participate in taking care of what You have given us.

### **Personal:**

Lord, thank You for opportunities to give. I know that You have blessed me so that I can bring You glory by blessing others. Help me be generous with my resources so that I can be a good steward of all that You have given me. Guard my heart from greed and the tendency toward self-preservation so that I can have joy and confidence in my giving.

## OCTOBER 13 - NEHEMIAH 11:1-24

### **Summary:**

Now the time had come for the Israelites to move into Jerusalem! In addition to leaders, the rest of the people cast lots to choose  $\frac{1}{10}$  of the people to move there. Also, some men volunteered to move. Nehemiah listed the names of the chiefs of the province, sons of the tribe of Judah, sons of the tribe of Benjamin, priests, Levites, gate keepers, and servants.

### **Church:**

Father, thank You for Your guidance as we make plans to move our church to a new location. We trust that You have given us this land so that we may use it to proclaim the gospel and make disciples. Help us have a joyful anticipation of the opportunities that You will provide for us at our new home, and remind us that we can rely on You for wisdom and the strength to persevere.

### **Personal:**

Lord, it can be hard to imagine moving away from our current buildings. We have so many memories, and it can be uncomfortable to think about leaving. I pray that my heart would fully embrace stepping out into a new part of town. May I rely on You for boldness to move forward. Lord, here I am! I am ready to serve and go out because I know You are with me.

## OCTOBER 14 - NEHEMIAH 11:25-36

### **Summary:**

After making sure that a proper number of people lived in Jerusalem, the Jewish leadership sought to distribute the people throughout Israel. The Jews reoccupied this land, moving in to take up all of the land allotted by Persian rule. The Levites moved in among the tribes of Benjamin and Judah as they had done previously to help the communities observe God's law and arbitrate issues that might arise.

### **Church:**

Father in Heaven, we thank You that the priesthood and the spiritual resource of the community is something we are not born into through bloodlines, but rather something we are born-again into through Your blood. God, we pray that our church would be a resource for spiritual truth, hope and love.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I know that You placed me where I live. You determined where we would live and who our neighbors would be. Father, allow me to proclaim Your love and Your grace to those who live next to me but are far from You.

## OCTOBER 15 - NEHEMIAH 12:1-26

### **Summary:**

Zerubbabel returned with leaders of the priests and Levites. Nehemiah listed and named the line of succession of the high priests starting with Jeshua.

### **Church:**

Father, thank You for the joy that comes along with doing Your will. Please give us patience and unity as we work together to serve with the giftings You have given us. Help us remember the importance of worshipping You with thanksgiving and praise and let us encourage one another to serve joyfully.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I know that these are names of saints who faithfully served You and worked hard to glorify You through their work. I pray that You would guide me as I seek to serve You faithfully and with a thankful heart.

## OCTOBER 16 - NEHEMIAH 12:27-43

### **Summary:**

Nehehiah ordered the Jewish singers to march along the perimeter of the wall singing in worship. They finished the march in the temple of God singing praises to Him. Men, women and children all rejoiced and celebrated at what God had done.

### **Church:**

Father, we pray that we would celebrate all that You have done. Large and small. Lord, You have given us land for a home and we worship You. We praise You for the future You have for us and our joy is in You.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I know there are times when I forget to celebrate the good things that You have done in my life. I remember now all the victories You have brought into my life and I thank You for them. Please Jesus, never let me forget what You have done for me.

## OCTOBER 17 - NEHEMIAH 12:44-47

### **Summary:**

Nehemiah and Zerrubabel collected tithes, offerings, first fruits and contributions for the Levites who served God by ministering to the people. The people of God in turn did their part to support them so that they did not have to farm or take care of animals, but instead could minister and take care of the people.

### **Church:**

Lord, I pray for our church to be generous in the support of those who minister to the church and community full time. Lord, I pray our pastors and staff would experience the joy of You. I pray that our Church would love one another really well and that would be led by those on staff.

### **Personal:**

Father, I pray for our pastors. I pray for the preaching of the Gospel from their lips. I pray it will be received joyfully. I pray that their words will be Your words. I pray for all those who administer the church, clean the church, and make sure the day to day operations happen. Thank You!

## OCTOBER 18 - NEHEMIAH 13:1-9

### **Summary:**

The people read from the Word of God and learned that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter into the Temple courts. So they separated them. However, Eliashib the priest made special arrangements for Tobiah, an Ammonite leader, to live within the Temple. Nehemiah was furious and threw all of Tobiah's furniture out of the temple. This made a strong statement about the purity of worship required for Israel.

### **Church:**

Father, we pray for purity of worship. We are grateful that You, Jesus, died on the cross and You fulfilled the ceremonial laws of God's People so that those who share Your bloodline would be incorporated with those who don't. You satisfied the moral law that stood opposed to us and You made a way for us to not only be Your people, but to be Your bride.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I thank You that you have made me Yours. The way I make myself distinct from the world is not separating from the world, but separating myself from the ways of the world. Lord, please make my joy come from You and let me set aside the things of this world that promise joy, but deliver emptiness.

## OCTOBER 19 - NEHEMIAH 13:10-14

### **Summary:**

God's people failed to bring the tithes they committed to bring. The Levites in turn left their duties in the temple to go and farm their lands to provide for themselves. When Nehemiah saw this, he confronted both those who were to serve in the temple and Judah who had failed to bring the tithes. He reinstated temple service and asked God to remember him for that.

### **Church:**

Father, we thank You that our church strongly supports our pastors and staff. We are grateful for their work in keeping weekly worship, community, discipleship and evangelism going. We are grateful for their service and ask that they would never leave their post because of a need for income.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I pray that as I give as You have called me through the local church that it would not be out of guilt or fear, but out of the joy and faith that I have in You. You have given me all that I have and I pray I would reflect that in the way that I steward Your wealth.

## OCTOBER 20 - NEHEMIAH 13:15-22

### **Summary:**

Nehemiah saw that Judah as well as foreigners were profaning the Sabbath Day. This is exactly what the people vowed would not happen. Therefore, Nehemiah made sure they went back to a strict no work Sabbath. He also posted Levites at the gate of the city to guard against any buying or selling on the Sabbath.

### **Church:**

Lord, we worship You that You have fulfilled the ceremonial law to make Your people distinct. However, You still call the church to regularly assemble to worship and spur on one another to love and good deeds coming from a place of resting in You. Lord, let us never forget where our true rest resides. It rests in You.

### **Personal:**

Father, You designed us to work from rest, not work for rest. Lord, when we come to faith in You we receive a free gift that no one could ever rescind. You have given us rest in You. Lord help us set aside time to consistently dedicate to experiencing Your presence and Your rest.

## OCTOBER 21 - NEHEMIAH 13:23-29

### **Summary:**

Nehemiah confronted all the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. Their families had turned from worshiping the true God and they had adopted some of their practices. Nehemiah beat some of them, pulled out the hair of others to teach them a lesson. He reminded them what happened to Solomon when he intermarried with those who did not worship the true God, and asked God to remember his faithfulness.

### **Church:**

Father, we pray that as a church we would never align ourselves with darkness. We would not corporately yoke ourselves to non-believers and so dishonor the church. We ask that You lead us. Never let us stray away from worshipping You as the one true God.

### **Personal:**

Lord, I pray I would never yoke myself to a person who is not a Christian in business, in marriage, in anything. Give me wisdom in the way that I talk to people who are not Christian. Allow me to love them and not alienate them, but at the same time never compromise who I am in You. Thank You, Jesus.

## OCTOBER 22 - NEHEMIAH 13:30-31

### **Summary:**

Nehemiah summarized all that he had done for Judah. He cleansed the people from idols, from people who might lead them toward idolatry, and established a solid sabbath day so that no one would be tempted to work and not rest in God. He made sure that there were regular sacrifices and people gave from the first and best of their income.

### **Church:**

Father, thank You for our spiritual past. We recognize how hard it was for people to remain distinct culturally even with so many ceremonial rules in place. Father, though we have great freedom in Christ, there is a real difficulty in managing our lives in such a way that we never compromise truth, and at the same time, be a people ready to receive those who are far from You.

### **Personal:**

Jesus, I know that in me is a tendency to run to my idols of comfort, approval, power, or control. I know that instead of resting in You, I want to control the world so that I can maintain my own rest. Lord, transform me so that my joy and rest are found in You.