



Nehemiah 9-10

SEEING THE GREATNESS OF GOD

The best performances in the praising of God’s name, even those of the angels themselves, fall infinitely short of what He deserves. He is not only exalted above our blessing, but above all blessing. Put all the praises of heaven and earth together, and the thousandth part is not said of what might and should be said of the glory of God.

—Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

Ezra-Nehemiah focus on three great themes:

1. Rebuilding the Temple (Ezra)
2. Rebuilding the Wall (Nehemiah 1-6)
3. Rebuilding the People (Nehemiah 7-13)

To rebuild the people, both Ezra and Nehemiah redirect them to the Word of God. It is the understanding of God’s Word that leads them to worship, to repentance, to obedience, and to joy. In Nehemiah 9-10, the people are gathered again two days after the joyful celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. They are both hearing the Word of God and responding to it.

- They see the greatness of _____.
- They see the greatness of their _____.

Ezra and the Levites lead the people in a prayer of confession and praise to God, recounting the whole history of Israel.

THE GREATNESS OF GOD’S GLORY (9:5-15)

- He is the sovereign _____.
- He is the faithful _____.
- He is the powerful _____.
- He is the gracious _____.

The prayer is, like some of the Psalms (e.g., 78; 105; 106), an example of confession in both senses of the word—a confessing of God’s glory and grace as well as man’s ingratitude.

—Derek Kidner

The prayer reviews God’s grace and power...

- (1) in creation
- (2) in Egypt and at the Red Sea
- (3) in the desert and at Sinai
- (4) at the conquest of Canaan
- (5) through the judges
- (6) through the prophets and
- (7) in the present situation.

—Edwin Yamauchi

Nature to a saint is sacramental. If we are children of God, we have a tremendous treasure in Nature. In every wind that blows, in every night and day of the year, in every sign of the sky, in every blossoming and in every withering of the earth, there is a real coming of God to us if we will simply use our starved imagination to realize it.

... When we come to know God by His Spirit we are as delighted with His creation as He is Himself. A child enjoys all that God has created; everything is wonderful to him.

—Oswald Chambers

THE GREATNESS OF ISRAEL'S SIN (9:16-37)

- They acted _____ (9:16, 29; cf. 9:10).
- They stiffened their _____ (9:16, 17, 29).
- They _____ against God (9:17, 26, 29).
- They _____ great sins (9:18, 26, 33).

THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S MERCIES (9:16-37)

*But You are a God of forgiveness,
Gracious and compassionate,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness;
And You did not forsake them. (9:17; cf. Ex. 34:6; Ps. 145:8-9; Jonah 4:2)*

THE GRATEFULNESS OF THEIR OBEDIENCE (9:38-10:39)

- We will not intermarry with those who reject God (10:30).
- We will honor the Sabbath day and the Sabbath year (10:31).
- We will give offerings and maintain our worship (10:32-39).

CBC MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

I have trusted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and have assurance of my salvation. As a member of Community Bible Church, I support the doctrinal positions and the purposes for ministry stated in the church constitution.

With the Lord's help, I willingly commit myself to:

- **Growth.** To live a godly life by actively studying and applying God's Word.
- **Fellowship.** To love and befriend my fellow members, and to regularly attend the services of the church.
- **Prayer.** To pray for my church leaders, fellow members, our missionary outreach, and the ministries of the church.
- **Service.** To use my God-given abilities to serve the Lord and others through the church and to share the gospel with those in the world around me.
- **Support.** To give faithfully and generously in support of the church and its ministries.
- **Unity.** To submit to the discipline of the church leadership, and to use my influence to promote a constructive attitude among my fellow members, realizing my responsibility to work for unity within the Body of Christ.

It is of interest that the congregation not only confessed their own sins, but also those of their ancestors. This is a recurring theme in the books of Ezra-Nehemiah. They felt their solidarity with past generations.

—F. Charles Fensham

Pride is at the bottom of men's obstinacy and disobedience; they think it below them to bow their necks to God's yoke and they set up their own will in opposition to the will of God Himself.

—Matthew Henry

Stiff-necked is a figure borrowed from the driving of stubborn oxen who resist guidance.

—Edwin Yamauchi

God of forgiveness. Literally, "the God of forgivenesses."

Compassionate. Heb., *rachum*, related to the Hebrew for *womb*. "It expresses a deep and tender feeling of compassion, such as is aroused by the sight of weakness or suffering in those that are dear to us" (Girdlestone).

We make a sure covenant. A rare Hebrew word related to the Hebrew, *aman* ("Amen!"). It is basically the people giving an "Amen!" to the prayer by committing to live in obedience.

Written plans confirm right priorities. Do you really want to maintain the right priorities? Write them down! You may have some ideas floating around in your head, but they need to be nailed down. ...Your being able to put first things first will never happen until some vital things are written out, word for word.

—Charles R. Swindoll