



**Empowering People to Change the World**

**Revival and the Restoration of Worship**

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### **Nehemiah 9**

#### **Introduction:**

- In chapter 8, we observe a great move of the Holy Spirit as the Word of God is preached from the Book of Moses, the Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Bible (which is all Israel had).
- They haven't heard the Word of God proclaimed in over 100 years.
- As they preach the Word of chapter by chapter, the Spirit of God comes in mighty power and the Jews are deeply convicted of sin.
- Ex. We have a drought of the Word of God preached in our sermons today in America. We were once the leading nation in the exposition of God's Word, but much has changed. There is a famine in our land.

#### **Amos 8:11**

*Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.*

### **A Revival Breaks Out in Israel**

#### **Nehemiah 9**

#### **Vs. 1 The Heart Attitude**

- This is the 24<sup>th</sup> day of a revival in Jerusalem.
- It has now moved from just the preaching of God's Word, to fasting, prayer, and worship.
- This is the heart of the people as they come to the Lord: humility, brokenness, and expectation.
- There is power in prayer and worship accompanied with fasting.
  - Fasting sharpens your focus.

- Fasting pinpoints the issues and disciplines to seek God.
- Fasting often speeds up the process of God's leading in our lives.
- But this message is not about fasting.

## **Vs. 2-3 The Signature of Revival**

- The signature of revival is repentance! The signature of repentance is the study and understanding of God's Word, the Scriptures, the leads to repentance—turning from our sin to God.
- All the Great Awakenings in America, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> were accompanied with great repentance of individual and corporate sins.
- Repentance and confession meaning that we understand the heart of God and just how much He really is pained by our sin.
- You can't repent if you don't have a heart and love for God, because sin is an affront to God.

## **True Revival Always Moves from Repentance to Worship**

### **Vs. 4-5 Worship is Blessing God**

- This is true Word and Spirit, Spirit and truth worship: Blessing God.
- We don't come to worship to get a blessing. We come to give a blessing to God!

### **Revelation 4:8-11**

*The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:*

*"Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God Almighty,  
Who was and is and is to come!"*

*Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever"*

- You are taking your eyes and mind off yourself and your circumstances and giving glory, honor, and power to God.
- Worship is not singing songs, it is a mindset, a heart focus. What you are constantly focusing on, what you gaze at, that is what you are worshipping!

## **Vs. 6 The Direction of Worship**

- When revival comes, our focus and energy is for God!
- Worship is when we take our eyes off our circumstances and look up!
- God alone becomes the passion of our lives.
- You begin to “line yourself up” with all the hosts of heaven (Rev 4) who are 24/7 worshipping God.

## **The God We Worship: Seven Character Qualities**

- Ezra recounts the history of God’s leading and miraculous power in Israel...
- Much of worship is REMEMBERING WHAT GOD’S DONE.
  - This is what Church is about—being reminded each week.

### **1) Vs. 7-8 A Covenant-Keeping God**

- He chose a nobody named Abram, a total pagan, an idolator, and turned him into Abraham.
- In the original Hebrew language of the Torah, which is the first five books of our Old Testament, the name “Abram” literally means “exalted father.” The name “Abraham,” however, contains another unused root word, which roughly means “multitude.” Abraham translated literally, then, means “father of a multitude.”

- When God changes a person's name, He is giving them a new identity.
  - God's covenant with us is for all time. God gave the covenant to Abraham that through him, if he would obey, God would bless all nations.
  - That covenant has been extended not only to Israel to but us, through Christ.
  - As Jesus took the Last Supper he said, "This cup is a new covenant in my blood."

### **Galatians 3:5-14**

*Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— <sup>6</sup> just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." <sup>7</sup> Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." <sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham... <sup>14</sup> that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

- Abraham obeyed through a walk of faith. He is a type of Faith Leader. God initiated...and Abraham obeyed! Now that blessing has been given to the Church!
- God has chosen you too! God has given you a new identity! To receive the blessings of Abraham and bring His dominion to the earth

### **Psalms 72:17-19**

*His name shall endure forever;  
His name shall continue as long as the sun.  
And men shall be blessed in Him;  
All nations shall call Him blessed.  
<sup>18</sup> Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,  
Who only does wondrous things!*

<sup>19</sup> *And blessed be His glorious name forever!  
And let the whole earth be filled with His glory.*

- God has made a covenant to us through His Son, Jesus.
- God's not looking for eloquence, smarts, or wealth...but he is looking for faithfulness.
- God is looking for FATT people: Faithful, Available, Teachable, and Trustworthy.

## **2) Vs. 9-12 A Prayer-Hearing God**

- Like the history of the Jews, God hears the cries of His people.
- God will hear your prayers.
- Because He wants to make a name for Himself through you.
- God wants to bring glory to Himself through you and me.
- God will always lead us, even at night.
- No matter what you are going through, God will lead you if you will listen.

## **3) Vs. 13-14 A Speaking God**

- God still speaks from heaven! He mainly speaks through the Word of God.
- As we study and meditate in God's Word, we can hear His voice.

## **4) Vs. 15 A Generous God**

- Remember the Lord's Prayer: "Give us this day our daily bread."
- God knows what you need. Ask Him for all your needs.

- I have found the Lord to be very generous.

#### **5) Vs. 16-19 A Gracious and Merciful God**

- Even in our sin and our rebellion, the Lord is full of mercy and grace.
- God really does love you! He really loves you!
- He is slow to anger...abundant in kindness.

#### **6) Vs. 20-21 A Spirit-Filling God**

- Our manna, our water, is the Spirit of God.
- When you gave your heart to Christ, you received the Holy Spirit and He is the power source in your life.

#### **7) Vs. 22-25 A Kingdom-Possessing God**

- Speaking here of the possessing of the Promised Land under Joshua in Numbers 20-Joshua 24.
- Canaan was compromised of nation states and tribes that the Jews had to conquer one by one.
- It's the same in our lives...God wants to possess the kingdoms of your life and take over! God wants dominion in the nations of your heart:
  - Kingdom of lusts
  - Kingdom of envy
  - Kingdom of pride
  - Kingdom of fear

#### **Vs. 26-35 We can Miss it! God is not Mocked**

- But if we don't obey God, we can miss it. We can miss our inheritance.

- The Jews never possessed all the land God promised them in Joshua 1...Why?
  - Fear
  - Comfort
  - Compromise
- Notice what our passage says:
- Vs. 26 - They cast the law behind their backs and lost the reverence and passion for God's Word.
- Instead of possessing and having dominion over their enemies, their enemies had dominion over them!!
- God would much rather bless you, reward you, and anoint you, than discipline you.
- Vs. 29b - "They shrugged their shoulders, stiffened their necks, and would not hear ..."
- A picture of cheap grace: "Hey, I'm forgiven and God is good, so I'm just gonna do whatever I want."
- Instead of blessing, God has to bring discipline! Spiritual parenting!
  - God's perfect plan is that you would possess the enemies' camp.
  - Instead God's permissive plan is that He can't bless us so He has to discipline us.
  - God will let you go after the gods of your life.

### **Vs. 36-38 A Covenant for All Time**

- A covenant was an agreement that they would obey God and He promised to bless them.

- They realized that they were still in bondage to nations and kings because of their sin.
- But now they want to serve God.
- They realized that they are missing the great blessing that God wanted them to have.
- If you know the Lord, you have been given these great and magnificent promises:
  - **Ephesians 1:3**  
*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ ...*
  - **2 Peter 1:3-4**  
*His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
  - **2 Corinthians 1:20**  
*For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

**Questions for your 2:42 Community Group:**

- 1) From our passage, how would you define worship?**
- 2) Which of the Seven Character Qualities of God mean the most to you? Explain.**
- 3) God would much rather reward and bless you than discipline you. Are you walking in the promises of God today? If not, what needs to change?**