



Empowering People to Change the World

**A Kingdom of God Revolution
Nehemiah 10-12**

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Road Declaration...

Introduction:

- Great things are happening in Israel. It's a national renewal:
 - God raises up a leader who is fearless - Nehemiah.
 - The temple had been rebuilt, but not the wall.
 - The wall is rebuilt in 52 days.
 - Ezra reads for three weeks from the Book of Moses, and the people fall under sin and repent.
 - Literally a national repentance!
 - The repentance moves into a restoration of worship.
- America needs such a “national renewal” of turning back to the God who founded this nation under the Puritans. I will share more on this next week.

The Road vision is a Kingdom of God revolution in our time!

The Road mission is to empower people to change our world!

Nehemiah 9:38-10:1

- We are now moving from a revival to a revolution. A revival, by its very definition, is short-lived. It's a move of the Spirit that sweeps in thousands, if not millions, into the Kingdom. Revivals rarely change a culture for very long.
- But a revival in the Bible, like we read about here, is one that leads to a new covenant commitment to God!

A Spiritual Revival + National Covenant = Kingdom of God Revolution

- Nehemiah, the governor, is the first one to sign his name to a national covenant with the Lord.
 - Nehemiah, as a political leader, is committed to national restoration.
 - The Jews are really serious about transformation.
 - After repentance comes obedience.
- Ex. This is how our nation was founded! America was built on several revivals, starting with the Separatists and Puritans in England and in coming to America in the 1620's and 30's, leading to the First Great Awakening under Jonathan Edwards in the 1730's, to the Constitutional Convention in 1774-76.
- America is the greatest spiritual revolution in world history.

A Spiritual Revival – A National Covenant = A little Spiritual Blip in History

- And you can read these names in your quiet time...

Verses 28-29

- Notice that it says that they were “separated from” but then that they were separated into.
- You don't just “put off” something; you then must “put on” something.
- Also notice that they “put on” the Word of God with their wives, daughters, and sons.
- The whole family should put on Christ together.

Deuteronomy 28:1-23 (Leviticus 26)

- Obedience always leads to blessings.
- Disobedience always leads to cursings.

- The New Testament version of God's cursings on a nation would be **Romans 1**. His blessings would be **Romans 8**.

Verses 30-31

Devotion mandates separation to God.

- When you get married, you devote yourself to your spouse and separate yourself from all others.
- When you devote your sons and daughters to the Lord, you separate them unto the Lord. You train them differently than everyone else.
- If you've started a company, a business, you devote that work to the Lord:
 - You don't do things like everyone else.
 - You treat your workers with honor and respect.
 - You tell the truth.
 - You keep your contracts.
 - You pay your taxes.
 - Your company is separated to God.
- You may remember with the manna from heaven, that God told them to not gather on the seventh day, the Sabbath. So they gathered twice as much, and it did not spoil...it spoiled on all the other days, but God made it last from sundown on Friday until sunup on Sunday.
- The point is this: It would take a miracle! It all required a miracle of God to obey.
- Every seventh year there was a miracle, and watch what God would do... constantly, the perception of two realms:
 - The natural - the process of sowing and reaping.
 - The supernatural - that God is eternal, and He is the One who blesses them.

- Seventh day to rest - Same thing, taking a day off means that we have to trust God to really rest on that day...you need time for rest and rest in the Lord.
- Do you enjoy the Sabbath? You all need a Sabbath rest!

Verses 32-39

- What they are saying is that since they have experienced the Lord in their lives, they want their whole lives dedicated to Him.
- They are dedicating their vocations, their family, and their finances to the Lord.
- Verse 32: "...service of the house of our God."
- Verse 39: "...we will not neglect the house of our God."

- **Malachi 3:10-12**

*"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
That there may be food in My house,
And try Me now in this,"
Says the LORD of hosts,
"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
And pour out for you such blessing
That there will not be room enough to receive it.
And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,
Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,"
Says the LORD of hosts;
"And all nations will call you blessed,
For you will be a delightful land,"
Says the LORD of hosts.*

- This is just like the seventh year of Jubilee, where the believers had to trust God for supernatural blessing.
- The same is true with resting on the seventh day; we have to trust God to bless that day even when we are not working.

- Tithing is the same: there are two parts:
 1. The Natural side of our finances in which we have learned to manage, save, and give - we have learned the law of sowing and reaping.
 2. The Supernatural side in which we give God our “first fruits” of 10% in worship to Him...to bless Him.
- Our passage is very clear that God blesses, covers, and protects those who have placed their finances under His stewardship.
- The natural side is that we manage our finances well...we budget and use wisdom.
- The supernatural side is that God promises huge blessings to those who have learned to give 10% to the house of the Lord:
 - “Food in My house” - the house of the Lord will have all that it needs to carry on the ministry of the Lord.
 - God will “pour out blessings.”
 - God will “rebuke the devourer.”
 - God will not allow your vine to not bear fruit!

5 Ways to Give at The Road

1. **CHECK OR CASH IN THE GIVING BOXES IN THE LOBBY.**
2. **ONLINE AT THEROAD.ORG/GIVE.**
3. **THROUGH THE ROAD APP.**
4. **TEXT “THE ROAD GIVE” TO 77977 TO SET UP TEXT-TO-GIVE.**
5. **MAIL CHECK TO PO BOX 63386 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80962**

Chapter 11 is the list of the leaders and their families who decided to populate Jerusalem.

Verses 1-2

- The walls are completed, but the houses are not finished yet.
- One in 10 will live in Jerusalem by casting lots...Think about that - many of these people already had farms up in beautiful Carmel or the rich valleys along the Jordan River basin.
- But they are willing to go and obey God and to see the great city of Jerusalem inhabited again.
- Joshua had the people cast lots as they divided up the land after conquering the land.
- It's interesting that the lots fell out according to the prophecies that had been given years before. They were trusting the sovereignty of God.
- Over 3,000 are chosen...since this is only a tenth of the population, we can see just how small the Jewish population still was.
- Our passage gives the names, their habitations, and their giftings: God is sovereignly choosing leaders, valiant men, men of prayer, singers, heads of houses...

Chapter 12 continues the genealogy of chapter 11, especially the heads of the Levites.

Verse 24 “Heads of the Levites”

Verses 27-29

- There were whole villages of musicians...imagine that? They could beat on their drums out there.
- Musicians love to hang out together.

Verses 30-31

- So, the heads of the people are up on the wall.
- Divides up these two great choirs.

Verses 32-37

- David is brought to mind five times in this chapter.
- This is probably because Jerusalem was at its zenith under David.
- He is called “the man of God.” Our Bibles give us the last will and testament of David in **2 Samuel 23:1**.

- **2 Samuel 23:1**

Now these are the last words of David.

Thus says David the son of Jesse;

Thus says the man raised up on high,

The anointed of the God of Jacob,

And the sweet psalmist of Israel.

- Interesting that he did not say, “giant slayer,” nor “kingdom ruler.” Yet he controlled more for Israel - over 65,000 square miles, the largest in Jewish history.
- But David saw himself as the “sweet psalmist of Israel” because he understood the heart of God.
- God loves our worship. It is happening in heaven 24/7, if there is such a thing as 24/7. It is perpetual.
- David understood the heart of God for worship.
- The greatest discovery of your life: not how much you can love God, but discover how much God loves you! David understood this in his life.

Verse 43

- This is how you dedicate something to God: with praise and thanksgiving.
- We need singers around here...God loves singers! God loves choirs.
- Everyone is happy! The joy of Jerusalem was felt afar off.
- So, it's amazing that everyone is happy, everyone is rejoicing, everyone is giving.
- Ex. What would God do through us at The Road, if everyone gave tithes...everyone gave worship to the Lord...all, thousands of people, were doing things the way God wants us to! Wow!
- The results: the joy of Jerusalem will be heard far off.
- If each of us at The Road, starting now, truly dedicated EVERYTHING to God - our marriage, our singleness, our children, our finances, and our jobs - and we would determine to covenant ourselves together to go after ALL of God's blessings, what would happen?
- We would be heard of all over this city! It would be the embryonic tremors of a Kingdom of God earthquake!
- Chapter 13 are the reforms that result from the revolution!

America needs a Kingdom of God revolution that impacts every facet of the culture - economics, racial inequality, government, education, healthcare - all of it!

Don't miss next week, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. I want to share the amazing story of our nation's founding. The uniqueness of America is that we were founded on a vision, a mission.

2:42 Community Group Discussion Questions:

- 1. What is the difference between a revival and a revolution?**

- 2. How is it that America might be considered a revolutionary movement?**
- 3. Have you learned and tested the power of tithing? Are you willing to take the risk and begin?**