

“A Commitment To Holiness!”
Nehemiah 10:1-31

Introduction:

1. In Nehemiah 9, We Heard The Prayer & Praise Of A People Committed To The Lord!
 - For All That He Had Done For Them!
 - Their Personal Devotion & Dedication To The Lord Grew!
 - And In A Very Public Way!
2. They Signed Their Names To A Document:
 - A “Declaration” – Not Of Independence – But Of Commitment To God!
 - This Commitment Was Also Going To Be Seen In A Very Personal Way!
 - Because A Personal Commitment To The Lord Will Become A Personal Commitment To Holiness!
 - In The OT: Leviticus 20:7 - “Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God!”
 - In The NT: 1 Peter 1:15-16 - “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; / Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy!”
 - The Distinguishing Mark Of A Dedicated Christian Will Be Holiness!
3. See This In Nehemiah 10!
 - When You Devote Your Life To The Lord:

1. There Will Be An Example Of Holiness!

- 10:1-27 - “Now those that sealed were, Nehemiah, the Tirshatha, the son of Hachaliah, and Zidkijah, / 2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, / 3 Pashur, Amariah, Malchijah, / 4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, / 5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, / 6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, / 7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, / 8 Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah: these were the priests. / 9 And the Levites: both Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel; / 10 And their brethren, Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, / 11 Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah, / 12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, / 13 Hodijah, Bani, Beninu. / 14 The chief of the people; Parosh, Pahathmoab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, / 15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, / 16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, / 17 Ater, Hizkijah, Azzur, / 18 Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai, / 19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, / 20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, / 21 Meshezabeel, Zadok, Jaddua, / 22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, / 23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hashub, / 24 Hallohesh, Pileha, Shobek, / 25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, / 26 And Ahijah, Hanan, Anan, / 27 Malluch, Harim, Baanah!”
- The Leaders Of God’s People At That Time Took Their Responsibility Seriously – And Became An Example That Everyone Else Could Follow!
- It Was A Personal Example!
 - “Now Those That Sealed!”
 - They Signed Their Own Names To This “Declaration Of Commitment!”
 - Very Personal!
- It Was A Public Example!
 - They Signed So Everyone Could See!
 - They Knew That They Had A Responsibility!
 - For Their Own Behavior & For Their Leadership Of Others!
 - Soon See What Happens!
 - People Follow Their Example Of Commitment & Holiness!
 - Usually, When Just One Takes Their Leadership Responsibility Seriously! **IE:** Like A Standing Ovation!
- It Was A Powerful Example!
 - With The Key Leaders! We Need These Kinds Of Leaders!
 - To Set The Example Of A Commitment To Holiness!
 - Political Leaders!
 - Nehemiah Was The First To Sign His Name!
 - What Would Our Nation Be Like Of Our Political Leaders Were Men Of Righteousness & Holiness!
 - Unfortunately, We Celebrate Men Like Ted Kennedy!

- Spiritual Leaders!
 - 10:2-8 - “These Were The Priests!” - 22 Total!
 - Look At Some Of Their Names!
 - Prophets! Jeremiah / Daniel / Obadiah!
 - Now, These Priests Were Following After The Prophecies Of The Ones Whose Names They Were Given!
- Servant Leaders!
 - 10:9-13 - “And The Levites!” - 17 Total!
 - The Faithful Servants!
 - Like Deacons / Teachers / Nursery Workers!
- Family Leaders!
 - 10:14-27 - “The Chief Of The People!” - 44 Total!
 - Being An Example Of Holiness Doesn’t Just Rely Upon The Spiritual Leaders - The Church!
 - Actually, Starts With The Family & In The Home!
 - Especially Through The One Responsible For The Spiritual Well-Being Of The Family! Fathers / Grandfathers / Great!
- A Total Of 84 People Signed This Commitment To Holiness!
 - And Provided A Great Example For Their Families / Neighbors / Nation!
 - What Kind Of Example Are You?
 - One Of Holiness? Put Your Name With These, And Commit Yourself To Being An Example Worthy Of Following!
 - Paul Understood The Importance & Power Of Being An Example Of Holiness - 1 Corinthians 11:1 - “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ!”

* When You Devote Your Life To The Lord:

2. ***There Will Be An Expression Of Holiness!***

- When The Leaders Provide An Example Of Holiness, Look What Can Happen!
- 10:28-29 - “And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding! / 29 They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God’s law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes!”
 - There Is A Profound Influence & Impact!
 - “The Rest Of The People!”
 - Imagine What A Church Or Community Would Look Like / Be Like If Everyone Completely & Wholeheartedly Committed Themselves To The Lord & His Holiness In This Way Today!
 - Every Family Made This Commitment!
 - People / Priests / Levites!
 - Every Function Made This Commitment!
 - Porters / Singers / Nethinims - Temple Servants Assigned With Menial Tasks!
 - How Did They Express Their Commitment To Holiness?
- Through Separation From The World! (Attitude)
 - There Were Others Who: “Had Separated Themselves Form The People Of The Lands Unto The Law Of God!”
 - These Were People Who Were Not Jews, But Became Jews!
 - Proselytes!
 - These Strangers Wanted What The Jews Had! Why?
 - Matthew 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven!”
 - A Holy Life Is The Greatest Missionary!
- Through Support For The Work! (God Was Doing!)
 - “They Clave!”

- They Entered Into A Serious & Solemn Commitment As Well!
 - It Was As If They Wanted To Sign Their Names Too! Didn't Have A Scroll Long Enough!
- They Took Personal Responsibility! "Curse!"
- They Made A Personal Resolution! "Oath!"
- Through Submission To The Word!
 - "Walk" / "Observe & Do!"
 - Spirit Of Exodus 19:8 - "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD!"
 - The Law Of God Was Never Meant To Be Just A List Of "Dos & Don'ts" - But A Life - A Way Of Life - For The Glory Of God!
- This Is How Your Commitment To The Lord Will Be Expressed!
 - Not Just A Label, But A Life!
 - There Will Be Separation / Support / Submission!
 - In Your Life! Is There?

* When You Devote Your Life To The Lord:

3. *There Will Be An Evidence Of Holiness!*

- 10:30-31 - "And that we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons: / 31 And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt!"
 - This Evidence Will Provide A Witness To Those Who Do Not Know The Lord! (Actions)
- A Pure Witness!
 - They Were Going To Remain In The Same Spiritual Family!
 - No Longer Intermarriage With Strangers!
 - Same Principle For The Believer!
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14 - "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"
 - Is There A Desire To Keep Our Personal Lives / Families / Church Pure?
 - Where Is Our Purity? When There, It Becomes:
- A Powerful Witness!
 - There Was Going To Be A Difference Between Them & The World!
 - Keep The Sabbath Of The Lord!
 - "Sabbath" - Shabat - Rest!
 - A Sinai Principle - The Longest Of The 10 Commandments!
 - A Creation Principle - The 7th Day!
 - A Christian Principle!
 - There Is To Be A Difference / Distinction Between The People Of The Lord & The People Of The Land!
 - One Of These - How We Treat The "Sabbath!"
 - The Christian Sabbath - The Lord's Day!
 - Is It Used For Spiritual Rest / Remembrance / Worship / Service?
 - How Many People Would We Impact If We "Remembered The Sabbath!"
- A Practical Witness!
 - In Their Work! In Their Relationship With Others!
 - They Wanted To Be Holy!

Conclusion:

1. Is There A Commitment To Holiness In Our Lives?
 - If We Are Truly Devoted To The Lord:
 - There Will Be!
 - You Will Be An Example Of Holiness!
 - There Will Be An Expression Of Holiness!

- An Attitude / Desire To Do God's Will / Be Holy!
 - There Will Be Evidence Of Holiness!
 - Attitude Turned Into Actions!
 - Real Life Change - Holiness!
2. The Distinguishing Mark Of A Dedicated Christian Will Be Holiness!
- What A Witness Holiness Can Be!

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