

Gracious and merciful, slow to anger

Nehemiah 9:1-38

In Nehemiah 9, we find God's people confessing, fasting, praying, reminiscing and covenanting. It has only been a month since the wall has been completed, and they have now finished celebrating the fall feasts of the "seventh month," which are Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Tabernacles. Now, it's the 24th day and there is no required gathering... but they gather on their own to recount God's forbearance. The Levites lead them in a prayer that covers the entire history of the Old Testament. In this prayer, God is, "gracious and merciful, slow to anger..." But why?

I. Prayer of confession, v1-5

II. Prayer of remembrance – the history of redemption in the Old Testament, v6-31

1. Creation, v6

2. Covenant with Abraham, v7-8

3. Exodus and wilderness wandering, v9-21

4. Conquest of the promised land, v22-25

5. The time of the Judges, v27-28

6. The season of the prophets – the reign of the Kings to exile, v29-31

III. Prayer for their current moment in slavery and difficulty, v32-38