

September 25th, 2022AM

Nehemiah 9:7-15 – “God Keeps His Promises”

- A. We can have a tendency to be too focused only on ourselves & our life situation- even in regards to our salvation in Christ.
- B. It would be better for us to have a greater appreciation for redemptive history because God love it.
- C. **Neh 8** records thanksgiving to God for all He did for Judah under the leadership of Nehemiah.
Neh 9 records for us a special worship service that was born out of such a repentance of sin.
- D. **Neh 9:5-37** gives us a rather long prayer. It was led by the Levites according to **vv 4 & 5.**

Trust in God because He keeps His promises.	I. <u>GOD’S FULFILLED PROMISE TO ABRAHAM</u> II. <u>GOD’S DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL</u> III. <u>GOD’S DELIVERANCE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST</u>
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I. GOD’S FULFILLED PROMISE TO ABRAHAM → **vv7-8**

- A. God set His electing love upon Abram when he was 75 years old.
- B. God made great promises to Abram:
 - 1. To make of him a “**great nation**” (**Gen 12:2**).
 - 2. To give him great blessing. God promised, “**I will bless those who bless you, & the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed**” (**Gen 12:3**)
 - 3. In **Gen 17: 1-8**, God changed his name from Abram to Abraham & gave more details of how He would fulfill all these promises in Abraham’s descendants. [Cov sign of circumcisin]
- C. In a similar fashion, God spoke to Abraham’s Son Isaac: “**I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, & will give your descendants all these lands; & by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**” (**Gen 26:4**).
- D. Again, in keeping with His generational, covenant promise to Abraham, God spoke to Jacob, Isaac’s son & Abraham’s grandson, saying, “**I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham & the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you & to your descendants. Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth**” (**Gen 28:13-14**).

II. GOD’S DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL – This is covered in **vv9-15** yet lets break it up as we look at.

- A. Israel’s deliverance from slavery in Egypt. → **vv9** [“**You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, & heard their cry by the Red Sea.**”]
 - 1. God heard the cry of His people & answered by sending Moses to lead & deliver them.
 - a. Moses wasn’t sure the Israelites would listen to them when God called him to go.
 - b. God told him to gather the elders together & say to them, “**The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, ...“I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanite & the Hittite & the Amorite & the Perizzite & the Hivite & the Jebusite, to a land flowing /c milk & honey**” (**Ex 3:16-17**).
 - 2. The prayer of the Levites recorded how God delivered them from Egypt. → **Neh 9:10-11**
- B. God led & preserved Israel in the wilderness. → **v12 ... v15**
- C. God gave Israel His law. → **vv 13-14**
- D. God fulfilled His promise by bringing them into the promised land. → **2nd ½ of v15**

III. GOD'S DELIVERANCE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

A. God's deliverance of Israel was a foreshadowing of the ultimate deliverance from sin & the power of the grave accomplished by Jesus Christ.

B. **Neh 9:15a** says: **"You provided bread from heaven for them for their hunger."** The manna or bread that rained down from heaven likewise pointed to Jesus.

1. Turn to **Jn 6:26-40**

3. You must feed on Christ by faith to have eternal life. Jesus must be your sustenance.

C. **Neh 9:15b** recalled to God: **"You brought forth water from a rock for them for their thirst."**

1. The rock which brought forth water when Moses struck it (**Ex 17:1-6**) was a type or prefigurement of Christ in the OT.

2. Paul, speaking of the Jewish fathers, wrote in **1 Cor 10**: **"all ate the same spiritual food all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; & the rock was Christ" (vv3-4).**

a. Some may wonder why God was so hard on Moses for striking the rock the 2nd time in **Numbers 20**. The reason is twofold:

1) God clearly told Moses, **"Speak to the rock before their eyes, that it may yield its water" (8)**. He disobeyed God by striking the rock twice.

2) Theologically, it makes sense that the rock was to be struck only once. **Heb 10** says that Jesus, **"having offered 1 sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God" (12)**.

b. As we read earlier in **Jn 6**, Jesus said, **"he who believes in Me will never thirst" (35b)**.

D. As God gave Israel His law on Mt. Sinai, Jesus gave the full & complete spirit of the law when He went up the mount & sat down to teach His glorious Sermon on the Mount.

1. The law was not just a matter of outward obedience, but a matter of the heart.

2. This same law convicts us that we are sinners who sin daily in thought, word, & deed.

3. The good news of the gospel is twofold regarding the law.

E. If you have saving faith in Christ, God's promise to Abraham has been fulfilled in Christ for you.

1. **Gal 3:29**: **"If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."**

2. **2 Cor 1:20**: **"The promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us."**

F. God brought them into the promised land. The **2nd ½ of Neh 9:15** recalled how God enabled them to enter in & **"possess the land which [He] swore to give them."**

1. This promised land was only a faint glimpse of the ultimate fulfillment God has in store for His beloved children.

2. He will cleanse this earth with fire & make a new heavens & new earth wherein righteousness dwells (**2 Pet 3:13**). Jesus will be the light & glory of the New Jerusalem.

Review, further application, & conclusion: