

We will now begin the twelfth lecture on the Book of Ezra and the Book of Nehemiah. /Today we will begin with Nehemiah chapter 9. /In the passage, the Israelite descendants pray and sing praises.

/In verses 1, 4, and 5, the Israelite descendants and the Levites pray and sing praises. /The Israelites and the Levites, who returned from captivity, gathered and fasted. /They also heard the history of the past.

/They also gave thanks for God's grace. /They repented of their sins. /Then they made a binding agreement with God.

/In verses 1-3 /is the Israelites' fasting prayer and repentance. /The Israelites repented of their sins and they praised God.

/Read verse 1. /On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and having dust on their heads.

/The Israelite descendants wore sackcloth and repented while they fasted. /When did they repent? /They repented on the twenty-fourth day of the same month. /This month was the seventh month of which the Feast of Tabernacles was celebrated. /They celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles until the twenty-second day of the seventh month.

/The people celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles, and then they gathered again two days later. /They did not gather because someone told them to. /They voluntarily gathered. /They fasted and put on sackcloth. /The people put dust on their heads and repented to God.

/They had broken spirits. /God takes care of broken spirits. /We must be broken in spirit. /Our hearts must not be wicked. /Our hearts must not be stubborn.

/When we are stubborn in heart, we leave life in God. /We must have voluntary hearts. /We must have soft hearts. /We must fast and mourn and live before God.

/God does not despise our broken spirits. /God desires sacrifices of broken spirits. Psalm 51:17.

/Verse 2. /Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the wickedness of their fathers.

/With whom did the people separate themselves from? /The people separated themselves from all foreigners. /They married foreign women in the past. /The people sent away all foreign women.

/The people cut themselves off from all foreign customs. /They truly repented. /In Genesis 35:1-3, /God commanded Jacob to go up to Bethel. /In order for them to go to Bethel, they needed to first get rid of foreign gods.

/They were to purify themselves. /They were to change their clothes. /They were to bury all luxuries under the oak tree. /That was true repentance. /The people separated themselves from all foreigners.

/Samuel spoke in 1 Samuel 7:3. /He said, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, /then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths.” /In this way, the Israelites were to separate themselves from all foreigners.

/When we believe in Jesus, we cut off all wrong things in the world, as well as friends and colleagues. /We must cut off all things that are not acceptable. /It says to get rid of all wickedness. /We must cut off, throw away, and abandon all things that are wrong.

/To repent is to completely turn around and make amends. /We must not only pray, but also cut off wrong things and fix it. /Verse 2 says, “They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the wickedness of their fathers.” /Proverbs 28:13 says, “He who conceals his sins does not prosper.” /Our sins are not hidden even if we try to hide them.

/It is good to acknowledge our faults. /Anyone who confesses his sins and throws it away will receive compassion before God. /We sin. /We must immediately repent of our sins. /It is important that we turn away from sin and cut it off.

/Verse 3. /They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the LORD their God.

/The leaders stood and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day. /They then spent another quarter in confession of their sins. /How many hours is a quarter? /It is three hours. /Twelve divided by four is three.

/The leaders read from the Law for three hours. /The people when repented for three hours. /The people wholeheartedly tried to be upright before God. /This was the state of faith of the Israelites in Nehemiah’s time.

/The people thoroughly repented of their sins, /they put on sackcloth and fasted, /and they put dust on their heads. /Then the people separated themselves from all foreigners. /The people acknowledged their sins and read the Bible for three hours. /They also repented for three hours.

/They lived lives that God was truly pleased with. /We must live with such spirits. /We must have soft hearts. /We must be gentle and soft in heart.

/Our spiritual senses must not be dead but alive. /We must listen when others speak to us. /Our hearts must not be wicked. /We lose our spiritual senses when our hearts become wicked. /Then we won’t be able to receive grace through God’s Word.

/In verses 4-38, /the Levites sang praises and prayed. /In verses 4-6, is (1) the Levites prayer and praise.

/Verse 4. /Standing on the stairs were the Levites-- Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani and Kenani-- who called with loud voices to the LORD their God.

/Who here prayed and praised God? /The Levites. /In verse 8 are eight Levites. /The eight men called with loud voices to the LORD their God. /They prayed.

/In verse 5, there are eight Levites as well. /There are the same five men in verses 4 and 5, and three men are different. /The Levites prayed and sang praises to God.

/The Levites here stood by Ezra's sides in Nehemiah 8:4. /The Levites' prayer is the same as Ezra's prayer in Ezra chapter 9. /The Levites learned Ezra's prayer and prayed to God.

/The Levites did two things. /They prayed and sang praises. /Yet, in verse 5, /how did the Levites praise God? They praised God in three ways.

/Verse 5. /And the Levites-- Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah-- said: "Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting." "Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise.

/The Levites praised God, and they praised God in three ways. /First, they praised God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. /God is from everlasting to everlasting. /Therefore, they praised God.

/Second, they praised the LORD for his glorious name. /Third, they praised the LORD, that his name would be exalted above all. /They praised God because he is from everlasting to everlasting. /They praised God because he is glorious. /They also praised God because he deserves to be exalted.

/We must be most thankful that this God is with us. /God is from everlasting to everlasting. /The LORD is Alpha and Omega, and we can pray to God. /We can also praise God.

/God is glorious and deserving of all honor. /This is what the Levites did. /This is what we must do. /God receives praises and prayer forever.

/Verse 6. /You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

/Who does it says worship God? /The multitudes of heaven. /What did God make? /God made the heavens, /the highest heavens, /the starry host, /the earth, /all that is on the

earth, /the seas /and all that is in them.

/God preserves all of creation. /The sun and the moon give light day and night. /God made all of creation /and preserves it. /The multitudes of heaven worship God. /Hence, we too must worship God.

/Psalm 33:1 says, /“Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; /it is fitting for the upright to praise him.” /God is the subject of our joy. /Our greatest joy is God.

/It says that it is fitting for the upright to praise God. /We must always praise God. /In verses 7-8, /it says that God chose Abraham and made a covenant with him.

/Verse 8. /You found his heart faithful to you, and you made a covenant with him to give to his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites and Girgashites. You have kept your promise because you are righteous.

/How did God keep his promise? /God kept his promise through his word. /What word? /God’s promised word. /God fulfills his covenant promises. /With whom did God make a covenant promise with?

/God kept his covenant promise with Abraham. /What is God like? /God is a righteous God. /God is not unjust. /God is righteous, and therefore, he keeps his covenant promises.

/In verses 7-8, /there are five things that God gave Abraham. /First, God chose Abraham. /When did God choose Abraham? /God chose Abraham a long time ago. /When did God choose us? /He chose us before he created the universe.

/We were by nature children of wrath. /We were like wolves and ostriches. /We were like worms and maggots. /Yet, God chose us unconditionally before we were born and before he created the universe.

/We do not go to heaven because we have good personalities. /We do not go to heaven because we are good. /We believe in Jesus because God chose us. /Only those who are chosen by God can believe in Jesus.

/Second, /God guided Abraham. /When did God begin to lead Abraham when he left for Canaan? /God led Abraham from Ur of the Chaldeans.

/Genesis 12:1, 2 says, /“Leave your country, your people and your father’s household /and go to the land I will show you... /and I will bless you.” /God made Abraham the father of faith.

/God led Abraham out from the place that served idols. /In Deuteronomy 8:14-16, /the LORD brought out /and led the people /through the vast desert, /and gave them manna to eat /and water to drink. /Then God blessed the people.

/We must receive blessings. /We will succeed. /We will be fruitful and increase in number. /Third, God gave Abraham his name. /What name did God give Abraham?

/God gave him the name, "Abraham." /"Abraham" means "Father of a multitude." /We are Abraham's descendants. /What did God give us? /God gave us a name. /God gave us the name, "Child of God."

/John 1:12 says, /"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, /he gave the right to become children of God." /What do we become when we believe in Jesus? /We become God's children.

/Fourth, God gave a covenant promise to Abraham. /Why did God make a covenant with Abraham? /God made a covenant with Abraham because he found his heart faithful.

/What kind of person was Abraham? /He was a faithful person. /The covenant between God and Abraham /was a promise that God would give Abraham the land of Canaan. /Fifth, /God fulfilled his word. /God kept his promise.

/God fulfilled his covenant promise. /Why did God do all this for Abraham? /What is God like? /God is righteous, and thus, he gave all this to Abraham unconditionally.

/In verses 9-21, /God watched over the Israelites in the wilderness. /God looked after the Israelites when they left Egypt and wandered through the wilderness.

/Verse 9. /"You saw the suffering of our forefathers in Egypt; you heard their cry at the Red Sea.

/What did God do when the people suffered? /God watches over his people. /God sees our circumstances and conditions. /God watches us, /sees, /hears, /knows, /and delivers us.

/When the Israelites cried out at the Red Sea, /God heard their cries. /We have hope because God hears us. /God heard the Israelites when they cried out as they toiled in Egypt.

/The Israelites cried out to God when the Egyptian soldiers chased them to the Red Sea. /God heard their cries, and he split open the Red Sea so that the people could cross over to dry land. /What does God watch over? /God watches over our sufferings. /God hears us when we cry out to him.

/Verse 10. /You sent miraculous signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day.

/Who did God destroy at the Red Sea? /God destroyed all the Egyptians. /Why did God kill the Egyptians? /It was because they were arrogant. /God was glorified through this.

/Verse 11. /You divided the sea before them, so that they passed through it on dry ground, but you hurled their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters.

/God hurled the Egyptians into the depths of the sea. /Who hurled the Egyptians? /God hurled the Egyptians. /God saves people /and God kills people.

/Verse 12. /By day you led them with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire to give them light on the way they were to take.

/How did God lead the Israelites? /God led them with a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire. /God kept the people cool with a pillar of cloud during the day. /God led the people with a pillar of fire to stay warm at night.

/God kept the people warm with fire. /God always leads his people with the Holy Spirit and with his word. /God held us and led us to this place, to this exact time.

/Verse 13. /"You came down on Mount Sinai; you spoke to them from heaven. You gave them regulations and laws that are just and right, and decrees and commands that are good.

/God gave gifts to the Israelites. /God gave them laws that were just and good. /God also gave them decrees that were good. /God gave them commands. /God gave his people the Law through Moses at Mount Sinai.

/God gave them the Law. /Anyone who kept the Law would be upright. /He would be just. /He would be good. /Just as Psalm 19:7-9 say, /God's word is good. /We will become like this if we keep God's word /and believe in Jesus. /The world cannot conquer us.

/Verse 14. /You made known to them your holy Sabbath and gave them commands, decrees and laws through your servant Moses.

/What day did God give us? /God gave us the Sabbath day. /This day is a day of peaceful rest. /God gives us blessings on the Sabbath. /God gives us grace on the Sabbath.

/God opens the doors of heaven and gives us good things on this day. /Therefore, Sundays today are very important. /Sundays are not just days that come after Saturday. /Therefore, we must lay down our lives to observe Sundays. /Isaiah teaches this in Isaiah 58:13-14. /Our descendants will receive blessings if we observe Sundays.

/We must not speak personal words on Sundays. /We must not play games on Sundays. /We must not watch television on Sundays. /It was a great blessing for the Israelites to receive the Sabbath.

/Verse 15. /In their hunger you gave them bread from heaven and in their thirst you

brought them water from the rock; you told them to go in and take possession of the land you had sworn with uplifted hand to give them.

/What did God give the Israelites when they were thirsty? /God gave them water. /What did God give the Israelites when they were hungry? /God gave them bread and manna. /Then where did water come from?

/Water came from the rock. /What is the rock? /1 Corinthians 10:4 says, /“the rock” is Christ. /The Israelites drank water through Christ. /The Israelites ate spiritual food.

/God let the Israelites eat and drink. /God is abundant in love and mercy.

/In verses 16-21, /the Israelites disobeyed and God gave grace. /In the first half of verses 16-17, /the Israelites were arrogant and disobeyed.

/Verse 16. /"But they, our forefathers, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands.

/What did the Israelites eat when they were arrogant? /The Israelites drank water and ate manna, and they were arrogant. /Their forefathers were arrogant and stiff-necked, and they did not obey God’s commands.

/Verses 17-18. /They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them, even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, 'This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt,' or when they committed awful blasphemies.

/The Israelites drank spiritual water, and yet, they were stiff-necked and they blasphemed against God. /The Israelites made a golden calf and called it a god. /They committed awful blasphemies. /They were arrogant and rude. /The Israelites blasphemed against God. /They disobeyed God.

/God’s love, mercy, and grace /are written about in verses 17-21. /Verse 17 says that God is a forgiving God. /God is gracious and compassionate.

/God is slow to anger and abounding in love. /We are where we are today because of God’s grace.

/Verse 19. /"Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the desert. By day the pillar of cloud did not cease to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take.

/How did God have mercy on the people? /The LORD was compassionate, and therefore, showed mercy on the people. /God did not cut them off from his grace. /We are where we

are today because God continues to have mercy on us.

/What type of bowls are we before God? /We are bowls of mercy. /There are two types of bowls. /There is the bowl of wrath and the bowl of mercy. /We are the bowls of mercy. / How did God continue to have compassion on the Israelites?

/God gave them a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud during the day. /God did this for the Israelites for forty years. God had great compassion on the people.

/Verse 20. /You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst.

/What spirit did God give us? /God gave us his good Spirit. /The good Spirit is the Holy Spirit. /There are two types of spirits. /There is the good Spirit and the evil spirit. /The evil spirit is the devil. /The good Spirit is the Holy Spirit.

/Gods gave us the Holy Spirit as a gift. /God gave us the Holy Spirit. /We must be thankful for this. /Isaiah 11:2 says, /the Holy Spirit is a Spirit of wisdom and of understanding.

/The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of counsel and power. /The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of knowledge. /The good Spirit dwells within us. /The Holy Spirit works in us. /The Holy Spirit guides us.

/John 16:13 says, /the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. /The Holy Spirit of truth leads us to the truth. /The Holy Spirit does not work outside of the truth. /Therefore, to be filled with God's word is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

/Verse 21. /For forty years you sustained them in the desert; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen.

/For how many years did God sustain them? /He sustained the Israelites for forty years. / God sustained them in the desert. /How did God sustain them? /The Israelites lacked nothing during that time. /The Israelites' clothes did not wear out.

/The Israelites' feet did not become swollen. /For how many years? /God sustained them for forty years. /God sustained them /in the desert, /and they lacked nothing /and their clothes did not wear out.

/In verses 22-25, /God finally gave the Israelites the land of Canaan. /In verse 22, /God gave them the country of Heshbon /and the country of Og king of Bashan. /God gave them land that they could not conquer on their own.

/In verse 23, /the LORD made the people's offering as numerous as the stars in the sky. / How many Israelites entered Egypt? /Seventy people. /When the Israelites left 400 years later, the number of strong young men was 600,000.



/The children and elderly numbered 2,000,000 or 2,500,000. /Abraham's descendants became as numerous as the stars in the sky.

/In verse 24, /God handed people of the land over to the Israelites. /Verse 25 speaks of how good God was to the Israelites. /God gave them fortified cities. /God gave them fertile land.

/God gave them vineyards and olive groves. /God gave them fruit trees in abundance. /God blessed the Israelites that they would eat to the full and be well-nourished.

/In Ezekiel 20:6, /God gave them land that he searched out for them. /He gave them land flowing with milk and honey. /He gave them the most beautiful of all lands. /God also gives us the best things. /God gave us beautiful families. /God gave us beautiful children.

/In verses 26-31, /God admonished them, forgave them, and saved them. /God punishes us when we sin. /God has compassion on us when we seek him. /Sin, punishment, /repentance, and salvation is alluded to three times. /God has mercy on us for a long time.

/Verse 19 says that God had great compassion on them, /verse 27 says that God had great compassion on them, /and verse 28 again says that God had compassion on them.

/In verses 32-38, /the people remembered the reasons why they faced current sufferings, and they made a binding agreement. /Verse 32 says that God is great, mighty, and awesome. /The LORD is God who keeps his covenant.

/In verse 33, /we do wrong, /but God is faithful. /Verse 36 says that we become slaves when we sin. /Our bodies and spirits are distressed when we sin.

/In verse 38, the Israelites make a binding agreement and sealed it /when they were distressed /and had become slaves. /The Israelites resolved never to sin again.

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/The Israelites promised to live by God's word, /and they sealed it.

/Here we will conclude the twelfth lecture on Ezra and Nehemiah. /Thank you.