

I Will Not Forsake God's House¹

Nehemiah 9, 10

INTRODUCTION:

1. The covenant signed by the princes, Levites, and priests (9:38) declared at the end, "We will not neglect the house of our God" (cf. Heb. 10:23-27).
2. In the Old Testament, God had a temple for His people. In the New Testament, He has people for His temple. In the Old Testament, the house of God was the temple. In the New Testament, the house of God is the church.
3. Chapters 9 and 10 of Nehemiah give three principles that would insure the safety, security, and glory of the temple.

DISCUSSION:

I. The Principle of Personal Examination (Neh. 9:1-3)

- A. This personal examination contained three elements:
 1. It contained humiliation (v. 1).
 - a. Oriental signs of humiliation are mentioned here.
 - b. We must approach God in humility.
 2. It contained separation (v. 2).
 - a. The Israelites separated themselves from foreigners.
 - b. We must separate ourselves from the world (2 Cor. 6:17)
 3. It contained a confession (v. 3).
- B. Everyone has four obligations to God's work.
 1. To attend it
 2. To defend it
 3. To extend it
 4. To commend it
- C. When you love the Lord, you love the things of the Lord.

II. The Principle of Prayerful Contemplation (Neh. 9:6-38)

- A. This is the longest prayer in the Bible.
- B. In it...
 1. There is contemplation of the past (vv. 7-19).
 2. There is contemplation of the provisions of God (vv. 19-21).
 3. There is contemplation of the promises of God (vv. 22, 23).
 4. There is contemplation of the power of God (vv. 24, 25).
 5. There is contemplation of the patience of God (vv. 26-28).
 6. There is contemplation of the punishment of God (vv. 29, 30).
- C. This prayer was that the house of God would not be forsaken.

¹ From "Going Forward with God's Work" by Doug Parsons, *The Preacher's Periodical*, Vol. 6, No. 3, August 1985, pp. 28-30, 50. Adapted by Andy Kizer.

D. By way of this prayer, the people were to be mindful of the goodness of God.

III. The Principle of a Purposeful Determination (Neh. 9:38; 10:28-39)

A. The people made a commitment.

B. God cared enough to record His promises and commands.

C. The people said, "We will not forsake God's house. We will put our oath in writing" (cf. 9:38).

D. A determination was made in three major areas of life:

1. Concerning their faithfulness. Theirs was an "oath to walk in God's Law" (10:29).

2. Concerning their families. They would not have religiously mixed marriages (10:30).

3. Concerning their finances. They would freely give to the Lord (10:31-39).

CONCLUSION:

1. Decide to be faithful with a...

a. Personal examination,

b. Prayerful contemplation, and

c. Purposeful determination not to forsake the house of the Lord.

2. We must continue to build, continue to march, and continue to grow for the glory of the Lord.