

Our Great God¹

Nehemiah 9:32

INTRODUCTION:

1. “Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day” (Neh. 9:32).
 - a. Not anybody else’s God, but “our God.”
 - b. Not just any god, but the great, almighty, and awesome, only true and living God!
 - c. The One Who is faithful even when we are faithless, as the Levites declared (9:33).
2. The Levites began the prayer for Israel with praise and worship which was followed by the history of the nation.
3. Throughout this, the longest prayer in the Bible, the greatness of God is declared.

DISCUSSION:

I. God is great in creation.

- A. “You have made heaven, the heaven of heaven with all their host” (v. 6).
- B. “You have made...the earth and all that is on it” (v. 6).
- C. “You have made...the seas and all that is in them” (v. 6).
- D. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1; cf. Col. 1:15-17).

II. God is great in covenants.

- A. The word “covenant” has to do with an agreement.
 1. Some covenants are conditional.
 2. Some covenants are unconditional.
- B. The Greeks had two words that are translated, “covenant.”
 1. One indicates an agreement between equals.
 2. The other indicates an agreement of a superior with an inferior.
- C. The covenant God made with Abram (v. 8; cf. Gen. 12:1-3) was that of a superior with an inferior.
- D. God’s covenants are God’s promises to do something good for us.
- E. The covenant with Abram blessed all of mankind.

III. God is great in conflicts.

- A. The conflict with Pharaoh (vv. 9, 10)
- B. The conflict at the Red Sea (v. 11)
- C. The conflict in the wilderness (vv. 12-15)
 1. With leadership (v. 12)
 2. With the Law (vv. 13, 14)

¹ Sermon by Michael Stover, www.sermoncentral.com. Accessed, 11/05/2012. Adapted by Andy Kizer.

3. With provisions (v. 15a)
4. With a promise (v. 15b)

IV. God is great in compassion.

- A. Israel sinned against God repeatedly (cf. vv. 16, 17).
- B. Yet, God did not forsake them. Instead, He guided them, fed them, and gave them water (vv. 17-20).

V. God is great in completion.

- A. He preserved Israel in the wilderness for forty years (v. 21).
- B. He gave them victory over their enemies, multiplied their children, and enabled them to conquer the land of Canaan (vv. 22-25).
- C. God completed the work He started.

VI. God is great in correction.

- A. Even though God shows compassion, He still exercises discipline (vv. 26-35).
- B. God will correct.

CONCLUSION: