

The Revenue of Renewal

Nehemiah 9:1-38

INTRODUCTION:

1. The nation of Israel needed a “reset.”
 - a. After listening to the word of God, they prayed and worshiped God.
 - b. In a corporate prayer led by the Levites, the people confessed their sins.
 - c. In that prayer, the providence of God was retold.
2. The nation had been characterized by disobedience and rebellion. They confessed they had drifted away from God.
3. True confession makes renewal possible.
4. For change, at least three things must take place.

DISCUSSION:

I. For renewal, there must be an admission of wrongs.

- A. The first step is repentance and confession.
- B. The prayer of Israel admitted the wrongs done.
 1. “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously...They refused to obey and were not mindful...” (vv. 16, 17).
 2. “...we are slaves...because of our sins” (vv. 36, 37).
- C. It is important that we examine ourselves (cf. 2 Cor. 13:5). If we are not convinced that we need a change, we will not change.

II. For renewal, there must be an acknowledgment of God’s way.

- A. “You are the Lord, you alone...” (v. 6).
- B. “You are the Lord...” (v. 7).
- C. “You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments” (v. 13).
- D. “Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love...” (v. 32).
- E. “Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully...” (v. 33).
- F. Into what will we change?
 1. Your way (i.e. the way of another man)?
 2. The way of the world?
 3. God’s way?
- G. The Levites directed the thoughts of the people to the goodness and grace of God. The pronoun “you” appears throughout the prayer.
 1. You made the heavens. You give life to everything. You are the Lord God.
 2. You made a covenant with Abram. You saw our suffering. You sent miraculous signs and wonders against Pharaoh. You divided the sea. You came down on Sinai.

III. For renewal, there must be action on the truth.

- A. When we know where we are and where we need to go, we must take the necessary steps to get there.
- B. The Levites ended the prayer for Israel saying, “In view of all that has been acknowledged, we are making a binding agreement” (v. 38).
- C. They were determined to make right what was wrong.

CONCLUSION:

BONUS:

The Sins of Israel

Nehemiah 9:16-37

Israel confessed...

- 1. Acting presumptuously (v. 16)
- 2. Refusing to obey (v. 17)
- 3. Making the calf (v. 18)
- 4. Rebellion (v. 26)
- 5. Doing evil (v. 28)
- 6. Failure to obey (v. 29)
- 7. Not paying attention (v. 34)
- 8. Ingratitude (v. 35)

Result:

“We are slaves this day....we are in great distress” (vv. 36, 37).