

Lesson 23

The People Read the Law and Confess Their Sins (Nehemiah 9:1-38)

Questions

1. What did the people do when they were assembled together on the 24th day (9:1-4)?
2. What did the Levites call upon the people to do (9:5)?
3. What was the Lord God praised for concerning the following matters (9:6-37):
 - The creation of the world (9:6)?
 - The call of Abraham (9:7-8)?
 - The exodus from Egypt (9:9-15)?
 - The wilderness wandering (9:16-22)?
 - The conquest of Canaan (9:23-25)?
 - The period of the judges (9:26-31)?
 - The period of the kings (9:32-35)?
4. What was the condition of God's people at this time and what did they commit to do (9:36-38)?

5. How did the Israelites act toward God at various times from the exodus to the captivity (9:16-35)?

Digging Deeper

1. What month is being referenced in Nehemiah 9:1?
2. How is the prayer recorded in Nehemiah similar to the prayer recorded in Ezra 9?
3. What OT scriptures record the following events: the creation (9:6), the call of Abraham (9:7-8), the exodus from Egypt (9:9-15), the wilderness wandering (9:16-22), the conquest of Canaan (9:23-25), the period of the judges (9:26-31), and the period of the kings (9:32-35)?
4. When did the kings of Assyria begin to oppress and rule over God's people (9:32; see 2 K. 15:19)?
5. Who are the "kings" referenced in Nehemiah 9:37?
6. What covenant are the people agreeing to in Nehemiah 9:38 (compare 9:2-3 with 10:28)?

Applications for Today

1. It is good to assemble with a humble and contrite heart for confession, Bible reading, and worship (9:1-4; 2 Chron. 30:13; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20; 14:23).
2. God's people are to separate themselves spiritually from worldliness around them (9:2; 2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1; Jas. 4:4).
3. Bless and praise the Lord for his great and glorious name and for all his acts of lovingkindness toward mankind (9:5, 32; 1 Chron. 16:36; Psa. 72:19; 106:48).

4. God creates and preserves what he creates (9:6; Psa. 36:6).
5. Like Abraham, have a faithful heart to obey God when he calls you (9:8; Heb. 11:8).
6. God is just and righteous (fair) in all that he says and does (9:8, 33; Deut. 32:4; Psa. 33:5)
7. God gives his people light to guide them (9:12, 19; Psa. 119:105, 130).
8. God's law is right, true, and good (9:13; Psa. 19:7-9).
9. God gives his people the bread of life and the water of life (9:15; Jn. 6; 7).
10. Do not harden your heart, refuse to obey, and rebel against your good God (9:16-17, 26, 29; Heb. 3:8, 15; 4:7).
11. God is gracious, merciful, and forgiving (9:17, 19, 27-28, 31; Ex. 34:6; Psa. 86:15).
12. God sends his good Spirit (the Holy Spirit) to instruct and guide his people by revealing his word to them (9:20, 30; Jn. 16:13).
13. Sometimes when God's people get filled, they get faithless (9:25, 35); and, after they get rest, they get rebellious (9:25, 28; Deut. 32:15; 1 Tim. 6:6-10).
14. Doing God's law brings spiritual life (9:29; Lev. 18:5; Gal. 3:10-11).
15. God shows his great goodness (faithful, righteous, gracious, merciful, loving, giving, forgiving, and just) over and over again (9:6-35; Psa. 73:1; Lam. 3:22-23).