

Confession Pleasing to God

2 Samuel 12:7–10

⁷ Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. ⁸ And I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.

2 Samuel 12:7–10

⁹ Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

2 Samuel 12:13–14

¹³ David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die.”

Genesis 4:3–7

³ In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,
⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering,

Genesis 4:3–7

⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?”

Genesis 4:3–7

⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted?
And if you do not do well, sin is crouching
at the door. Its desire is for you, and you
must rule over it.”

Proverbs 21:27

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination;
how much more when he brings it with
evil intent.

Genesis 4:7

⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted?
And if you do not do well, sin is crouching
at the door. Its desire is for you, and you
must rule over it.”

Genesis 4:8–14

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 4:8–14

⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?”

Genesis 4:8–14

¹⁰ And the Lord said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

Genesis 4:8–14

¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”

Genesis 4:8–14

¹³ Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

David

adultery/murder

Acknowledge

Child died

Sword did not
depart

Cain

murder

lied presumptuously

Ground cursed

Fugitive

Fled (paranoia)

Nehemiah 9:1-25

¹Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month
the people of Israel were assembled
with fasting
and in sackcloth,
and with earth on their heads.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

² And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

³ And they stood up in their place
and read from the Book of the Law of the
LORD their God
for a quarter of the day;
for another quarter of it they made
confession and worshiped the LORD their
God.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

⁴ On the stairs of the Levites stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani; and they cried with a loud voice to the LORD their God.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

⁵ Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, “Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

⁶ “You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

⁷ You are the LORD, the God
who chose Abram
and brought him out of Ur of the
Chaldeans
and gave him the name Abraham.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

⁸ You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite.

And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

⁹ “And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea,
¹⁰ and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

¹¹ And you divided the sea before them,
so that they went through the midst of the
sea on dry land,
and you cast their pursuers into the
depths,
as a stone into mighty waters.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

¹² By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day,
and by a pillar of fire in the night
to light for them the way in which they
should go.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

¹³ You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments, ¹⁴ and you made known to them your holy Sabbath and commanded them commandments and statutes and a law by Moses your servant.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

¹⁵ You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger
and brought water for them
out of the rock for their thirst,
and you told them to go in to possess the
land
that you had sworn to give them.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

¹⁶ “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

¹⁷ They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

¹⁸ Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed great blasphemies,

Nehemiah 9:1-25

¹⁹ you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness.

The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day,
nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

²⁰ You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

²¹ Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness,
and they lacked nothing.
Their clothes did not wear out
and their feet did not swell.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

²² “And you gave them kingdoms and peoples and allotted to them every corner. So they took possession of the land of Sihon king of Heshbon and the land of Og king of Bashan.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

²³ You multiplied their children as the stars of heaven,
and you brought them into the land that
you had told their fathers to enter and
possess.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

²⁴ So the descendants went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them as they would.

Nehemiah 9:1-25

²⁵ And they captured fortified cities and a rich land, and took possession of houses full of all good things, cisterns already hewn, vineyards, olive orchards and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and became fat and delighted themselves in your great goodness.

Nehemiah 9:1-2

¹Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads.

Nehemiah 9:1-2

² And the Israelites separated themselves
from all foreigners
and stood and confessed their sins

CONFESSION PLEASING TO GOD

NEHEMIAH

I. Humble Ourselves

Nehemiah 9:2

² And the Israelites separated themselves
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Nehemiah 9:1

¹Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads.

I. Humble Ourselves

II. Renew Our Minds with Truth

Proverbs 16:25

25 There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way to death.

John 8:44-45

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 8:44-45

⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (LSB)

²² to lay aside, in reference to your former conduct, the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

Ephesians 4:22-24 (LSB)

²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
²⁴ and to put on the new man, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Nehemiah 9:3

³ And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the LORD their God.

I. Humble Ourselves

II. Renew Our Minds with Truth

III. Understand and Express the
Wonder of the Lord

Nehemiah 9:4-5

⁴ On the stairs of the Levites stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani; and they cried with a loud voice to the LORD their God.

Nehemiah 9:4-5

⁵ Then the Levites,
Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah,
Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and
Pethahiah, said,
“Stand up and bless the LORD
your God from everlasting to everlasting.

“When the Lord ‘blesses’ us, he reviews our needs and responds to them; when we ‘bless’ the Lord, we review his excellencies and respond to them.”

J. A. Motyer,
The Psalms, New Bible Commentary

“...when God “blesses” men they are thereby helped and strengthened and made better off than they were before, but when men “bless” God he is not helped or strengthened or made better off. Rather man’s blessing God is an “expression of praising thankfulness”. When the OT speaks of blessing God it does not “designate a process that aims at the increase of God’s strength”. It is an “exclamation of gratitude and admiration”.”

John Piper

“So to bless God means to recognize his great richness, strength, and gracious bounty and to express our gratitude and delight in seeing and experiencing it.”

John Piper

Nehemiah 9:5c-15

Blessed be your glorious name,
which is exalted above all blessing and
praise.

Nehemiah 9:5c-15

⁶ “You are the LORD, you alone.
You have made heaven, the heaven of
heavens,
with all their host,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them;
and you preserve all of them;

Nehemiah 9:5c-15

⁷ You are the LORD, the God
who chose Abram
and brought him out of Ur of the
Chaldeans
and gave him the name Abraham.

Nehemiah 9:5c-15

⁸ You found his heart faithful before you,
and made with him the covenant to give to
his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the
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are righteous.

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⁹ “And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea,
¹⁰ and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day.

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NEHEMIAH

I. Humble Ourselves

II. Renew Our Minds with Truth

III. Understand and Express the Wonder of the Lord

IV. Acknowledge and Admit our Sin

Nehemiah 9:16-17a

¹⁶ “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments.

Nehemiah 9:16-17a

¹⁷ They refused to obey
and were not mindful of the wonders that
you performed among them,
but they stiffened their neck
and appointed a leader to return to their
slavery in Egypt.

Presumptuous:

- ❖ done or made without permission, right, or good reason
- ❖ Unduly confident; irreverent with respect to sacred things.
- ❖ Willful; done with bold design, rash confidence or in violation of known duty

Presumptuous:

“...going beyond what is right or proper. It describes a person or their behavior when they are too bold, forward, or overconfident, often showing a lack of respect by taking liberties or assuming things they have no right to do.”

Nehemiah 9:16

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Nehemiah 9:17a

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V. Rehearse the Goodness of God

Nehemiah 9:17b-25

But you are a God
ready to forgive,
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slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love,
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¹⁸ Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed great blasphemies,

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