

Caring for God's Things

Nehemiah 9:1–3

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 9:1–3

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

Nehemiah 9:1–3

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.

“The material in 9:5b–10:39 follows the normal covenant form used in the ancient Near East:

preamble (9:5b–6),
historical prologue (9:7–37),
acceptance of the covenant (9:38–10:29),
and the stipulations (10:30–39).”

G. A. Getz,
“Nehemiah,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary

Nehemiah 9:38

38 “Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.

Nehemiah 10:28–39

28 “The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding,

Nehemiah 10:28–39

²⁹ join with their brothers, their nobles,
and enter into a curse and an oath
to walk in God's Law that was given by
Moses the servant of God, and to observe
and do all the commandments of the LORD
our Lord and his rules and his statutes.

Nehemiah 10:28–39

³⁰ We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.

Nehemiah 10:28–39

³¹ And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. And we will forgo the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.

Nehemiah 10:28–39

³² “We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:

Nehemiah 10:28–39

³³ for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.

Nehemiah 10:28–39

³⁴ We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, have likewise cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the Law.

Nehemiah 10:28–39

³⁵ We obligate ourselves
to bring the firstfruits
of our ground
and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree,
year by year,
to the house of the LORD;

Nehemiah 10:28–39

³⁶ also to bring to the house of our God,
to the priests who minister in the house of
our God,
the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle,
as it is written in the Law,
and the firstborn of our herds and of our
flocks;

Nehemiah 10:28–39

³⁷ and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.

Nehemiah 10:28–39

³⁸ And the priest,
the son of Aaron,
shall be with the Levites
when the Levites receive the tithes.
And the Levites shall bring up the tithe
of the tithes to the house of our God,
to the chambers of the storehouse.

Nehemiah 10:28–39

³⁹ For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers.

We will not neglect the house of our God.”

CARING FOR GOD'S THINGS

NEHEMIAH

I. Separate Ourselves from Ungodly

Nehemiah 10:28

28 “The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding,

Psalm 1

¹Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
² but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

Psalm 1

³ He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Psalm 1

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

2 Corinthians 6:16–18 (NASB)

¹⁶ Or what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I will dwell among them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

2 Corinthians 6:16–18 (NASB)

¹⁷ “Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,” says the Lord.

“and do not touch what is unclean;
And I will welcome you.

¹⁸ “And I will be a father to you,
And you shall be sons and daughters to
Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

1 John 2:15-17

17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

I. Separate Ourselves from Ungodly

II. Committed to Follow God's Word

Nehemiah 10:29

²⁹ join with their brothers, their nobles,
and enter into a curse and an oath
to walk in God's Law that was given by
Moses the servant of God,
and to observe and do all the
commandments of the LORD our Lord
and his rules and his statutes.

James 1:22

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Nehemiah 10:31

31 And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day.
And we will forgo the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.

- I. Separate Ourselves from Ungodly
- II. Committed to Follow God's Word
- III. Avoid Unequal Yoking

Nehemiah 10:30

30 We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.

2 Corinthians 6:14

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

1 Kings 11:1–11

¹Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women,

1 Kings 11:1–11

² from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love.

1 Kings 11:1–11

³ He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

1 Kings 11:1–11

⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done.

1 Kings 11:1–11

⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. ⁸ And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

1 Kings 11:1–11

⁹ And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice

1 Kings 11:1–11

¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the LORD commanded.

1 Kings 11:1–11

11 Therefore the LORD said to Solomon,
“Since this has been your practice and you
have not kept my covenant and my
statutes that I have commanded you, I will
surely tear the kingdom from you and will
give it to your servant.

CARING FOR GOD'S THINGS

NEHEMIAH

- I. Separate Ourselves from Ungodly
- II. Committed to Follow God's Word
- III. Avoid Unequal Yoking
- IV. Committed to Support God's Work

Nehemiah 10:32–39

³² “We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:

Nehemiah 10:32–39

³³ for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.

Nehemiah 10:32–39

³⁴ We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, have likewise cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the Law.

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³⁶ also to bring to the house of our God,
to the priests who minister in the house of
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the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle,
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³⁷ and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.

Nehemiah 10:32–39

³⁸ And the priest,
the son of Aaron,
shall be with the Levites
when the Levites receive the tithes.
And the Levites shall bring up the tithe
of the tithes to the house of our God,
to the chambers of the storehouse.

Nehemiah 10:32–39

³⁹ For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers.

We will not neglect the house of our God.”

“Concern for their religious life was central in this covenant. With the exception of verses 30 and 31, the covenant deals exclusively with the maintenance of the temple and its servants.

10:39 The words “**we will not neglect the house of our God**” expressed the overriding concern of the postexilic Jews.”

William MacDonald

“the Jews bound themselves to refrain from foreign marriages (v. 30), to observe **the Sabbath day** and the sabbatical year (v. 31), to make an annual contribution for the temple services (vv. 32, 33), to provide **wood** for **the altar of the Lord** (v. 34), and to bring the redemption money for their **firstborn** and the **firstfruits** of their crops to the temple for the support of **the priests and Levites**—i.e., to restore **the tithes** (vv. 35–39).”

Deuteronomy 25:4

4 “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.

1 Timothy 5:18-19

¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”

1 Corinthians 9:3–15

³ This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴ Do we not have the right to eat and drink? ⁵ Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

1 Corinthians 9:3–15

⁶ Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

1 Corinthians 9:3–15

⁸ Do I say these things on human authority?
Does not the Law say the same? ⁹ For it is
written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not
muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.”

1 Corinthians 9:3–15

Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.

1 Corinthians 9:3–15

11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

1 Corinthians 9:3–15

¹² If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:3–15

¹³ Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?

1 Corinthians 9:3–15

14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

Nehemiah 10:39c

“We will not neglect the house of our
God.”