Our Sacrifice to God

Theme: God's people worshipped their Holy God through their love and self-sacrifice for Him

I. Our Sacrifice of Self to God (11:1-12:26)

Nehemiah 11:1-3

1 Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem. And the
rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in
Jerusalem the holy city, while nine out of ten remained in
the other towns.
2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to
live in Jerusalem.
3 These are the chiefs of the province who lived in Jerusalem;
but in the towns of Judah everyone lived on his property in
their towns: Israel, the priests, the Levites, the temple
servants, and the descendants of Solomon's servants.

Prov. 16:33- The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.





Romans 12:1-2

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

I. Our Sacrifice of Self to God (11:1-12:26)

II. Our Sacrifice of Song to God (12:27-43)

Nehemiah 12:27,43

27 And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres…

43 And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.

“This is not true of other religions. Many use repetitive chants. In some, clergy sing. But generally the religions of the world are grim things…. Christians write hymns … choruses … oratorios. Why is this? Obviously because Christianity is itself joyous. It is a response to the great acts of God on our behalf, particularly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which secured our salvation.”

- James Montgomery Boice, *Nehemiah: Learning to Lead*

“This was now the third time in Israel’s history that their shouting was “heard afar off.” The soldiers shouted when the ark of the covenant came into their camp (1 Sam. 4:5), but that eventually led to shameful defeat. When the temple foundation was laid nearly a century before, the workers shouted for joy; but their joy was mingled with sorrow (Ezra 3:8–13). The shout from Jerusalem during this dedication service was unalloyed joy, to the glory of the Lord; and because of this record in the Word of God, that shout has been heard around the world!”

- Warren Wiersbe

Nehemiah 4:3

3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”

Romans 8:37

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Hebrews 13:15

15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Psalm 69:30-31

30 I will praise the name of God with a song;
I will magnify him with thanksgiving.
31 This will please the Lord more than an ox
or a bull with horns and hoofs.

I. Our Sacrifice of Self to God (11:1-12:26)

II. Our Sacrifice of Song to God (12:27-43)

III. Our Sacrifice of Service to God (12:44-47)

Nehemiah 12:44-47

44 On that day men were appointed over the
storerooms, the contributions, the firstfruits, and the
tithes, to gather into them the portions required by
the Law for the priests and for the Levites according to
the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the
priests and the Levites who ministered.
45 And they performed the service of their God and
the service of purification, as did the singers and the
gatekeepers, according to the command of David and
his son Solomon.

Nehemiah 12:44-47

46 For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.
47 And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the daily portions for the singers and the gatekeepers; and they set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the sons of Aaron.

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:
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.
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 10:32-39

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; 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. 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.”

Nehemiah 12:44

44 On that day men were appointed over the storerooms, the contributions, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the Law for the priests and for the Levites according to the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered.

Psalm 50:7-15

7 “Hear, O my people, and I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.
8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me.
9 I will not accept a bull from your house
or goats from your folds.

Psalm 50:7-15

10 For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.
11 I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.
12 “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine.
13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?

Psalm 50:7-15

14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,
15 and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

“Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savoring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It's a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don't want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel.”

- John Piper, God Is the Gospel: Meditations on God's Love as the Gift of Himself

“Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever"

- The Westminster Shorter Catechism