

# STRENGTHENED

O GOD, STRENGTHEN MY HANDS

NEHEMIAH 6:9

Sunday Morning, May 18, 2025 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

**Message Title: A Covenant to Obey**

**Message Text: Nehemiah 10**

## Introduction:

After Nehemiah had led the rebuilding of the two and a half miles of walls surrounding the city of Jerusalem in just fifty-two days, he turned his attention to the spiritual restoration of the people. He understood that the success of Jerusalem would not be guaranteed by the new walls, but by a renewed commitment to God and His Word. As we come to this chapter, the people have been assembling together so that they could hear and apply the Word of God for past twenty-four days. Today we will observe how they united together in a covenant to obey the Word of God. Certainly they were being restored as a people! May we follow their example.

## 1. A \_\_\_\_\_ People (1-27)

### A. The \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (9:38, 10:1a)

NOTE — The last verse of chapter nine is the *bridge* into chapter ten and gives a summary of signers.

*Nehemiah 9:38 And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it.*

*Nehemiah 10:1 Now those that sealed were, Nehemiah, the Tirshatha, the son of Hachaliah...*

NOTE — Nehemiah, the governor, was the first to sign the covenant to obey the laws of God.

*Psalms 106:30–31 Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: And so the plague was stayed. 31 And that was counted unto him for righteousness Unto all generations for evermore.*

QUOTE: I'd rather stand with God and have the world my enemy, than to go along with the crowd to destruction. —A. W. Tozer

### B. The \_\_\_\_\_ Signatures (1b-27)

NOTE — These 83 individuals signed the covenant along with Nehemiah.

*Nehemiah 10:1b–27 ...and Zidkijah, Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, 3 Pashur, Amariah, Malchijah, 4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, 5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, 6*

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sermon notes



Ginnethon, Baruch, 7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, 8 Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah: these were the priests. 9 And the Levites: both Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel; 10 And their brethren, Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, 11 Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah, 12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, 13 Hodijah, Bani, Beninu. 14 The chief of the people; Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, 15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, 16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, 17 Ater, Hizkijah, Azzur, 18 Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai, 19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, 20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, 21 Meshezabeel, Zadak, Jaddua, 22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, 23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hashub, 24 Hallohes, Pileha, Shobek, 25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, 26 And Ahijah, Hanan, Anan, 27 Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

*Exodus 32:26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.*

*2 Timothy 4:16-17 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*

## 2. A \_\_\_\_\_ Passion (28-31)

### A. Passion for God's \_\_\_\_\_ (28-29)

*Nehemiah 10:28 And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding;*

THE REST OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRIESTS — responsible for the sacrifices, the functions of the Temple and teaching God's Law.

THE LEVITES — guards of the tabernacle and the ark (Numbers 1:53) and were the tribe from which the priests came.

THE PORTERS — ushers, gatekeeper

THE SINGERS — choir and instrumentalists

THE NETHINIMS — temple servants, facilities crew, not Levites

WHOLE FAMILIES — everyone that could know and understand

### B. A Passion for God's \_\_\_\_\_ (29-31)

*Nehemiah 10:29-31 They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes; 30 And that we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons: 31 And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the*

*sabbath, or on the holy day: and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.*

DEFINITION—CLAVE: to join (unite with); to be or become joined or united or linked.

NO MORE MIXED MARRIAGES (30)  
(*Exodus 34:11–16*)

QUOTE: Intermarriage with the non-Jewish races would soon lead to the worship of their gods.—Evers

*2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

HONORING THE SABBATH DAY (31a)  
(*Exodus 20:8–11*)

HONORING THE SABBATH OF THE LAND (31b)  
(*Exodus 23:10–11, Deuteronomy 15:1–11*)

*Psalms 119:15 I will meditate in thy precepts, And have respect unto thy ways.*

### 3. A Renewed \_\_\_\_\_ (32–39)

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ the House of God

THE TEMPLE TAX (32–33) — an annual tax that coincided with the census of all men 20 years and older (*See Exodus 30:11–16*)

*Nehemiah 10:32–33 Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God; 33 For the shewbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.*

THE WOOD OFFERING (34) — firewood of the altar at the temple (*See Leviticus 6:12–13*)

*Nehemiah 10:34 And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the law:*

THE FIRST FRUITS (35–37a) — the first and best (*See Exodus 23:19*)

*Nehemiah 10:35–37 And to bring the firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the Lord: 36 Also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that minister in the house of our God: 37 And that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; (See also 12:44)*

*Proverbs 3:9 Honour the Lord with thy substance, And with the firstfruits of all thine increase:*

THE TITHES (37b–39) — a tenth (*Leviticus 27:30–34*)

*Nehemiah 10:37–39 ...and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage. 38 And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house. 39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers...*

*Malachi 3:8–11 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be meat in mine house. And prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, If I will not open you the windows of heaven, And pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, And he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; Neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.*

QUOTE: We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. — Sir Winston Churchill

## B. \_\_\_\_\_ to the House of God (39c)

*Nehemiah 10:39 ...and we will not forsake the house of our God.*

DEFINITION—FORSAKE: abandon, to leave behind, give up {imperfect}

*Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

*Hebrews 10:24–25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*

## Conclusion

*2 Timothy 3:16–17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

