

Supplementary Materials for KOOL Journal for Parents/Adults

Week 14: 16 to 22 April, 2018 (pp. 114 – 121)

16 to 22 April, 2018: Nehemiah Chapter 9:1-15.

Watch video

- Confession and Repentance (Neh. 9:1-10:29),
<http://www2.bhpublishinggroup.com/QR/GetzBible/0479/> (14:16 min)

Review Verse of the Week Nehemiah 9:2b-3

They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their fathers.

They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the Lord their God.

Date/Read/Watch	Reflection and Response (R & R)
<p>Mon. 23 Apr</p> <p>Nehemiah 9:1–3 <i>{Nehemiah 9:1-3}</i></p>	<p>Review Neh. 8:18. The Jews stood three hours reading from the Book of the Law (the Levites read and the people listened) and spent another three hours in confession and worship (six hours altogether from midday to the time of the evening sacrifice). Reading and studying of God’s Word should precede confession because God can show us where we are sinning. On the other hand, honest confession should precede worship, because we cannot have a right relationship with God if we hold on to certain sins.</p> <p><b style="color: red;">R & R:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of attitude do we have when we arrive and first sit down in our worship hall on Sunday mornings? Do we examine our hearts before we partake of the Holy Communion? • Are we open enough to confess our sins one to the other, starting perhaps at the cell group level? What merit is there merit for doing so? <p>Notes:</p> <p>9:1 – The Feast of Tabernacles began on the 14th day, and ended on the 22nd, all which time mourning had been forbidden, as the feast was to be kept with joy. The 24th day was the 2nd day after the feast, allowing one day for rest and also time to separate the delinquents from their unlawful wives, before the proclamation of a general fast, a sacred ceremony which unbelieving foreigners should have no part in. Fasting, wearing sackcloth (burlap), and sprinkling dust on the head were public signs of sorrow and repentance.</p> <p>9:2 – The Jews practised open confession, admitting their sins to one other.</p>
<p>Tue. 24 Apr</p> <p>Nehemiah 9:4–6 <i>{Nehemiah 9:4-6}</i></p>	<p>Read straight through from 9:4 to 9:38 to get a feel of the whole prayer which can serve as a model for us, beginning with praising God. When confessing our sins, it is good to notice the mercies of God, that we may be the more humbled and ashamed. The Levites led the people in confession of their own wickedness and blessing God for His goodness to them and their fathers.</p> <p><b style="color: red;">R & R:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Psalm 8 in comparison. Do we stand in awe in the presence of our

	<p>majestic God, the mighty Creator, and join the angels, archangels, cherubim, and seraphim, and all the inhabitants of heaven to worship Him?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read this interesting story of how the favourite hymn “Majesty” was composed: https://www.jackhayford.org/teaching/articles/. How does “Majesty” remind you of how majestic is our Lord? “Majesty” is also a statement of the fact that our worship, when begotten in spirit and in truth, can align us with His Throne in such a way that His Kingdom authority flows to us - to overflow us, free us, and channel through us.’ Jack Hayford <p>Notes: 9:4 – The Levites usually stood upon such stairs or pulpits (elevated platforms) when they taught the people. But in this instance, they stood upon several pulpits, each of them teaching that part of the congregation which was allotted him, or praying or blessing God with them. The names probably represent the chief Levitical houses and not individuals (cf. the mention of Jeshua, Binnui, and Kadmiel in Ezra 2:40; Ezra 3:9, and of Sherebiah in Ezra 8:18). 9:5 – The variation in the list of names of the Levites may be due to the fact that compiler (author of the book of Nehemiah) turned at this point to a different source of information. The people had knelt to confess their sins and were now asked to stand up to praise God. Either all the Levites used the same words, being composed and agreed upon by Ezra and themselves; or they all prayed in the same manner, and to the same purpose, having agreed among themselves concerning the matter of their confessions and prayers.</p>
<p>Wed. 25 Apr Nehemiah 9:7– 8 {Nehemiah 9:7-8}</p>	<p>From 9:7 onwards to 9:31, follows an essential history of the affairs of the Hebrew nation, starting with the patriarch Abraham: the choice, the call, the name, and the character of the man, and the covenant made with him.</p> <p>R & R:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are all familiar with Abraham’s great trial of his faith and obedience, when God commanded him to offer up his only son Isaac as a sacrifice. What has God required of you that you must respond in faith and obedience, knowing as Abraham did that God is righteous? • Reviewing our past helps us understand how to improve our behavior and be the kind of person God wants us to be. What can we learn from our own personal history to avoid repeating our mistakes so that we can serve God better? <p>Notes: 9:7 – The change of the patriarch’s name from Abram to Abraham is recorded in Gen 17:5. Abram’ means ‘lofty father’ and Abraham ‘the father of a multitude’. 9:8 – The six nations referred to here are all Palestinian. From the list in Gen. 15:18-21, ‘the Kenite, the Kenizzite, the Kadmonite, and the Rephaim’ are</p>

	<p>here omitted, probably because the names of these nations were no longer in use. Though for a time remnants of the accursed nations were left in the land, "to prove Israel" (Judges 3:1), yet ultimately all were either driven out or reduced to the condition of slaves.</p> <p>9:7-31 – The historical narrative was probably composed by Ezra or Nehemiah in the form of a prayer, and delivered to the Levites, that they might pronounce it distinctly before the whole congregation, from their several raised platforms. Many prayers and speeches in the Bible include a long summary of Israel's history (e.g. Psalm 78:5-72 and Acts 7:2-47) because individuals did not have their own copies of the Bible as we do today. This summary of God's past works reminded the people of their great heritage and God's promises.</p>
<p>Thu. 26 Apr</p> <p>Nehemiah 9:9 –12 {Nehemiah 9:9-12}</p>	<p>Just as Abraham's faith was sorely tested, Moses (though not mentioned in Neh. 9:9-10) faced his greatest test standing at the edge of the Red Sea (Sea of Reeds) but he had learnt to trust God. In the Song of Moses (Exo.15:1-18)) at no time did Moses claimed credit, though he was God's willing instrument to lead the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt.</p> <p>R & R:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many scoffers who dismiss the events recorded in Exodus as a myth and even have their scoffing shown in YouTube postings. Do we need archaeological evidence to prove that God's Word is true? If God's Word is true, how should it impact the way we live? • What miracles have you experienced in your life that you can only ascribe to our Almighty God? <p>Notes: 9:9-10 – God's had made good His covenant with Abraham, in multiplying his seed as the stars of heaven. At the time of entering into which covenant He had foretold that his seed should suffer grievous affliction in Egypt.</p>
<p>Fri. 27 Apr</p> <p>Neh.9:13—15 {Neh. 9:13—15}</p>	<p>God's regulations and laws, decrees and commands were described as "right," "true," "good". The moral and judicial precepts were all founded on natural equity. Of the commandments, that concerning the Sabbath is specially mentioned.</p> <p>R & R:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 119 states the blessings of those who walk according to the law of God and keep His statutes (119:1, 2 & ff). How should we respect and obey God's Law today? • How should we observe the Sabbath in contemporary time? <p>Notes: 9:13 – The Sabbath was a singular gift of God to the Jewish nation (Exo.16:29); It was a sign between God and them, who separated them from all other nations to be His peculiar people, or to be the worshippers of Him who created the world in six days and rested in the seventh. The stricter observance of the Sabbath of Jehovah was a special feature of religious purity,</p>

	emphasized by the teaching of Ezra and the scribes.
Sat. 28 Apr	<p>Enjoy this short video:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whiteboard Bible 3 - The Exodus, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Pjz5nrFWXk (4:07) <p>OR this long video on the archaeological evidence for Exodus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Exodus Story, produced by Discovery Media Productions, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBB1e6i0_I8 (1:24:53 min) <p>R & R:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...but facts and faith need not conflict" (cited in the longer video at 1:22:24). To what extent should our faith be based on archaeological evidence (that the events in Exodus took place) or should our faith be based on our personal history or experiences of how God has walked with us?

References

G A Getz, **Life Essentials Study Bible: Biblical Principles to Live By**, Holman Bible Publishers, 2011.

<https://bibleprinciples.org/pf-search-book/> (search videos by book and click on Nehemiah)

Tyndale House Publishers, **Chronological Life Application Study Bible**, 2004.

<http://biblehub.com/commentaries/nehemiah/9-15.htm>