

Ezra-Nehemiah Part 17

Major Theme

God disciplines us to renew us

Review of the Covenant

“but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.” // Hebrews 12:10

- Nehemiah 10 - the people made 3 promises
 - Not give sons and daughters in marriage to pagans (Nehemiah 10:30)
 - No trading or buying from surrounding peoples on the Sabbath (Nehemiah 10:31)
 - Care and provision for Temple and its workers (Nehemiah 10:32-39)

Renewal of Separation - Nehemiah 13:1-3

- Referencing Deuteronomy 23:3-6
- The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.” // Proverbs 28:13
- God did not want His people blending their lives with people despised Him and His ways and who tried to curse His people.
- The Ammonites and Moabites to be excluded were those who did not repent of idolatry.
- “be killing sin or it will be killing you” // John Owen

Cleansing the Temple - Nehemiah 13:4-14

- Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, “Indeed, even if a fox climbed up what they are building, he would break down their stone wall!” // Nehemiah 4:3

- What this means is that a room that is part of the temple complex has been evacuated of the things necessary for sustaining the worship of God in the temple, and in place of those things an idolatrous enemy has taken up residence. This is a physical picture of spiritual reality. // James Hamilton “Exalting Jesus in Ezra-Nehemiah”

Cleansing the Sabbath - Nehemiah 13:15-22

- “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy: You are to labor six days and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. You must not do any work — you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates.” // Exodus 20:8-10
- “Therefore, a Sabbath rest remains for God’s people. For the person who has entered his rest has rested from his own works, just as God did from his.” // Hebrews 4:9-10

Cleansing the People - Nehemiah 13:23-29

- They need to be able to speak Hebrew so that they can read the Scriptures.
- Nehemiah is holding the people accountable to their covenant so they will not live in sin.

Summary and Prayer - Nehemiah 13:30-31