

02 August

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Nehemiah Chapter 9

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you separated yourself unto to the Lord in prayer and fasting for a specific purpose or person?
2. In what ways did God's people respond according to v.3? **(Read from the book of Law; confessed and worshiped God).**
3. According to v.5 who led the prayer of repentance? **(Levites).**
4. With whom did God make a covenant according to v.8? **(Abraham).**

 Let's go deeper

5. According to v.9 – 15; how did God show His goodness to Israel? **(v.9 - 14; delivered out of Egypt; v.15 – provision in the wilderness).**
6. How did Israel respond to God in v.17? **(They refused to obey Him).**
7. In v.33; we read of God's people pleading for Him to intervene; what do they say about God's dealings with them? **(You have dealt faithfully).**
8. According to v.38; what agreement do they make with God? **(A covenant; written by the leaders and Levites, and the priests seal it.).**

 Let's apply this

**9. What four signs of revival can we identify from this chapter?**

1. Brokenness of heart,
2. Reflection on God's goodness,
3. Recognition of our sinfulness,
4. Renewal of our obedience.

**God's work in us often must come to a place of decision; where He wants us to make a stand for Him, and against other things.**

- Where is God calling you to make a stand and difference for Him?

SUMMARY:

**Read:** Nehemiah 9:1 – 38

- **The book of Nehemiah chapter 9:**

**v.1;** An assembly of humble repentance. They considered themselves poor before God that they had no food; wore sackcloth (coarse material usually made of black goats' hair, making it uncomfortable to wear); and took little handful of dirt and cast them on their heads.

**v. 2;** An assembly separate themselves. It was important that they realize and admit their missing of God's mark.

**v.3;** An assembly to hear God's Word and to worship Him. They confessed and worshipped the Lord their God. This brokenness of heart has led them to humbly come before God and hear His Word. A sure sign of revival in brokenness of heart.

**v.4 – 5;** The prayer of repentance and those leading the congregation.

**v.5 – 6;** Praise to the God of all creation.

**v.7 – 8;** Praise to the God who chose Abraham and made a covenant with him and his descendants.

**v.9 – 15;** Praise to the God who delivered Israel from Egypt and provided for them in the wilderness. A second sign of sure revival is a reflection on the goodness of God.

**v.16 – 17;** The sinful response of man to God's goodness. This is a third sure sign of revival; recognition of our own sinfulness.

**v.17 – 21;** God's gracious reply to rebellious Israel.

**v.22 – 31;** The cycle of Israel's relationship with God. The cycle began with God showing His goodness to His people. Then in the time of comfort and abundance, God's people turn from Him. Then God brings a "wake-up call" to His people and God's people turn back to Him.

**v.32 – 37;** A plea to God for intervention. Israel, at this time, was not an independent nation – they were a province of the Empire of Persia and were under heavy Persian taxes and obligations. They ask God to deliver them once again from this oppression!

**v.38;** Conclusion: a point of decision. Israel needed to come to this place, where knowing who God is, and knowing who they are, they come and make a covenant with God – even writing it down – to commit themselves to His ways.