

09 August

 Break the ice

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

TOPIC: Nehemiah Chapter 10

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you made a serious promise to the Lord?
2. What did Nehemiah and the priests sign in v.1? (**Covenant with God**).
3. Why was it important to make the covenant public according to v.28 - 29? (**Public covenant meant accountability**).
4. According to v.30; what was the first point of decision? (**To be faithful to God with their sons and daughters**).

 Let's go deeper

5. According to v.31; what was the second point of decision? (**To be faithful to God in doing business**).
6. According to v.32 – 39; what was the third point of decision? (**To be faithful to God in supporting God's work**).
7. According to v.32 – 34; what did God's people agree to give, as the special need required? (**one-third of a shekel tax and wood**).
8. According to v.35 – 37; what did God's people agree to give as God commanded? (**The firstborn; firstfruit and the tithe**).

 Let's apply this

9. Looking at the three points or terms of the covenant in chapter 10:

1. To be faithful to God with their sons and daughters.
2. To be faithful to God in doing business.
3. To be faithful to God in supporting God's Work.

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.

- Is there any of the above areas that you need to change; maybe prioritize family relationships; physical rest from work pressures; maybe to be more generous with your time, talents and treasures?

SUMMARY:

Read: Nehemiah 10:1 – 39; Genesis 15:9–18; Proverbs 3:9–10; 1 Corinthians 16:1–4.

- **The book of Nehemiah chapter 10:**

v.1 – 8; Nehemiah and the priests signed the covenant.

Covenant is a binding agreement that requires death. **Genesis 15:9 – 11;** So, He (God) said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. The covenant was made when parties to the agreement walked through the animal parts together, repeating the terms (oath) of the covenant. The LORD made a covenant in **Genesis 15:18** is literally, "the LORD cut a covenant."

v.9 – 13; The Levites who signed the covenant.

v.14 – 27; The leaders who signed the covenant.

v.28 – 29; The making of the covenant with God.

The 84 mentioned previously sealed the covenant, but the rest of the people – that is, everyone who had knowledge and understanding – also made the covenant with God. They accepted the curse as a form of His correction, to bring them back to obedience. They made this covenant publicly. A public covenant meant accountability.

v.30; The first point of decision: To be faithful to God with their sons and daughters. This promise was addressed to parents. This is because in that day parents made the marriage decisions, not the people getting married. The whole idea of marriage is connected to the idea of *covenant*. **Malachi 2:14** says, Yet, she is your companion, and your wife by **covenant**. (NKJV) Marriage is a covenant, between the husband and wife, but most importantly, between them and God.

v.31; The second point of decision: To be faithful to God in doing business.

Under the Old Testament law, God said that no one could buy or sell anything on the Sabbath day. These citizens of Jerusalem had been breaking this law, and they now covenant with God to obey it. This was a covenant to only make money in ways that were obedient and glorifying to God.

v.32 – 39; The third point of decision: To be faithful to God in supporting God's Work. They simply did two things:

1. They agreed to give as God had commanded (the firstborn, firstfruits and tithe).
2. They agreed to give as the special need required (one-third of a shekel tax and the wood).