

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

# RESTORED

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

## Lesson 16 – A Covenant Sealed

### Nehemiah 10:1-39

In our last lesson, we learned that the people prayed, turned to God with a heart of repentance, and desired to live a life pleasing to Him. The nation had sinned but they wanted a fresh start, and Nehemiah 10 shows us they meant what they prayed. They wrote out a covenant and sealed it with their signatures, fully intending to live in obedience to the Lord. In this covenant, they solemnly promise to carefully follow all the commands of the Lord. At the very top was the promise to separate themselves from the idolatrous Gentiles and their pagan habits. They also made a promise that they would not forsake the house of God. We would do well to consider both of these promises today. Although we don't need to make oaths or covenants to God, we do need to live in such a way that we shine for Him – then all the world can see we are the children of God and His special treasure!

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

**This Week's Scripture: Nehemiah 10:1-39**

*(Verses 1-27, although important, were intentionally left out.)<sup>28</sup> Now the rest of the people—the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone who had knowledge and understanding—<sup>29</sup> these joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and 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 ordinances and His statutes:<sup>30</sup> We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons;<sup>31</sup> if the peoples of the land brought wares or any grain to sell on the Sabbath day, we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath, or on a holy day; and we would forego the seventh year's produce and the exacting of every debt.<sup>32</sup> Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to exact from ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:<sup>33</sup> for the showbread, for the regular grain offering, for the regular burnt offering of the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the set feasts; for the holy things, for the sin offerings to make*

atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God.<sup>34</sup> We cast lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for bringing the wood offering into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at the appointed times year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God as it is written in the Law.<sup>35</sup> And we made ordinances to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house of the LORD;<sup>36</sup> to bring the firstborn of our sons and our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks, to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God;<sup>37</sup> to bring the firstfruits of our dough, our offerings, the fruit from all kinds of trees, the new wine and oil, to the priests, to the storerooms of the house of our God; and to bring the tithes of our land to the Levites, for the Levites should receive the tithes in all our farming communities.<sup>38</sup> And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms of the storehouse.<sup>39</sup> For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God.

**This Week's Memory Verse:**

**Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.**

**Exodus 19:5(NKJV)**

1. The Jews made sacrifices for God and it changed their lives. They separated themselves from ungodly influences and relationships which made all the difference. If we're honest with ourselves we tend to tolerate things, or weights, in our lives that keep us from pleasing God. We would do well to follow the instructions found in Hebrews 12:1. Write out this verse below in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. God's people had prayed a sincere prayer of repentance in chapter 9 and were ready to move into action and start afresh. One way they were determined to do this was by separating themselves from pagan and idolatrous Gentiles. Look up the verses below and share what our relationship with the world should be as God's children.
  - a. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. James 4:4: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. 1 John 2:15-16: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think God requires separation from the world and its ways? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Another part of the people's covenant was to make sure they did not neglect the house of God. This promise involved generously giving the first fruits of all they owned to the work of the Lord. Read Luke 12:34 and share why God wants the first of all we have. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and Respond** – The people, along with Nehemiah and all the leaders, had come to a place of decision and as a result they made a covenant, or a pact, with God. They put into writing a formal declaration stating how they intended to live out their faith. Although we don't make covenants today, we do make commitments. Think for a moment about what it cost Jesus to redeem you. Now write out your own prayer declaring your commitment back to Him.

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**Result** – Consider today's Bible study lecture and group time. What one lesson will you take away from this study and apply to your walk with the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

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