

March 17, 2019

Never Forget Nehemiah 9 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 9 Num. 11

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

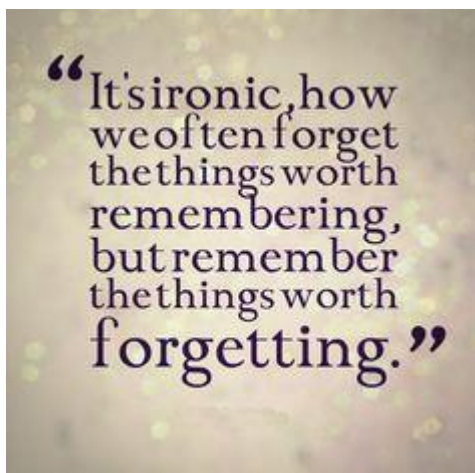
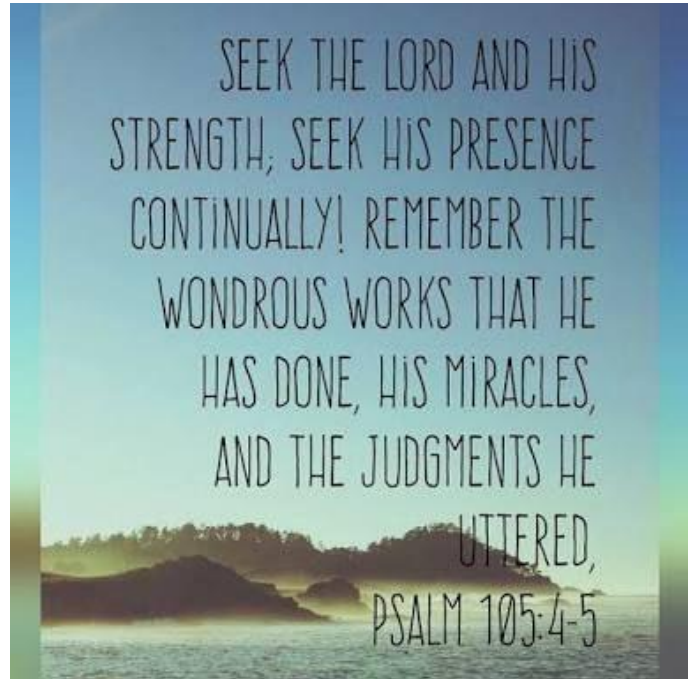
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In chapter 9 of Nehemiah we see the people continuing to try and turn back to the Lord. In verse 3 it tells us that they continue to read from the Word of God, the book of the Law. They also take time to confess their sin and worship God. Following this there is a long prayer. The prayer glorifies God for all that He has done for the nation of Israel. The prayer details much of Israel's history and how God has been at work. Even though the nation has repeatedly fallen short of living for God, God has repeatedly brought them back to Him. This week join us as we look at the character of God that is revealed as the history of God's people is remembered. Let us take comfort in knowing that God is merciful and forgiving and that His loving kindness endures forever.

Nehemiah 9 (NASB)

The People Confess Their Sin

9 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the sons of Israel assembled with fasting, in sackcloth and with dirt upon them. ²The descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. ³While they stood in their place, they read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth of the day; and for *another* fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God. ⁴Now on the Levites' platform stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani *and* Chenani, and they cried with a loud voice to the LORD their God.

⁵Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah *and* Pethahiah, said, "Arise, bless the LORD your God forever and ever!

O may Your glorious name be blessed
And exalted above all blessing and
praise!

⁶"You alone are the LORD.
You have made the heavens,
The heaven of heavens with all their
host,
The earth and all that is on it,
The seas and all that is in them.
You give life to all of them
And the heavenly host bows down before

You.

⁷"You are the LORD God,
Who chose Abram
And brought him out from Ur of the
Chaldees,

And gave him the name Abraham.

⁸"You found his heart faithful before You,
And made a covenant with him
To give *him* the land of the Canaanite,
Of the Hittite and the Amorite,
Of the Perizzite, the Jebusite and the
Girgashite—

To give *it* to his descendants.

And You have fulfilled Your promise,
For You are righteous.

⁹"You saw the affliction of our fathers in
Egypt,

And heard their cry by the Red Sea.

¹⁰"Then You performed signs and
wonders against Pharaoh,
Against all his servants and all the people
of his land;

For You knew that they acted arrogantly
toward them,

And made a name for Yourself as *it is* this
day.

¹¹"You divided the sea before them,
So they passed through the midst of the
sea on dry ground;

And their pursuers You hurled into the
depths,

Like a stone into raging waters.

¹²"And with a pillar of cloud You led them
by day,

And with a pillar of fire by night

To light for them the way

In which they were to go.

¹³"Then You came down on Mount Sinai,

And spoke with them from heaven;
You gave them just ordinances and true laws,
Good statutes and commandments.
14 "So You made known to them Your holy sabbath,
And laid down for them commandments, statutes and law,
Through Your servant Moses.
15 "You provided bread from heaven for them for their hunger,
You brought forth water from a rock for them for their thirst,
And You told them to enter in order to possess
The land which You swore to give them.
16 "But they, our fathers, acted arrogantly;
They became stubborn and would not listen to Your commandments.
17 "They refused to listen,
And did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You had performed among them;
So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt.
But You are a God of forgiveness,
Gracious and compassionate,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness;
And You did not forsake them.
18 "Even when they made for themselves
A calf of molten metal
And said, 'This is your God
Who brought you up from Egypt,'
And committed great blasphemies,
19 You, in Your great compassion,

Did not forsake them in the wilderness;
The pillar of cloud did not leave them by day,
To guide them on their way,
Nor the pillar of fire by night, to light for them the way in which they were to go.
20 "You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,
Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth,
And You gave them water for their thirst.
21 "Indeed, forty years You provided for them in the wilderness *and* they were not in want;
Their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell.
22 "You also gave them kingdoms and peoples,
And allotted *them* to them as a boundary.
They took possession of the land of Sihon the king of Heshbon
and the land of Og the king of Bashan.
23 "You made their sons numerous as the stars of heaven,
And You brought them into the land
Which You had told their fathers to enter and possess.
24 "So their sons entered and possessed the land.
And You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites,
And You gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land,
To do with them as they desired.
25 "They captured fortified cities and a fertile land.
They took possession of houses full of every good thing,

Hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves,
Fruit trees in abundance.

So they ate, were filled and grew fat,
And reveled in Your great goodness.

²⁶ "But they became disobedient and
rebelled against You,
And cast Your law behind their backs
And killed Your prophets who
had admonished them

So that they might return to You,
And they committed great blasphemies.

²⁷ "Therefore You delivered them into the
hand of their oppressors who oppressed
them,

But when they cried to You in the time of
their distress,

You heard from heaven, and according to
Your great compassion

You gave them deliverers who delivered
them from the hand of their oppressors.

²⁸ "But as soon as they had rest, they did
evil again before You;

Therefore You abandoned them to the
hand of their enemies, so that they ruled
over them.

When they cried again to You, You heard
from heaven,

And many times You rescued them
according to Your compassion,

²⁹ And admonished them in order to turn
them back to Your law.

Yet they acted arrogantly and did not
listen to Your commandments but sinned
against Your ordinances,

By which if a man observes them he shall
live.

And they turned a stubborn shoulder and
stiffened their neck, and would not listen.

³⁰ "However, You bore with them for
many years,

And admonished them by Your Spirit
through Your prophets,

Yet they would not give ear.

Therefore You gave them into the hand of
the peoples of the lands.

³¹ "Nevertheless, in Your great
compassion You did not make an end of
them or forsake them,
For You are a gracious and
compassionate God.

³² "Now therefore, our God, the great, the
mighty, and the awesome God, who
keeps covenant and lovingkindness,
Do not let all the hardship seem
insignificant before You,

Which has come upon us, our kings, our
princes, our priests, our prophets, our
fathers and on all Your people,
From the days of the kings of Assyria to
this day.

³³ "However, You are just in all that has
come upon us;

For You have dealt faithfully, but we have
acted wickedly.

³⁴ "For our kings, our leaders, our priests
and our fathers have not kept Your law
Or paid attention to Your commandments
and Your admonitions with which You
have admonished them.

³⁵ "But they, in their own kingdom,
With Your great goodness which You
gave them,

With the broad and rich land which You
set before them,

Did not serve You or turn from their evil
deeds.

³⁶ "Behold, we are slaves today,
And as to the land which You gave to our
fathers to eat of its fruit and its bounty,
Behold, we are slaves in it.

They also rule over our bodies
And over our cattle as they please,
So we are in great distress.

³⁷ "Its abundant produce is for the kings
Whom You have set over us because of
our sins;

🕯 EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. What three things did the people do in verse 3?

9. Why did they recount the history of Israel in the prayer?

10. What were some significant parts of the history that was recounted?

11. What qualities of God's character are revealed in recounting the history?

12. What can the people learn by remembering the past?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. In chapter 9 the people are trying to turn back to God and they do four things, read the Word, confess, worship and pray. Do you have all four of these things in your life? Should we have all four of these in our lives?

14. A big part of chapter 9 is remembering the work that God has done. How can we be sure to remember the work that God has done?

15. Has our church body done things to remember the work God has done with our church? How can we be intentional about remembering what he has done in our church?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes