

Nehemiah 13

Restoration of Spiritual lives

Mixed multitude 1-3; Unholy alliance 4-9; Correcting evil ways 10-29; Remember my work 30-31

1 On that day they read aloud from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and there was found written in it that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, 2because they did not meet the sons of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them. However, our God turned the curse into a blessing. 3So it came about, that when they heard the law, they excluded all foreigners from Israel.

Duet 23:3,4 Balak king of Moab hired Balaam to curse Jews on their way to promise land he saw what they did to enemies & was afraid **Ox lick up grass**
Curses turned to blessings--Lured w/ Moabite women bowed to their gods
Mixed multitude always challenge for leadership—compromise or stay true.

4 Now prior to this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, being related to Tobiah, 5had prepared a large room for him, where formerly they put the grain offerings, the frankincense, the utensils, and the tithes of grain, wine and oil prescribed for the Levites, the singers and the gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. 6But during all this time I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had gone to the king. After some time, however, I asked leave from the king, 7and I came to Jerusalem and learned about the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, by preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God. 8And it was very displeasing to me, so I threw all of Tobiah's household goods out of the room. 9Then I gave an order and they cleansed the rooms; and I returned there the utensils of the house of God with the grain offerings and the frankincense.

Using position for favoritism. Tobiah (Ammonite) an enemy to the work of God in previous chapters when building of the wall asking to help but rejected then--criticizing, threatening, disrupting.

No longer on outside but enemy now inside w/ help of a close relation to Eliashib. Leading priest Eliashib in charge of tithe chambers to supply pay to those serving, gave it over to an enemy, Tobiah. At this time Nehemiah was gone for a year to Shushan, palace of King Art...

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With leadership gone enemy moves in...Moses on Mt Sinai...not conquer from outside but w/in. Wrong people in right places joining church, work of God is chipped away.

Nehemiah grieved and takes action, cleans house and restore purpose for what house, chamber created for—restored vision

10 I also discovered that the portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers who performed the service had gone away, each to his own field. 11 So I reprimanded the officials and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" Then I gathered them together and restored them to their posts. 12 All Judah then brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses. 13 And in charge of the storehouses I appointed Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and in addition to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were considered reliable, and it was their task to distribute to their kinsmen. 14 Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out my loyal deeds which I have performed for the house of my God and its services.

Levites & others who ministered not receiving supports so put faithful men in charge. Dealing w/ people's money given for support of God's work second in importance only to being faithful in the teaching of God's word. Faithful in little...faithful in much...unfaithful in little....unfaithful in much....unjust in little unjust in much **Lk 16:10** we prove ourselves Remember me....people failed after gone...I've failed in my teaching them

15 In those days I saw in Judah some who were treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sacks of grain and loading them on donkeys, as well as wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, and they brought them into Jerusalem on the sabbath day. So I admonished them on the day they sold food. 16 Also men of Tyre were living there who imported fish and all kinds of merchandise, and sold them to the sons of Judah on the sabbath, even in Jerusalem. 17 Then I reprimanded the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this evil thing you are doing, by profaning the sabbath day? 18 "Did not your fathers do the same so that our God brought on us, and on this city, all this trouble? Yet you are adding to the wrath on Israel by profaning the sabbath."

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Sabbath reflection of what they thought about God—day set apart for him.

Nehemiah challenging them...turns his back & they backsliding...strong leadership is needed to oppose sin in the camp. **Jesus scourge of cords**

Admonished-Reprimand-Profaning-Fathers-didn't you learn anything **490/70**

19 And it came about that just as it grew dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and that they should not open them until after the sabbath. Then I stationed some of my servants at the gates that no load should enter on the sabbath day. 20Once or twice the traders and merchants of every kind of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem. 21Then I warned them and said to them, "Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will use force against you." From that time on they did not come on the sabbath. 22And I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come as gatekeepers to sanctify the sabbath day. For this also remember me, O my God, and have compassion on me according to the greatness of Thy lovingkindness.

Takes action 6 pm new day starts ends 6pm starts new day...Sabbath is

Saturday. Warns them & threatens them if don't comply....Need **enforcer** for rebels. At gate to tempt...flee temptation...use force...**buffet my body**

Remember me...feel like failing when people not follow teaching.

When goodness of God is felt & understood our heart responds in

obedience. Goodness of God leads us to repentance....Rom 2:4

*23 In those days I also saw that the Jews had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. 24As for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod, and none of them was able to speak the language of Judah, but the language of his own people. 25So I contended with them and **cursed** them and **struck** some of them and **pulled** out their hair, and made them swear by God, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take of their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. 26"Did not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? Yet among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin. 27"Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil by acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?" 28Even one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite, so I drove him away from me. 29Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.*

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30 Thus I purified them from everything foreign and appointed duties for the priests and the Levites, each in his task, 31 and I arranged for the supply of wood at appointed times and for the first fruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

Intermarry w/ foreigners violations of Law **Messiah** to come thru Jewish genealogy—Nehemiah frustrated w/ people—**ministry not seem effective**.

Purified ideal for Neh—corrupted marrying foreign wives who worship strange gods—**thinking better to get along in a pagan land**---unequally yoked—compromise w/ God. Children spoke mother's language, not Jew's language. Quotes *Deu 7:3* '*not give daughters to their sons*' Solomon the example 300 wives; 700 concubines...His wisdom not keep him from snares of flesh....vanity vanity....

Hair symbol of pride, indignant to pull out—to keep them in line—stop it

Grandson of Eliashib married daughter of Sanballet sworn enemy of the Jews a reproach to the Lord Nehemiah chased him away :28 **No loss when put out one who corrupts ministry**.

Third time Neh prays remember me...**make my ministry count**....efforts to convert your people bring them around....forgive them they know not what they do