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God's Covenant with the Returned Exiles

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **October 29, 2017**

Nehemiah 9:32-38; 10:28-29

Introduction: The tenth day of the seventh month between the **Feast of Trumpets** (Neh. 8:2) and the **Feast of tabernacles** (Neh. 9:14) was appointed to be the **Day of Atonement**; we have no reason to think but that it was religiously observed, though it is NOT mentioned.

Atonement, expiation (the act of making satisfaction for an offense by which the guilt is done away and the obligation of the offended person to punish the crime is canceled.).

But here we have an account of an occasional **fast** that was kept a fortnight (two weeks) AFTER that, with reference to the present posture of their affairs, and it was, as that, a day of **humiliation (humbleness)**. There is a **time to WEEP** as well as a **time to laugh**. We have here an account. **I.** How this fast was observed, Nehemiah 9:1-3. **II.** What were the heads of the **prayer** that was made to God on that occasion, wherein they made a THANKFUL acknowledgment of God's mercies, a PENITENT (sincerely affected by a sense of guilt and resolving on amendment of life) **confession** of **SIN**, and a **humble submission** to the righteous hand of God in the **judgments** that were brought upon them, concluding with a solemn resolution of NEW obedience, Nehemiah 9:4-38.
(Source: <https://www.studyLight.org/commentaries/mhm/nehemiah-9.html>)

Nehemiah 9:21-29, *Yea, **forty years** didst thou **sustain** them in the **wilderness**, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed NOT old, and their feet swelled NOT. Moreover thou gavest them kingdoms and nations, and didst divide them into corners: so they possessed the land of Sihon, and the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan. Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which thou hadst **promised** to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it. ...Nevertheless they were DISOBEDIENT, and REBELLED against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and **slew thy prophets** which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations. Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their **enemies**, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy **manifold mercies** thou gavest them **saviours**, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies. But after they had REST, they **did evil again** before thee: therefore leftest thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and **many times didst thou DELIVER them according to thy MERCIES**; And testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto **thy LAW**: yet they dealt **PROUDLY**, and **hearkened not** unto thy **commandments**, but **sinned** against thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall LIVE in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would NOT hear.*

NOTE: ... many times didst thou deliver them, according to **thy MERCIES**; this was their case frequently in the times of the judges; they sinned and fell into the hands of their enemies, then **they repented**, and **cried to God for help**, and he **had compassion** upon them, and **saved them**. (<https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/nehemiah-9.html>)

Thought 1. Paul said that the things they suffered were written for our WARNING.

1 Corinthians 10:5-13, But with many of them God was NOT well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were **our examples**, to the intent we should NOT **lust after evil things**, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in **one day three** and **twenty thousand**. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them **for examples**: and they are written for our **admonition (warning)**, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath **NO temptation taken you** but such as is common to MAN: but **God is faithful**, who will NOT suffer you to be tempted above that ye are **able**; but will with the temptation also make **a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it.

Nehemiah 9:30, Yet **many years** didst thou **forbear** (treat with PATIENCE) them, and testifiedst against them by thy **Spirit in (WITH) thy prophets**: yet would they NOT give ear: therefore GAVEST thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.

NOTE: It is supposed that Nehemiah refers here principally to the ten tribes. And many years did God bear with them; NOT less than **two hundred** and **fifty-four years** from their separation from the house of David, till their captivity and utter dispersion under Shalmaneser; during the whole of which time God invariably **WARNED them by his Prophets...** (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/acc/nehemiah-9.html>)

Thought 1. Jesus (Yahshua) told his disciples the Holy Spirit was WITH them and would be IN them. This happened on the Day of Pentecost when they were in the upper room.

John 14:17, Even the **Spirit of truth**; whom the **world cannot receive**, because it seeth him NOT, neither knoweth him: but **ye KNOW HIM**; for **HE dwelleth WITH you**, and shall be **IN you**.

1 Corinthians 3:16, Know ye NOT that ye are the **temple** of God, and that the **Spirit** of God **dwelleth IN you?**

Nehemiah 9:31-34, Nevertheless for thy **great mercies'** sake thou didst NOT **utterly consume** them, nor **forsake them**; for thou art a gracious and merciful God. Now therefore, our **God**, the great, the mighty, and the terrible **God**, who **KEEPEST COVENANT** and **MERCY**, let NOT all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day. Howbeit thou art **JUST** in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast **done RIGHT**, but we have **done wickedly**: Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, **KEPT thy LAW**, nor hearkened unto thy **commandments** and thy **testimonies**, wherewith **thou didst testify against them**.

Thought 1. They're aware of the fact that Yahweh ALWAYS keeps his Covenant with man.

Psalms 89:34, My **COVENANT** will **I NOT break**, nor **alter (change)** the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Deuteronomy 28:15-16, 25, 64, But it shall come to pass, **IF** thou wilt **NOT** hearken unto the voice of the Lord (Yahweh) thy God, to observe to DO all HIS commandments and HIS statutes which I command thee this day; that ALL these **CURSES** shall come **UPON** thee, and **OVERTAKE thee: CURSED** shalt thou be in the city, and **cursed** shalt thou be in the field.

...The Lord (Yahweh) shall cause thee to be smitten before thine **enemies:** thou shalt go out **ONE** way against them, and flee **SEVEN** ways before them...

... And the LORD shall **SCATTER thee among all people,** from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

Deuteronomy 31:16, And the LORD (Yahweh) said unto **Moses,** Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and **this people will rise up,** and **go a whoring after** the **gods** of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will FORSAKE me, and **break MY COVENANT** which I have made with them.

Thought. 2. As we know, because of Jesus' (Yahshua's) death upon the cross, we have a New Covenant with Yahweh. We also know that it has the same MORALS as the Old.

1 John 3:22-23, And whatsoever we ASK, we receive of him (*Yahweh*), because we KEEP his commandments, and DO those things that are pleasing in HIS sight. And this is **his COMMANDMENT,** That we should **BELIEVE on the name (authority)** of his son Jesus Christ AND **LOVE** one another, AS he gave us commandment.

John 13:34, A new commandment I give unto you, That ye **LOVE** one another; **AS (like) I have LOVED you,** that ye also **LOVE** one another.

Nehemiah 9:35, For they have NOT served thee in their kingdom, and in **thy great goodness** that thou gavest them, and in the large and **fat (RICH) land** which thou gavest before them, **neither turned they from their WICKED works.**

NOTE: They agreed that when they had had their independence they had NOT served Him in their kingdom that He had given them. They had NOT responded to the great goodness that He had shown toward them in giving them so much. They had NOT had the proper **GRATITUDE** for the **prosperous land** that He had bestowed on them. They had refused to turn from their wicked works. Thus they recognized that they had brought on themselves their subsequent subservience (slavishness) to great foreign kings.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/pet/nehemiah-9.html>)

Thought 1. In Romans 6, Paul spoke of the fact we Christians should know that to WHOM we YIELD ourselves to OBEY, that's who we are serving.

Romans 6:15-17, What then? **shall we SIN,** because we are NOT under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye NOT, that to whom ye **YIELD (present; surrender)** yourselves **servants to OBEY,** **HIS servants** ye **ARE** to whom ye obey; whether of SIN unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Nehemiah 9:36-38, Behold, we are **servants** this day, and for the land that thou **gavest** unto our **fathers** to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it: And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of **our sins:** also they **have dominion** over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress. And because of all this we **make a sure covenant,** and **WRITE it;** and our princes, Levites, and priests, **SEAL** (affix a seal) unto it.

NOTE: Here is the result and conclusion of this whole matter. After this long remonstrance (show) of their case was made they came at last to this **resolution** (FIXED purpose or

determination of MIND), that they would **return to God** and to **their DUTY**, and oblige themselves never to forsake God, but always to continue in their duty. "Because of all this, we make a **sure covenant** with God in consideration of our frequent **departures** from God, we will now more firmly than ever bind ourselves to him. Because we have smarted so much for SIN, we will now stedfastly **resolve against it**, that we may NOT any more **withdraw the shoulder.**"

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/nehemiah-9.html>)

Thought 1. Because of their humility and FAITH, we know Yahweh heard this prayer.

Micah 6:8, He hath SHEWED thee, O man, what is GOOD; and what doth the LORD (Yahweh) **require** of thee, but to **DO justly**, and to **love MERCY**, and to **walk HUMBLY with thy God?**

Ecclesiastes 12:13, Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **FEAR** (reverence) God, and **KEEP** his commandments: for this is the **WHOLE DUTY** of man.

Nehemiah 10:1-2, Now those that **sealed** (affix a seal) were, **Nehemiah**, the Tirshatha, the son of Hachaliah, and Zidkijah, Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah...

NOTE: I. The names of those public persons who, as the **representatives** and **heads** of the congregation, set their hands and **seals** to this **covenant**, because it would have been an endless piece of work for every particular person to do it and, if these leading men did their part in pursuance of this **covenant**, **their example** would have a **good influence** upon all the people. Now observe, 1. **Nehemiah**, who was the governor, **signed first**, to show his forwardness in this work and to set others a good example, Nehemiah 10:1. Those that are above others in dignity and power should go before them in the way of God. 2. Next to him subscribed **twenty-two priests**, among whom I wonder we do NOT find **Ezra**, who was an active man in the solemnity (Nehemiah 8:2) which was but the first day of the same month, and therefore we cannot think he was absent but he, having before done his part **as a scribe**, now left it to others to do theirs. 3. Next to the priests, **seventeen Levites** subscribed (sign with one's own hand; give consent to) this **covenant**, among whom we find all or most of those who were the mouth of the congregation in prayer, Neh. 9:4,5. This showed that they themselves were affected with what they had said, and would NOT bind those burdens on others which they themselves declined to touch. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/nehemiah-10.html>)

Nehemiah 10:28-29, And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and **all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the LAW of God**, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding; They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into 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 (Yahweh) our Lord, and **HIS judgments** and **HIS statutes**...

NOTE: ...separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God; proselytes (CONVERTS), who had renounced Heathenism, and embraced the TRUE religion, had received the law of God, and professed to walk according to it... (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/nehemiah-10.html>)

Thought 1. Because Jesus died and rose, all Christians live under the "LAW of FAITH."

Romans 3:26-27, To declare, I say, at this time **HIS righteousness**: that he might be **JUST**, and the **JUSTIFIER** of him which **BELIEVETH in** Jesus (Yahshua). Where is boasting then?

It is excluded. By what LAW? of WORKS? Nay: but by the LAW of FAITH.