

(Re) Building

Lives that Matter

Nehemiah 9-10: Telling the Story



nehemiah 9

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. ² And the Israelites...stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.



nehemiah 9

⁶ “You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them.... ⁷ You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram and ... and gave him the name Abraham. ⁸ You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land.

nehemiah 9

⁹ “And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea, ¹⁰ and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh... ¹¹ And you divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and you cast their pursuers into the depths... ¹² By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night ..



nehemiah 9

¹³ You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments...¹⁵ You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst.



Who's the main actor
in your understanding of your own story?

How would you think differently
about yourself, your situations past & present,
if you saw your story through the lens of
God as the main actor?

questions to consider



main actor

how that
shapes us

consequences/f
ruit

you

victim or
victor

despair or pride,
anxiety or drivenness

other people

used, ignored or
using

bitterness or
functional gods

circumstances

lucky or victim

cynicism or anxiety

God

child under his
gracious rule

God glorified;
peace & joy

nehemiah 9

you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them. ¹⁶ “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments...But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

nehemiah 9

- ¹⁸ Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ ...¹⁹ you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness



nehemiah 9

you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them. ¹⁶ “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and *stiffened their neck* and did not obey your commandments...

nehemiah 9

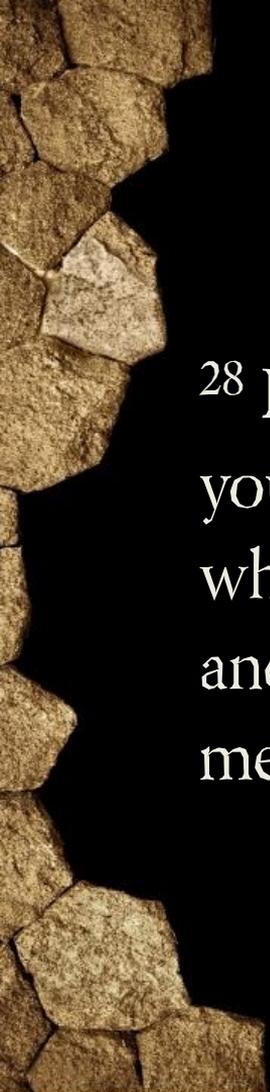
²² “And you gave them kingdoms and peoples and allotted to them every corner...you brought them into the land that you had told their fathers to enter and possess....

nehemiah 9

²⁵ And they captured fortified cities and a rich land, and took possession of houses full of all good things, cisterns already hewn, vineyards, olive orchards and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and became fat and delighted themselves in your great goodness.

nehemiah 9

²⁶ “Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you... ²⁷ Therefore you gave them into the hand of their enemies... And in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who saved them.



nehemiah 9

²⁸ But after they had rest they did evil again before you, and you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies... Yet when they turned and cried to you, you heard from heaven, and many times you delivered them according to your mercies.

nehemiah 9

³² “Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us.... ³³ Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly... ³⁶ Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves.

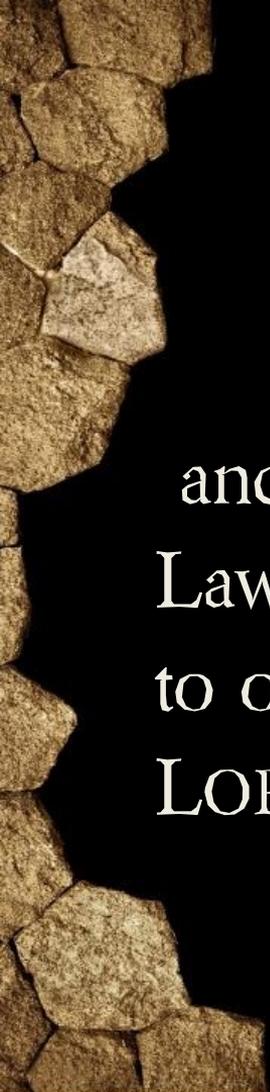
nehemiah 9-10

³⁸ “Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.

1 “On the seals are the names of Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, Zedekiah, ² Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, ³ Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, ⁴ Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, ⁵ Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, ⁶ Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, ⁷ Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, ⁸ Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah; these are the priests. ⁹ And the Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel;

nehemiah 10

²⁸ “The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, ²⁹ join with their brothers, their nobles,



nehemiah 10

and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord and his rules and his statutes



re-framing your story

1. Sovereign Foundations
2. God's Story & Your History
 - a. Circumstances under God's Control
 - b. Stiff-Necked Disobedience (yours or others)
 - c. God's Patient Pursuit/Discipline/Rumble Strips
 - d. Obedience & Repentance
 - e. God's Redemption, Power, Victory
3. Naming Present-Day Realities (Accurately)
4. Surrendered Self & Future