

Building for Christ: Nehemiah Lesson 8

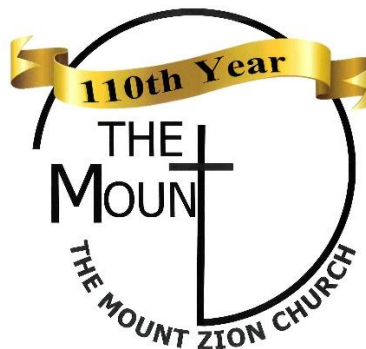
Part 2 of Lesson 7

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church

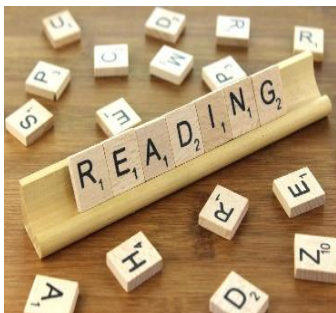
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We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!
We are Rooted in Christ and Reaching the One!



Introduction: Have you ever had a conversation with a spouse, friend, child, or coworker where either you had to apologize or they had to apologize? I have been the one apologizing and I have been the one who received the apology. The most sincere apologies include within them a recognition of the wrong the offending party committed and a resolution to act differently (and better). The purpose of an apology is to fix what has been broken. When one repents, they follow this same process. They recognize their wrong, acknowledge the offense, and commit to seeking to behave as God desires the next time. In the following lesson, students will understand how repentance works and the powerful role this act plays in the life of Christians.



Readings for This Lesson 8

[Nehemiah 9: 7-38](#)

[Romans 3: 23](#)

[Romans 6: 23](#)

[I John 1: 9](#)

I. The Broken Covenant—Nehemiah 9: 7-37

In the previous lesson, students learned the definition of a covenant.

QUIZ TIME:

1. What is a covenant? _____
2. How does a covenant between God and Man differ from than a covenant between Man and Man? _____

Group Activity

Directions: Fill in the charts below for what the people confess and what they say God did. See a group of the issues in verses 9-26.

- What did the Israelite people do to break the covenant with God? The list is extensive. Look for phrases that begin with the wording “they or but they”

	List what they did below		List what they did below
They did		They did	
They did		They did	
They did		They did	
They did		They did	
They did		They did	
They did		They did	
They did		They did	
They did		They did	

Next, Discuss with the group potential reasons the people responded to God in disobedience.



- How do we mirror the same behaviors as them?
- What does this indicate about our relationship with God? (Think parent to child)
- When you have been disobedient to God, what has generally been your reason? What results have come from you being disobedient to God?

Verse 2 records that the people willingly confessed their personal sins and confessed the sins of their forefathers. They acknowledged that their behavior represented a long-term disobedience issue. Further, they acknowledged that the consequences they received represented God’s justice towards their behavior. Below, list what God did in response to their disobedience. Stop at verse 31.

	List what God did below		List what God did below
God did		God did	
God did		God did	
God did		God did	
God did		God did	
God did		God did	
God did		God did	
God did		God did	
God did		God did	

What does justice mean in regards to someone doing a wrong? Does God treat us justly? Your answer should align with Romans 3:23 and Romans 6: 23. Notice, many of us are proponents of justice, yet it is a convenient justice. We call for justice when we are the beneficiaries. When we should be the ones receiving our just rewards, we tend to ask for mercy and grace. We must always remember that WE are the ones who have broken the covenant. God is the one who exceeds the covenant. This is shown in Nehemiah 9: 17, 31, and 33

II. The Message of Repentance—[Nehemiah 9: 30-31, 38,](#) and [1 John 1: 9](#)

The verses point out a pattern of behavior which we should never emulate. The repetitive instances of repentance call into question whether the people actually understood the relationship God desired. Let’s analyze this behavior.

Which of these three represents how you behave most of the time.

- A. Does your obedience occur because you are afraid of punishment or desire to receive rewards?
- B. Does your obedience occur because of the person giving the command has authority over you or is a boss/ leader in your life?
- C. Does your obedience occur as a result of the relationship you have with the person giving the direction?

Which of these is how you respond to God? Which is how he wants us to respond to Him?

The covenant with God is that “I will be your God and you will be my people...” However, God always intends for us to have fellowship with Him that is patterned after a father to his children. The intent is for us to be obedient to Him based on our **close relationship** with Him versus a fear of getting in trouble or a need to always think of God as a distant authority figure giving us rules to follow.

Remember, God is building a family. He is Father. We are His children. Jesus is our older brother and redeemer. The Holy Spirit is our guide and helper. All of these titles for God represent relationship and kinship. Therefore, when we sin against God, we are hurting a family member. We are disrespecting our Father, mistreating our Big Brother who bought our life, and pushing away our Helper who is trying to lead us in the right direction.

III. The End Result—[Nehemiah 9: 36-38](#); [Nehemiah 10: 28-30](#); [1 John 1: 9](#)

The amazing confession of Nehemiah 9 and 10 results in the people reaffirming their covenant with God. They make a commitment to repent from their sinful ways and to return back to their role in the covenant.

- What do the people say about their circumstance in Nehemiah 9: 36-37?

These two verses illustrate a challenging reality which is symbolized by the broken wall which was repaired by the Israelites.

What happened to the benefits God promised them?

What do these verses make you think of in relationship to your own life?

As a result of their condition and their study of God’s word (over 14 years under Ezra), they make a decision.

- What do they decide to do? (See verse 38)

Our lesson ends before we see the result of their decision. However, the wall and the behavior of the community point us to a few clues.

- What do you think will happen next?
- What does 1 John 1: 9 teach us the result will be if they are serious?

Closing: As a group, end the lesson with a prayer asking God to forgive you for your sins and make a commitment to fulfill your part in the covenant relationship you have with Him!