

# From Ruin to Revival

A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

**LESSON TWELVE Introduction:** From time to time we all fail to keep our commitments, don't we? Our good intentions and plans often fail by the wayside. Sometimes we blatantly break our promises, but other times we just drift away gradually. Within a relatively short period of time, the children of Israel went back spiritually and returned to their old ways of doing things. In other words, good beginnings are no guarantee of happy endings.

## 1. Israel's Broken Promises.

### a. The Submission Promise (13:1-3).

- i. They **read** the Word
- ii. They **remembered** the past
  - Ammonites sinned against them by **omission**.
  - Moabites sinned against them by **commission**.

### b. The Separation Promise (13:4-9, 23-28).

- i. An Enemy **Intruder** (v.4-9).
  - Eliashib's **Irresponsibility**
  - Tobiah's **Contempt**
  - Nehemiah's **Reaction**
- ii. Mixed **Marriages** (v.23-28)
  - Their **problem**.
  - Their **pounding!**

### c. The Support Promise (13:10-14)

- i. The **problem**
  - The rulers forsook the **Temple** (v.11)
  - The Levites returned to **work** (v.10)
- ii. The **plan**
  - It involved doing **assigned tasks**.
  - It involved giving **proportionate tithes**.
  - It involved appointing **faithful treasurers**.

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- d. The **Sabbath** Promise (13:15-22)
  - i. Nehemiah rebuked the **employees** (v.15-16).
  - ii. Nehemiah rebuked the **employers** (v.17-18).
  - iii. Nehemiah ordered the **gates closed** (v.19-22)

## 2. **Nehemiah's Leadership Lessons**

- a. It's never too late to do what's **right**.
- b. Don't play around with **sin**.
- c. Remember **who God is**.
- d. Cultivate a lifestyle of **praise and prayer**.
- e. Move out of your **comfort zone**.
- f. Don't let **difficulties** derail you.
- g. Seeks to resolve **people problems**.
- h. Say "yes" to **God's priorities** and "no" to the **devil's distractions**.
- i. Believe the **promises** of God and act upon them.
- j. Allow God to **use you**.

## 3. **Nehemiah's Personal Prayer**

- a. Remember **my work** (v.14).
- b. Remember **me in mercy** (v.22).
- c. Remember **me for good** (v.31).

**Conclusion:** There is coming a day when all of this life will be over. Therefore, it is important that we anchor our present life and ministry in the future. Our prayer, like Nehemiah's, must plead for the mercy and favor of God to be on our work today, so that one day we may hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."