

# From Ruin to Revival

## A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

**LESSON NINE Introduction:** Nehemiah not only witnessed the rebuilding of his city's walls, but also the reweaving of the moral fabric of his community. This text emphasizes and demonstrates for us the three elements necessary for genuine revival.

1. **Communication** of the word—specifically the law—of God (Neh. 8).

2. **Confession** of the people's sins toward God (Nehemiah 9).

a. The **Place** of Confession.

i. It followed the **preaching** of God's Word (8:8, 9:3a).

ii. It followed the **practice** of God's Word (8:13ff).

iii. It followed the **parting** from unbelievers (9:2).

iv. It linked to the **presence** of God (9:3b).

b. The **People** in Confession (9:2).

i. **Personal** Confession.

ii. **Public** Confession.

- **Acceptance** of **Responsibility**.

- **Assembly** for **Repentance**.

c. The **Prayer** of Confession (9:5-37).

i. They emphasized God's glory in **creation** (9:5-6)

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ii. They recognized God's sovereignty in **history** (9:7-31)

- He chose **Abraham** from Ur (v.7-8)
- He freed Israel from **Egypt** (v.9-12)
- He gave the **Law** from Sinai (v.13-15)
- He sustained Israel in the **Wilderness** (v.19-21)
- He provided success in **Canaan** (v.22-25)
- He gave Israel **judges** during trouble (v.26-29)
- He testified to them through the **prophets** (v.30-31)

iii. They appealed to God's **mercy** in distress (9:32-37)

- An acknowledgement of God's **greatness**
- An acknowledgement of God's **justice**
- An acknowledgement of God's **punishment**

### 3. **Change of life in dedication to God (Nehemiah 10).**

**Conclusion:** So what do we need to do? 2 Chronicles 7:14 gives the answer. We must *humble ourselves*. We must *pray*. We must *seek God's face*. We must *turn from our wicked ways*. Is it difficult to repent? Of course! Nothing is harder. But we must if we ever hope to have forgiveness and healing for our land. Revival always follows this type of genuine sorrow over sin. What do you need to turn from? What national sins should we be confessing?