

Rebuilding Our Defense
Nehemiah 10
A Communal Pledge of Obedience

“The rest of the people...join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God’s Law...and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord and his rules and his statutes.”

Nehemiah 10:28-29

Life Application: Repentance and mercy lead us to obedience.

“Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands...’

Nehemiah 1:8-9 (NIV)

Elements of Israel’s renewed commitment:

1. A covenant in writing. (9:38)
2. Covenant signed (agreed to) by everyone. (9:38-10:26)
3. Separation from other people. (10:28)
4. Joining together in accountability and commitment to walk in and obey the Law. (10:29)
5. No mixed marriages. (10:30)
6. Commitment to the poor. (10:31)
7. Commitment to full tithes and offerings. (10:32-39)

Point: God’s will for obedience is revealed in His Word.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

Observations from Israel

1. They read the Law (God’s Word). (8:1-8)
2. They were convicted by it. (8:9; 9:1-5)
3. They recommitted themselves to its instruction. (9:38)

Point: Commitment to obedience requires change and sacrifice.

The phrase “we will” or “we make” or “we obligate” shows not just agreement to the Law, but heartfelt commitment to change. It is similar to the commitments found in Exodus 24:7 and Joshua 24:14-21.

Personal Application...

The renewal of the covenant in oath and obedience brings Israel back into a living relationship with the Lord their God.

So...

Put your action where your mouth is! Don’t just say you will obey- find accountable relationships who will help you to live out your faith.

Sermon by Pastor Dave Williams on Sunday, August 16th, 2015
Next week: Nehemiah 11-13