REPENTANCE OF THE PEOPLE

(Nehemiah 9:1-37)

- I. The ASSEMBLY for CONFESSION and WORSHIP (Neh. 9:1-5*a*)
 - A. Their APPEARANCE demonstrated REPENTANCE (9:1)
 - B. They had SEPARATED from all "FOREIGNERS" (9:2*a*)
 - C. They STOOD while confessing their SINS (9:2b)
 - D. They STOOD for 3-6 hours to hear the reading of the LAW (9:3a)
 - E. They spent another 3-6 hours in CONFESSION and WORSHIP (9:3*b*)
 - F. A group of LEVITES cried out to the LORD (9:4-5a)
- II. The PRAYER of CONFESSION (Neh. 9:5*b*-37)
 - A. PRAISE to God the CREATOR (9:5b-6)
 - B. God CHOSE Abraham (9:7-8)
 - 1. God promised him a HERITAGE
 - 2. God promised him a TERRITORY
 - C. God DELIVERED Israel from EGYPT (9:9-12)
 - 1. He DESTROYED the Egyptian army in the SEA
 - 2. He LED Israel through the WILDERNESS
 - D. God gave Israel GIFTS (9:13-15)
 - 1. He gave them the LAW

- 2. He gave them DAILY PROVISION
- E. God was MERCIFUL when Israel DISOBEYED (9:16-21)
 - 1. Israel became STUBBORN and disdained God's DELIVERANCE
 - 2. God is "a God of FORGIVENESS"
 - 3. He continued to PROVIDE despite their BLASPHEMY
- F. God gave them the LAND of Canaan (9:22-25)
 - 1. He gave them VICTORY over ENEMIES
 - 2. He made them PROLIFIC
 - 3. He made them SECURE and PROSPEROUS
- G. Israel CONTINUALLY REBELLED (9:26-31)
 - 1. They IGNORED and DEFIED God's Word
 - 2. God FORGAVE the repentant by His GRACE
- H. Israel's PRESENT cry for MERCY (9:32-37)
 - 1. They acknowledge God's GREATNESS
 - 2. They acknowledge His JUSTICE
 - 3. They declare their own DISTRESS

III. Lessons

- A. God's WORD is FOUNDATIONAL for life in Him
- B. The ABUNDANCE of God's MERCY is never LICENSE to sin
- C. God the Sovereign Creator has the AUTHORITY to judge PEOPLE and entire POPULATIONS for sin
- D. God's GRACE remains GREATER than our SIN