

COVENANT OF THE PEOPLE
(Nehemiah 9:38 – 10:39)

- I. Introduction (Neh. 9:38)
 - A. They are making a COVENANT in WRITING
 - B. It will be SEALED by their official REPRESENTATIVES
 - C. They are doing this “because of ALL THIS”
 - 1. “You ALONE are the LORD” (9:6a)
 - 2. “For You are a GRACIOUS and COMPASSIONATE God” (9:31b)
 - 3. “So we are in GREAT DISTRESS” (9:37b)

- II. The NAMES of Those Who SEALED the Pledge (Neh. 10:1-27)
 - A. The NATIONAL leaders and the PRIESTS (10:1-8)
 - 1. “Nehemiah ... and Zedekiah” represented GOVERNMENT
 - 2. The rest are names of priestly FAMILIES
 - B. The LEVITES (10:9-13)
 - C. The leaders of the PEOPLE (10:14-27)

- III. The TEXT of the Covenant they SEALED (Neh. 10:28-39)
 - A. The BASIC VOW (10:28-29)

1. Included “all who separated themselves” from the HEATHEN to the “LAW of God”
 2. Vowed to LIVE by God’s WORD
- B. The vow to SEPARATE from the HEATHEN (10:30-31)
1. Forbade INTERMARRIAGE with FOREIGNERS
 2. Forbade doing BUSINESS with foreigners on the SABBATH
 3. Pledge to honor sabbatical years for FARMING and for DEBTS
- C. The vow to PAY the TEMPLE TAX (10:32-33)
1. Promised an ANNUAL per capita CASH donation
 2. Intended to finance “ALL the WORK” of the TEMPLE
- D. The vow to contribute their TITHES and OFFERINGS (10:34-39)
1. Included a pledge to provide WOOD to burn on the ALTAR
 2. Included “FIRSTFRUIT” offerings
 3. Included annual TITHES of all their land PRODUCED
 4. Included vow that the LEVITES would tithe

IV. Lessons

- A. We must SUBMIT to the authority of GOD’S WORD
- B. We must remain SEPARATE from the WORLD’S VALUES
- C. We must faithfully SUPPORT the LOCAL CHURCH in both ATTENDANCE and FINANCE