

Power of Remembrance

Nehemiah 9



Week Twelve

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Nehemiah 9

BOOKENDS

If you have been following the chiasmic structure of Nehemiah, we have come to the end. (You're thinking, "Wait, there are more chapters!" We'll come to those next week.) As the first chapter revealed the future course of Nehemiah's ministry through prayer, Nehemiah 9, the corresponding bookend chapter, reflects on the past course of God's people also through prayer. Whereas the first prayer was by Nehemiah alone on behalf of the larger community, this prayer is about the whole nation of which Nehemiah is merely a part.

Though the two prayers are different in trajectory and in breadth, they both retain the elements of adoration, confession, promises, and vision (see week 1). Fasting is mentioned in both chapters, alluding to the sincerity of seeking God's will. Both incorporate the Word of God: in chapter 1, Nehemiah claims promises he knows, while in chapter 9, they "read from the book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day" (verse 3, NKJV).

Both prayers reveal the importance of studying how God's hand has led in history. "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord had led us, and His teaching in our past history" (Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, 162).



inScribe

Write out Nehemiah 9:26–38 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out Nehemiah 9:30–35. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline it, or mind map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases



Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

Have you recently recounted God's work in your personal life? In your family? In your church?



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After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?



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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Exod. 2:23–25

Luke 17:32

Heb. 13:1–8



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with

Review your memorized verse from Nehemiah 9.



Meditate on Nehemiah 9 again and look for Jesus in the chapter.



How far back can you recount Christ working in your family history?

Take time now to reflect on the trajectory of God's hand in your personal life as well as in your spiritual community. What patterns emerge? What is the theology of salvation history in your life? How does this narrative fit into the larger narrative of the Adventist movement, the Christian church, and the great controversy?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus work in your life?



Review your memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



As you have studied this
week, what personal
applications have you been
convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications
you must make in your school,
family, workplace, and church?



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Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



Why is it important for leaders to reflect on the past?

How does a social media/tech-savvy culture erode the ability to reflect?

How can technology help us to reflect?

What powerful insights have emerged from studying how God has led in your life?

As much as forgetfulness has spiritual repercussions, in what ways can forgetting be beneficial?

What lessons can we learn from reflecting spiritually, personally, collectively, nationally, and as a church?

How can we stop forgetting God's goodness?

How does remembering God's character help us in future trials?