

# Scripture and Remembering: Nehemiah 9:1-37

Sunday, August 13, 2023  
Covenant Church  
Pastor Zack Phillips

## Nehemiah 9:1-37

<sup>1</sup> Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. <sup>2</sup> Then those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their ancestors. <sup>3</sup> They stood up in their place and read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth part of the day, and for another fourth they made confession and worshiped the LORD their God. <sup>4</sup> Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood on the stairs of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to the LORD their God. <sup>5</sup> Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, "Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise."

<sup>6</sup> And Ezra said: "You are the LORD, you alone; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. To all of them you give life, and the host of heaven worships you. <sup>7</sup> You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham; <sup>8</sup> and you found his heart faithful before you, and made with him a covenant to give to his descendants the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite; and you have fulfilled your promise, for you are righteous.

<sup>9</sup> "And you saw the distress of our ancestors in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea. <sup>10</sup> You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted insolently against our ancestors. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day. <sup>11</sup> And you divided the sea before them, so that they passed through the sea on dry land, but you threw their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters. <sup>12</sup> Moreover, you led them by day with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire, to give them light on the way in which they should go. <sup>13</sup> You came down also upon Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments, <sup>14</sup> and you made known your holy sabbath to them and gave them commandments and statutes and a law through your servant Moses. <sup>15</sup> For their hunger you gave them bread from heaven, and for their thirst you brought water for them out of the rock, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you swore to give them.

<sup>16</sup> "But they and our ancestors acted presumptuously and stiffened their necks and did not obey your commandments; <sup>17</sup> they refused to obey, and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them; but they stiffened their necks and determined to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and you did not forsake them. <sup>18</sup> Even when they had cast an image of a calf for themselves and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed great blasphemies, <sup>19</sup> you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness; the pillar of cloud that led them in the way did not leave them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night that gave them light on the way by which they should go. <sup>20</sup> You gave your good spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and gave them

water for their thirst. <sup>21</sup> Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness so that they lacked nothing; their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell. <sup>22</sup> And you gave them kingdoms and peoples, and allotted to them every corner, so they took possession of the land of King Sihon of Heshbon and the land of King Og of Bashan. <sup>23</sup> You multiplied their descendants like the stars of heaven, and brought them into the land that you had told their ancestors to enter and possess. <sup>24</sup> So the descendants went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hands, with their kings and the peoples of the land, to do with them as they pleased. <sup>25</sup> And they captured fortress cities and a rich land, and took possession of houses filled with all sorts of goods, hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive orchards, and fruit trees in abundance; so they ate, and were filled and became fat, and delighted themselves in your great goodness.

<sup>26</sup> “Nevertheless they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their backs and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies. <sup>27</sup> Therefore you gave them into the hands of their enemies, who made them suffer. Then in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who saved them from the hands of their enemies. <sup>28</sup> But after they had rest, they again did evil before you, and you abandoned them to the hands of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them; yet when they turned and cried to you, you heard from heaven, and many times you rescued them according to your mercies. <sup>29</sup> And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your ordinances, by the observance of which a person shall live. They turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey. <sup>30</sup> Many years you were patient with them, and warned them by your spirit through your prophets; yet they would not listen. Therefore you handed them over to the peoples of the lands. <sup>31</sup> Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

<sup>32</sup> “Now therefore, our God—the great and mighty and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love—do not treat lightly all the hardship that has come upon us, upon our kings, our officials, our priests, our prophets, our ancestors, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until today. <sup>33</sup> You have been just in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly; <sup>34</sup> our kings, our officials, our priests, and our ancestors have not kept your law or heeded the commandments and the warnings that you gave them. <sup>35</sup> Even in their own kingdom, and in the great goodness you bestowed on them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you and did not turn from their wicked works. <sup>36</sup> Here we are, slaves to this day—slaves in the land that you gave to our ancestors to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts. <sup>37</sup> Its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins; they have power also over our bodies and over our livestock at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.”

## A. Remembering

- heavens/host
- earth and all on it
- seas and all in them
- God gives life to all and hosts worship Him

**Abram/Abraham**

- God commands Abram to leave Ur of the Chaldeans
- God changed his name to Abraham and found him faithful
- God promised the land to Abram’s descendants
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**Abram/Abraham**

- God made a covenant with Abraham, a promise to Isaac, confirmed to Jacob
- to give the land of Canaan to the descendants
- God protected Israel from kings and oppression

**Abram/Abraham**

- God commands Abram to leave the land of the Chaldeans and travel to Haran/Canaan
- God gave Abram the covenant of circumcision and made him father to Isaac and Jacob
- God promised the land to Abram’s descendants
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**Joseph and the Twelve**

- When there was famine, God sent Joseph who was enslaved, imprisoned, released, and put over the king’s house: the word of the LORD “tested” him
- Israel came to Egypt;

**Joseph and the Twelve**

- God rescued Joseph in Egypt, gave him favor before Pharaoh, and was “with him”
- Joseph revealed himself to his brothers;
- Jacob came to Egypt;
- ancestors’ bodies were brought back

**In Egypt and Moses**

- God multiplied His people
- and Egypt dealt craftily with them

**In Egypt and Moses**

- God allowed Israel to be enslaved as resident aliens in a strange country for 400 years
- Israel multiplied
- and a new pharaoh treated them harshly
- Moses was abandoned, brought up as Pharaoh’s daughter’s, became wise and powerful, struck down an Egyptian and was misunderstood, fled to Midian, and fathered two sons
- An angel appeared to Moses in a burning bush in the Sinai wilderness

**Exodus and wilderness**

- God saw and heard His people
- God performed signs and wonders in Egypt
- God made a name for Himself
- God divided the sea so they passed through it,
- God led them with a pillar of cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night

**Exodus and wilderness**

- God worked marvels in Egypt
- God divided the sea so they passed through it,
- God led them with a cloud by day, fire by night

**Exodus and wilderness**

- God did signs and miracles in Egypt
- God gave them a cloud by day, fire by night

**Exodus and wilderness**

- God has heard and seen His people and sends Moses to rescue them
- (Through Moses) God performed signs and wonders in Egypt and in the wilderness

- God gave ordinances, law, statutes, and commandments (esp. Sabbath) on Sinai
- God gave them bread from heaven and water from the rock
- God told them to go in and possess the land He swore to them

Israel's sin

- Israel acted presumptuously, stiffened their necks, disobeyed, ignored God's wonders, made a calf and blasphemed,
- Ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, God did not forsake them; He continued to provide the pillars of cloud and fire, manna and water, and His Spirit and sustained them 40 years

Victory, land, descendants

- God gave them kingdoms, people, land of King Sihon and King Og
- God multiplied their descendants like stars in the sky
- God brought them in to possess the land

Israel's sin

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- God gave them water from rocks

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- (Through Moses) God promised a prophet and gave the people living oracles

Israel's sin

- Israel disobeyed God, pushed him aside, turned their hearts back to Egypt, made a calf as an idol and sacrificed to it
- God turned away from them and handed them over to their worship
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God's dwelling place

- God gave Israel the tent of testimony in the wilderness and until the time of David
- Solomon built God's house but God does not dwell in houses made with human hands

Israel's sin

- Israel is stiff-necked, uncircumcised in heart, opposing the Holy Spirit
- Israel killed the prophets and murdered the Righteous One
- Israel received but did not keep the Law

~~22 And you gave them kingdoms and peoples, and allotted to them every corner, so they took possession of the land of King Sihon of Heshbon and the land of King Og of Bashan. 23 You multiplied their descendants like the stars of heaven, and brought them into the land that you had told their ancestors to enter and possess. 24 So the descendants went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hands, with their kings and the peoples of the land, to do with them as they pleased. 25 And they captured fortress cities and a rich land, and took possession of houses filled with all sorts of goods, hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive orchards, and fruit trees in abundance; so they ate, and were filled and became fat, and delighted themselves in your great goodness.~~

26 "Nevertheless they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their backs and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies. 27 Therefore you gave them into the hands of their enemies, who made them suffer. Then in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who

saved them from the hands of their enemies. 28 But after they had rest, they again did evil before you, and you abandoned them to the hands of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them; yet when they turned and cried to you, you heard from heaven, and many times you rescued them according to your mercies. 29 And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your ordinances, by the observance of which a person shall live. They turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey. 30 Many years you were patient with them, and warned them by your spirit through your prophets; yet they would not listen. Therefore you handed them over to the peoples of the lands. 31 Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

### Psalm 78

<sup>5</sup> He established a decree in Jacob,  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach to their children;

<sup>6</sup> that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and rise up and tell them to their children,

<sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God,  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments;

<sup>8</sup> and that they should not be like their ancestors,  
a stubborn and rebellious generation,  
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,  
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

<sup>9</sup> The Ephraimites, armed with the bow,  
turned back on the day of battle.

<sup>10</sup> They did not keep God's covenant,  
but refused to walk according to his law.

<sup>11</sup> They forgot what he had done,  
and the miracles that he had shown them.

~~<sup>12</sup> In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels  
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.~~

~~<sup>13</sup> He divided the sea and let them pass through it,  
and made the waters stand like a heap.~~

~~<sup>14</sup> In the daytime he led them with a cloud,  
and all night long with a fiery light.~~

~~<sup>15</sup> He split rocks open in the wilderness,  
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.~~

~~<sup>16</sup> He made streams come out of the rock,  
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.~~

<sup>17</sup> Yet they sinned still more against him,  
rebellious against the Most High in the desert.

<sup>18</sup> They tested God in their heart  
by demanding the food they craved.

<sup>19</sup> They spoke against God, saying,  
"Can God spread a table in the wilderness?"

<sup>20</sup> Even though he struck the rock so that water gushed out  
and torrents overflowed,  
can he also give bread,

or provide meat for his people?”

<sup>21</sup> Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of rage;  
a fire was kindled against Jacob,  
his anger mounted against Israel,

<sup>22</sup> because they had no faith in God,  
and did not trust his saving power.

<sup>23</sup> Yet he commanded the skies above,  
and opened the doors of heaven;

<sup>24</sup> he rained down on them manna to eat,  
and gave them the grain of heaven.

<sup>25</sup> Mortals ate of the bread of angels;  
he sent them food in abundance.

<sup>26</sup> He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,  
and by his power he led out the south wind;

<sup>27</sup> he rained flesh upon them like dust,  
winged birds like the sand of the seas;

<sup>28</sup> he let them fall within their camp,  
all around their dwellings.

<sup>29</sup> And they ate and were well filled,  
for he gave them what they craved.

<sup>30</sup> But before they had satisfied their craving,  
while the food was still in their mouths,

<sup>31</sup> the anger of God rose against them  
and he killed the strongest of them,  
and laid low the flower of Israel.

<sup>32</sup> In spite of all this they still sinned;  
they did not believe in his wonders.

<sup>33</sup> So he made their days vanish like a breath,  
and their years in terror.

<sup>34</sup> When he killed them, they sought for him;  
they repented and sought God earnestly.

<sup>35</sup> They remembered that God was their rock,  
the Most High God their redeemer.

<sup>36</sup> But they flattered him with their mouths;  
they lied to him with their tongues.

<sup>37</sup> Their heart was not steadfast toward him;  
they were not true to his covenant.

<sup>38</sup> Yet he, being compassionate,  
forgave their iniquity,  
and did not destroy them;

often he restrained his anger,  
and did not stir up all his wrath.

<sup>39</sup> He remembered that they were but flesh,  
a wind that passes and does not come again.

<sup>40</sup> How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness  
and grieved him in the desert!

<sup>41</sup> They tested God again and again,  
and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>42</sup> They did not keep in mind his power,  
or the day when he redeemed them from the foe;

<sup>43</sup> when he displayed his signs in Egypt,

and his miracles in the fields of Zoan.

<sup>44</sup> He turned their rivers to blood,  
so that they could not drink of their streams.

<sup>45</sup> He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them,  
and frogs, which destroyed them.

<sup>46</sup> He gave their crops to the caterpillar,  
and the fruit of their labor to the locust.

<sup>47</sup> He destroyed their vines with hail,  
and their sycamores with frost.

<sup>48</sup> He gave over their cattle to the hail,  
and their flocks to thunderbolts.

<sup>49</sup> He let loose on them his fierce anger,  
wrath, indignation, and distress,  
a company of destroying angels.

<sup>50</sup> He made a path for his anger;  
he did not spare them from death,  
but gave their lives over to the plague.

<sup>51</sup> He struck all the firstborn in Egypt,  
the first issue of their strength in the tents of Ham.

<sup>52</sup> Then he led out his people like sheep,  
and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

<sup>53</sup> He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid;  
but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

<sup>54</sup> And he brought them to his holy hill,  
to the mountain that his right hand had won.

<sup>55</sup> He drove out nations before them;  
he apportioned them for a possession  
and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

<sup>56</sup> Yet they tested the Most High God,  
and rebelled against him.

They did not observe his decrees,  
<sup>57</sup> but turned away and were faithless like their ancestors;  
they twisted like a treacherous bow.

<sup>58</sup> For they provoked him to anger with their high places;  
they moved him to jealousy with their idols.

<sup>59</sup> When God heard, he was full of wrath,  
and he utterly rejected Israel.

<sup>60</sup> He abandoned his dwelling at Shiloh,  
the tent where he dwelt among mortals,

<sup>61</sup> and delivered his power to captivity,  
his glory to the hand of the foe.

<sup>62</sup> He gave his people to the sword,  
and vented his wrath on his heritage.

<sup>63</sup> Fire devoured their young men,  
and their girls had no marriage song.

<sup>64</sup> Their priests fell by the sword,  
and their widows made no lamentation.

<sup>65</sup> Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,  
like a warrior shouting because of wine.

<sup>66</sup> He put his adversaries to rout;  
he put them to everlasting disgrace.

<sup>67</sup> He rejected the tent of Joseph,  
he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim;  
<sup>68</sup> but he chose the tribe of Judah,  
Mount Zion, which he loves.  
<sup>69</sup> He built his sanctuary like the high heavens,  
like the earth, which he has founded forever.  
<sup>70</sup> He chose his servant David,  
and took him from the sheepfolds;  
<sup>71</sup> from tending the nursing ewes he brought him  
to be the shepherd of his people Jacob,  
of Israel, his inheritance.  
<sup>72</sup> With upright heart he tended them,  
and guided them with skillful hand.

### Psalm 105-06

<sup>26</sup> He sent his servant Moses,  
and Aaron whom he had chosen.  
<sup>27</sup> ~~They performed his signs among them,  
and miracles in the land of Ham.~~  
<sup>28</sup> He sent darkness, and made the land dark;  
they rebelled against his words.  
<sup>29</sup> He turned their waters into blood,  
and caused their fish to die.  
<sup>30</sup> Their land swarmed with frogs,  
even in the chambers of their kings.  
<sup>31</sup> He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,  
and gnats throughout their country.  
<sup>32</sup> He gave them hail for rain,  
and lightning that flashed through their land.  
<sup>33</sup> He struck their vines and fig trees,  
and shattered the trees of their country.  
<sup>34</sup> He spoke, and the locusts came,  
and young locusts without number;  
<sup>35</sup> they devoured all the vegetation in their land,  
and ate up the fruit of their ground.  
<sup>36</sup> He struck down all the firstborn in their land,  
the first issue of all their strength.

<sup>37</sup> Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold,  
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.  
<sup>38</sup> Egypt was glad when they departed,  
for dread of them had fallen upon it.  
<sup>39</sup> ~~He spread a cloud for a covering,  
and fire to give light by night.~~  
<sup>40</sup> They asked, and he brought quails,  
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.  
<sup>41</sup> He opened the rock, and water gushed out;  
it flowed through the desert like a river.  
<sup>42</sup> For he remembered his holy promise,  
and Abraham, his servant.

<sup>43</sup> So he brought his people out with joy,  
his chosen ones with singing.

<sup>44</sup> He gave them the lands of the nations,  
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,  
<sup>45</sup> that they might keep his statutes  
and observe his laws.  
Praise the LORD!

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD,  
or declare all his praise?

<sup>3</sup> Happy are those who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times.

<sup>4</sup> Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people;  
help me when you deliver them;

<sup>5</sup> that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,  
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,  
that I may glory in your heritage.

<sup>6</sup> Both we and our ancestors have sinned;  
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

<sup>7</sup> Our ancestors, when they were in Egypt,  
did not consider your wonderful works;  
they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love,  
but rebelled against the Most High at the Red Sea.

<sup>8</sup> Yet he saved them for his name's sake,  
so that he might make known his mighty power.

<sup>9</sup> He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry;  
he led them through the deep as through a desert.

<sup>10</sup> So he saved them from the hand of the foe,  
and delivered them from the hand of the enemy.

<sup>11</sup> The waters covered their adversaries;  
not one of them was left.

<sup>12</sup> Then they believed his words;  
they sang his praise.

<sup>13</sup> But they soon forgot his works;  
they did not wait for his counsel.

<sup>14</sup> But they had a wanton craving in the wilderness,  
and put God to the test in the desert;

<sup>15</sup> he gave them what they asked,  
but sent a wasting disease among them.

<sup>16</sup> They were jealous of Moses in the camp,  
and of Aaron, the holy one of the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan,  
and covered the faction of Abiram.

<sup>18</sup> Fire also broke out in their company;  
the flame burned up the wicked.

<sup>19</sup> They made a calf at Horeb  
and worshiped a cast image.

<sup>20</sup> They exchanged the glory of God  
for the image of an ox that eats grass.

<sup>21</sup> They forgot God, their Savior,  
who had done great things in Egypt,  
<sup>22</sup> wondrous works in the land of Ham,  
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore he said he would destroy them—  
had not Moses, his chosen one,  
stood in the breach before him,  
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

<sup>24</sup> Then they despised the pleasant land,  
having no faith in his promise.

<sup>25</sup> They grumbled in their tents,  
and did not obey the voice of the LORD.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore he raised his hand and swore to them  
that he would make them fall in the wilderness,

<sup>27</sup> and would disperse their descendants among the nations,  
scattering them over the lands.

<sup>28</sup> Then they attached themselves to the Baal of Peor,  
and ate sacrifices offered to the dead;

<sup>29</sup> they provoked the LORD to anger with their deeds,  
and a plague broke out among them.

<sup>30</sup> Then Phinehas stood up and interceded,  
and the plague was stopped.

<sup>31</sup> And that has been reckoned to him as righteousness  
from generation to generation forever.

<sup>32</sup> They angered the LORD at the waters of Meribah,  
and it went ill with Moses on their account;

<sup>33</sup> for they made his spirit bitter,  
and he spoke words that were rash.

<sup>34</sup> They did not destroy the peoples,  
as the LORD commanded them,

<sup>35</sup> but they mingled with the nations  
and learned to do as they did.

<sup>36</sup> They served their idols,  
which became a snare to them.

<sup>37</sup> They sacrificed their sons  
and their daughters to the demons;

<sup>38</sup> they poured out innocent blood,  
the blood of their sons and daughters,  
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan;  
and the land was polluted with blood.

<sup>39</sup> Thus they became unclean by their acts,  
and prostituted themselves in their doings.

<sup>40</sup> Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people,  
and he abhorred his heritage;

<sup>41</sup> he gave them into the hand of the nations,  
so that those who hated them ruled over them.

<sup>42</sup> Their enemies oppressed them,  
and they were brought into subjection under their power.

<sup>43</sup> Many times he delivered them,  
but they were rebellious in their purposes,  
and were brought low through their iniquity.

<sup>44</sup> Nevertheless he regarded their distress  
when he heard their cry.

<sup>45</sup> For their sake he remembered his covenant,  
and showed compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>46</sup> He caused them to be pitied  
by all who held them captive.

## B. Scripture

### God creates the universe (v. 6)<sup>1</sup>

**6** ...“You are the LORD,  
you alone;  
you have made heaven,

the heaven of heavens, with all their host,  
the earth and all that is on it,  
the seas and all that is in them.  
To all of them you give life,  
and the host of heaven worships you.

**2 Kings 19:15** ...“O LORD... you are God,  
you alone,  
...you have made heaven and earth

**Deut 10:14**  
Although heaven  
and the heaven of heavens  
belong to the LORD your God, the earth with all that is in it,

### God chooses Abraham and makes a covenant (vv. 7-8)

**7** You are the LORD,  
the God who chose Abram  
and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans

and gave him the name Abraham;  
**8** and you found his heart faithful before you,  
and made with him a covenant  
to give to his descendants  
the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the  
Jebusite, and the Girgashite;  
and you have fulfilled your promise,  
for you are righteous.

**Gen 15:7** ...“I am the LORD

who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans,  
to give you this land to possess.”

**Gen 17:5** No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be  
Abraham...

**Ps 119:137** You are righteous, O LORD... (see also Lam 1:18; Ezra 9:15)

### God delivers Israel from Egypt (vv. 9-)

**9** “And you saw the distress  
of our ancestors in Egypt  
and heard their cry at the Red Sea.

**10** You performed signs and wonders  
against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land,  
for you knew that they acted insolently against our ancestors.  
You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day.

**11** And you divided the sea before them,  
so that they passed through the sea on dry land,

**Exod 3:7** ...“I have observed the misery  
of my people who are in Egypt;

I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters... (see also Exod  
4:31)

**Jer 32:20** 20 You showed signs and wonders  
in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and among all humankind,

and have made yourself a name that continues to this very day  
**Isa 63:12** who caused his glorious arm to march at the right hand of  
Moses,  
who divided the waters before them  
to make for himself an everlasting name.

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<sup>1</sup> Parallels in this chart are from Jacob M. Myers, *Ezra-Nehemiah: Introduction, Translation and Notes*, Anchor Yale Bible 14 (New Haven; London: Yale University Press, 2008). Note: I have not included all the possible parallels that Myers proposes.

but you threw their pursuers into the depths,  
like a stone into mighty waters.

**12** Moreover, you led them  
by day with a pillar of cloud,

and by night with a pillar of fire,  
to give them light on the way in which they should go.

**13** You came down also upon Mount Sinai,  
and spoke with them from heaven,  
and gave them right ordinances and true laws, good statutes and  
commandments,

**14** and you made known your holy sabbath to them  
and gave them commandments and statutes and a law through your  
servant Moses.

**15** For their hunger you gave them bread from heaven,  
and for their thirst you brought water for them out of the rock,  
and you told them to go in to possess the land

that you swore to give them.

### God is faithful despite their sin (vv. 16-23)

**16** "But they and our ancestors acted presumptuously  
and stiffened their necks

and did not obey your commandments;

**17** they refused to obey,  
and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among  
them;  
but they stiffened their necks

and determined to return to their slavery in Egypt.  
But you are a God ready to forgive,  
gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
and you did not forsake them.

**18** Even when they had cast an image of a calf for themselves  
and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,'

and had committed great blasphemies,

**19** you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness;  
the pillar of cloud that led them in the way did not leave them by day,  
nor the pillar of fire by night  
that gave them light on the way by which they should go.

**20** You gave your good spirit to instruct them,  
and did not withhold your manna from their mouths,  
and gave them water for their thirst.

**21** Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness  
so that they lacked nothing;  
their clothes did not wear out  
and their feet did not swell.

**22** And you gave them kingdoms and peoples,  
and allotted to them every corner,  
so they took possession of the land  
of King Sihon of Heshbon  
and the land of King Og of Bashan.

**23** You multiplied their descendants like the stars of heaven,

**Exod 15:5** The floods covered them;  
they went down into the depths like a stone.

**Exod 13:21** The LORD went in front of them  
in a pillar of cloud by day,  
to lead them along the way,  
and in a pillar of fire by night,  
to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.

**Exod 19:20** When the LORD descended upon Mount Sinai...  
the LORD summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses  
went up.

**Exod 16:4** ..."I am going to rain bread from heaven for you...

**Num 20:8** ...Thus you shall bring water out of the rock for them...

**Josh 1:11** ..."in three days you are to cross over the Jordan, to go in to  
take possession of the land  
that the LORD your God gives you to possess."

**Exod 6:8** I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham,  
Isaac, and Jacob...

**Jer 7:26** yet they did not listen to me, or pay attention,  
but they stiffened their necks.

They did worse than their ancestors did.

**Deut 11:28** and the curse,  
if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God...

**Ps 105:5** Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles...

**Num 14:4** So they said to one another,  
"Let us choose a captain,  
and go back to Egypt."

**Ps 130:4** But there is forgiveness with you,...

**Ps 145:8** The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Ezra 9:9** ...yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery...

**Exod 32:8** ...they have cast for themselves an image of a calf...  
and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of  
the land of Egypt!'

**Dan 9:18** ...We do not present our supplication before you on the  
ground of our righteousness,  
but on the ground of your great mercies.

**Ps 143:10** ...Let Your good spirit lead me on a level path.

**Deut 2:7** ...These forty years the LORD your God has been with you;  
you have lacked nothing."

**Deut 8:4** The clothes on your back did not wear out  
and your feet did not swell these forty years.

**Num 32:33** Moses gave to them... the kingdom of King Sihon of the  
Amorites and the kingdom of King Og of Bashan, the land and its  
towns...

**Gen 22:17** ...I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of  
heaven...

and brought them into the land  
that you had told their ancestors to enter and possess.

Judg 2:1 I ...brought you into the land that I had promised to your  
ancestors.

### God grants Israel possession of the land (vv. 24-25)

24 So the descendants went in and possessed the land,  
and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land,  
the Canaanites,

and gave them into their hands,  
with their kings and the peoples of the land,  
to do with them as they pleased.

25 And they captured fortress cities and a rich land,  
and took possession of houses filled with all sorts of goods,  
hewn cisterns,  
vineyards,  
olive orchards, and fruit trees in abundance;  
so they ate, and were filled and became fat,  
and delighted themselves in your great goodness.

Josh 21:43 Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to  
their ancestors that he would give them;  
and having taken possession of it, they settled there.

Judg 4:23 So on that day God subdued King Jabin of Canaan before the  
Israelites.

Judg 1:4 ...the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their  
hand...

Deut 3:5 All these were fortress towns with high walls...

Deut 6:11 houses filled with all sorts of goods that you did not fill,  
hewn cisterns that you did not hew,  
vineyards  
and olive groves that you did not plant—  
and when you have eaten your fill,

### God is faithful despite their sin (vv. 26-31)

26 “Nevertheless they were disobedient  
and rebelled against you  
and cast your law behind their backs  
and killed your prophets,  
who had warned them in order to turn them back to you,  
and they committed great blasphemies.

27 Therefore you gave them into the hands of their enemies,  
who made them suffer.  
Then in the time of their suffering they cried out to you  
and you heard them from heaven,  
and according to your great mercies  
you gave them saviors  
who saved them from the hands of their enemies.

28 But after they had rest, they again did evil before you,  
and you abandoned them to the hands of their enemies,  
so that they had dominion over them;  
yet when they turned and cried to you,  
you heard from heaven,  
and many times you rescued them according to your mercies.

29 And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law.  
Yet they acted presumptuously  
and did not obey your commandments,  
but sinned against your ordinances,  
by the observance of which a person shall live.  
They turned a stubborn shoulder  
and stiffened their neck  
and would not obey.

30 Many years you were patient with them,  
and warned them by your spirit through your prophets;

yet they would not listen.  
Therefore you handed them over to the peoples of the lands.

31 Nevertheless, in your great mercies  
you did not make an end of them or forsake them,  
for you are a gracious and merciful God.

Ezek 23:35 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:  
Because you have forgotten me  
and cast me behind your back...

1 Kgs 19:10 [Elijah] answered, “...for the Israelites have... killed your  
prophets with the sword...”

Ezek 39:23 ...So I hid my face from them and gave them into the hand  
of their adversaries...

Judg 4:3 Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help...

2 Chron 6:25 may you hear from heaven...

1 Sam 9:16 ...[Saul] shall save my people from the hand of the  
Philistines; for I have seen the suffering of my people...

2 Kgs 17:13 Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet  
and every seer,

1 Sam 8:19 But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel...

Judg 13:1 ...the LORD gave [Israel] into the hand of the Philistines forty  
years.

Jer 46:28 ...I will not make an end of you!

### Israel's confession and prayer (vv. 32-37)

32 “Now therefore, our God—  
the great and mighty and awesome God,  
keeping covenant and steadfast love—

Deut 10:17 For the LORD  
...the great God, mighty and awesome...

1 Kgs 8:23 “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven  
above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love

do not treat lightly all the hardship that has come upon us,  
upon our kings, our officials, our priests, our prophets, our ancestors,  
and all your people,  
since the time of the kings of Assyria until today.

**33** You have been just in all that has come upon us,  
for you have dealt faithfully  
and we have acted wickedly;

**34** our kings, our officials, our priests, and our ancestors have not kept  
your law  
or heeded the commandments  
and the warnings that you gave them.

**35** Even in their own kingdom,  
and in the great goodness you bestowed on them,  
and in the large and rich land that you set before them,  
they did not serve you  
and did not turn from their wicked works.

**36** Here we are, slaves to this day—  
slaves in the land that you gave to our ancestors

to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts.

**37** Its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us  
because of our sins;  
they have power also over our bodies  
and over our livestock at their pleasure,  
and we are in great distress.”

**Dan 9:14** ...the LORD our God is right in all that he has done...

**Ps 106:6** ...we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.  
**2 Kgs 17:15** They

despised his statutes...  
and the warnings that he gave them...

**Ps 145:7** They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness...

**Jer 44:22** The LORD could no longer bear the sight of your evil doings...  
**Deut 19:8**

...he will give you all the land that he promised your ancestors to give  
you,  
**Jer 2:7** I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good  
things.

**Question: What is one thing that God may have said to you through this sermon?**