

THE STORY – THEIR STORY – OUR STORY

Introduction – The last historical book in the Old Testament is Nehemiah. He was appointed a Governor of Judah by the Persian King about 445 BC. He sought to restore God's people through a remembrance of their story.

Nehemiah 9:1-3

A. The acts of God to create His people

Nehemiah 9:5c-12

1. Our God is the Creator and Giver of all life.
2. God's covenant promise to Abraham was to give his descendants the Land.
3. God responded to His people's suffering with signs and wonders that led to their exodus from slavery.

B. The rebellion begins

Nehemiah 9:13-21

1. They received the gift of the Law at Sinai.
2. They became arrogant and stiff-necked in worshiping the golden calf.
3. God reveals Himself as forgiving, compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in love.
4. God sustained them through forty years of wilderness journey.

C. Continued rebellion through the conquest and settlement period.

Nehemiah 9:22-28

1. God gave them victory over their enemies and allowed them to go in and possess the land.
2. The people rebelled, disobeyed, and turned their backs on God.
3. They were delivered over and over from oppression because of God's great compassion.

D. The rebellion during the kingdom period led to their exile in Babylon

Nehemiah 9:29-37

1. God warned them through the prophets.
2. They remained arrogant, stubborn, disobedient, stiff-necked, and paid no attention to God's warnings.
3. God remained righteous and acted faithfully by allowing them to return to the Promised Land.
4. They remained slaves to the powerful idolatrous nations and were in great distress.

Conclusion – They accepted responsibility for their situation by confessing their sins and acknowledging God's righteousness. We must be willing to follow their example. This is the attitude needed to be spiritually restored to God.

1 John 1:8-9