

Dealing with Relapse Nehemiah 13

I. Nehemiah's Return – 13:1-6

1. Nehemiah returned to king as promised – 6
His absence from the king was about 12 years
Compare Nehemiah 2:1 with 13:6
Later he was given leave to return to Jerusalem
2. Discovered Israel broke their covenant
They had violated the Temple area
They withheld support of Levites
They were violating the Sabbath
They had inter-married with pagans
3. Read God's Law to the people – 1-3
Read from Deuteronomy 23:3-4
Ammonites & Moabites not in God's congregation– 1
Because of how they dealt with Israel – 2
Would not help them on their journey
Tried to curse them with Balaam
When people heard God's Law they responded – 3
They separated from this mixed multitude
4. Nehemiah learned about Tobiah - 4-5
Priest gave Tobiah a chamber in Temple court
Eliashib, the priest was related to Tobiah
Cleaned out grain storage room for an Ammonite
Room was designated for tithes of grain for Levites

III. Confronting Sin – 13:7-31

1. Dealing with defilement of Temple – 7-9
Giving Tobiah an Ammonite a chamber
Nehemiah was very angry with this desecration
He threw Tobiah's household furniture out,
evicted him
Gave orders to cleanse this chamber
Bring back vessels belonging there, returned to
store grain
2. Restoring portion for the Levites – 10-14
People had been withholding their support – 10
Levites went to work in their fields to support family
Nehemiah confronted the officials about this - 11
Why have you forsaken the House of God?
All Judah began payment of their tithes – 12
Nehemiah appointed men to oversee this – 13
Asks God's help to continue what he did – 14
3. Violation of the Sabbath Day – 15-22
People were working & selling on Sabbath – 15
Allowed foreign merchants to sell on Sabbath – 16
Nehemiah confronted the rulers about this – 17-18
He dealt with this violation of Sabbath – 19-22
He shut the gates of the city to keep them out – 19
Stationed some of his servants as guards
Threatened those setting up outside gates – 20-21
Commanded Levites to guard against this – 22
He asked God that this might continue - 22

4. Problem of Mixed Marriages – 23-31

- Jews married wives from pagan countries – 23-24
Their children spoke a foreign language
Nehemiah forcefully confronted them – 25-27
Reasoned with them of the consequences – 26-27
Expelled a priest, son-in-law to Sanballat – 28
Prayed, re-consecrated Priests & Levites – 29-31

III. What Causes Relapse?

- Often Follows revival, spiritual awakening
After a great victory we are often vulnerable
We tend to relax and think all is well
Victory is never automatic –
We become over confident
Like Israel after Jericho – in defeat at Ai
We begin to compromise & forget the One who
is the source of our strength
Peter is a good example for us
We begin to drift away from God's Word
Satan being defeated, will begin his attack
He knows when to attack us