

**Ebenezer Youth Fellowship**  
**Text: Nehemiah 13: 1-14**  
**Message 10: The Book of Nehemiah – Chapter 13**

Revision:

1. Chapter 1: Nehemiah's concern and prayer. Learn to pray rightly
2. Chapter 2: Petition to the king; journey to Jerusalem; rally the people to build
3. Chapter 3: Division of labour to do God's work – orderly and properly organised
4. Chapter 4: Opposition by mockery, conspiracy and discouragement
5. Chapter 5: Internal strife and Nehemiah's response and personal conduct
6. Chapter 6: Opposition by compromise, slander & betrayal yet wall was completed
7. Chapter 7: No complacency after wall was completed and spontaneous giving
8. Chapter 8: Spiritual revival comes from the Word of God
9. Chapter 9-12: Nation in prayer and signed a covenant to:
  - a. Subjection to the Word of God (10:29)
  - b. Separation from mixed marriages (10:30)
  - c. Sabbath observance (10:31)
  - d. Support of the Temple (10:32-39)

**1. Chapter 13 background**

Nehemiah left Jerusalem to serve the Persian king at the end of chapter 12. He was in Jerusalem for 12 years (5:14). There was a gap of time of likely a few years between Chapter 12 & 13 and Nehemiah came back again to Jerusalem (13:6).

Guess what happened the Nation of Israel in Nehemiah's absence. Risen or Fallen?

**2. Obedience to Biblical Separation (v.1-9)**

- (a) The people compromised in their relationship with the Ammonites & Moabites (descendants of Lot – Abraham's nephew) in their religious assembly. They disobeyed the Word of God written in Deut. 23:3-6.
- (b) Obedience comes from hearing the Word of God (v.3). Do you harden your heart in listening to God's Word?
- (c) The priest Eliashib compromised in his alliance with the old enemy Tobiah (2:10,19) and provided him a chamber in God's House (v.4).
- (d) Learn from Nehemiah's response (v.8-9). Do not compromise with the world – friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4).

**3. Support of the Temple (v.10-14)**

- (a) Levites were neglected and fled away from the Temple (v.10)
- (b) Restoration of the tithes – sin by robbing God (Mal.3:8). Why is the house of God forsaken? (v.11).
- (c) Treasurers must be faithful (v.13). Nehemiah's prayer for God to preserve (v.14).

**4. Enforcement of Sabbath (v.15-22)**

- (a) Business to make money was done on Sabbath day against God's Word (v.15-16)
- (b) Nehemiah's action – rebuked the violators (v.15,17,18), closed & guard the gates (v.19,22a), ready to arrest the foreign traders (v.21) and prayed to God (v.22b).

**5. Condemnation of Mixed Marriages (v.23-31)**

- (a) Sin of marrying unbelievers (v.23-24,28). Did not take heed to the warning of what happened to king Solomon (v.26-27).
- (b) Nehemiah's strong actions and made the people to swear to God (v.25,28b).
- (c) Nehemiah's prayer (v.29-31). Only God can change the hearts of men.

All 4 areas of the covenant were broken by the people of God!

**Memory Verse: Nehemiah 13:31b** *"Remember me, O my God, for good."*