

AMAZING GRACE ~ Nehemiah 9:1-37

→ **Scripture** Deut. 8:10-14

THE GREATNESS OF GOD ~ Nehemiah 9:1-6 (W. Wiersbe)

[5]..."Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. [6] You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

Praise God Because He... vs. 5-6

- is the ONLY God
- made the Heavens
- made the Earth an Everything on it
- gave Life to Everything
- is Worshipped by Angels

THE GOODNESS OF GOD ~ Nehemiah 9:7-30 (W. Wiersbe)

1- God's Goodness in CHOOSING and Forming His People (9:7-18)

...[13] "You came down on Mount Sinai; you spoke to them from heaven. You gave them regulations and laws that are just and right, and decrees and commands that are good. ... [16] "But they, our forefathers, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands. [17] They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a FORGIVING God, GRACIOUS and COMPASSIONATE, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them, [18] even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, 'This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt,' or when they committed awful blasphemies.

2- God's Goodness in SUSTAINING/Leading His People (9:19-21)

[19] "Because of your great COMPASSION you did not abandon them in the desert. By day the pillar of cloud did not cease to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. [20] You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. [21] For forty years you sustained them in the desert; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen.

3- God's Goodness in DISCIPLINING/Punishing His People (9:22-30)

[22] You gave them kingdoms and nations, allotting to them even the remotest frontiers... [24] ...You subdued before them the Canaanites, who lived in the land; you handed the Canaanites over to them, along with their kings and the peoples of the land, to deal with them as they pleased. [25] *They captured fortified cities and fertile land; they took possession of houses filled with all kinds of good things, wells already dug, vineyards, olive groves and fruit trees in abundance. They ate to the full and were well-nourished; they reveled in your great goodness.* [26] "But they were disobedient and rebelled against you; they put your law behind their backs. They killed your prophets, who had admonished them in order to turn them back to you; they committed awful blasphemies... ...[29] "You warned them to return to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, by which a man will live if he obeys them. Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen. [30] For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples.

THE GRACE OF GOD ~ Nehemiah 9:31-38 (W. Wiersbe)

[31] But in your great MERCY you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a GRACIOUS and merciful God. [32] "Now therefore, O our God, the great, mighty and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love, do not let all this hardship seem trifling in your eyes--the hardship that has come upon us, upon our kings and leaders, upon our priests and prophets, upon our fathers and all your people, from the days of the kings of Assyria until today.

[33] In all that has happened to us, you have been just; you have acted faithfully, while we did wrong. [34] Our kings, our leaders, our priests and our fathers did not follow your law; they did not pay attention to your commands or the warnings you gave them. [35] Even while they were in their kingdom, enjoying your great goodness to them in the spacious and fertile land you gave them, they did not serve you or turn from their evil ways. [36] "But see, we are slaves today, slaves in the land you gave our forefathers so they could eat its fruit and the other good things it produces. [37] Because of our sins, its abundant harvest goes to the kings you have placed over us. They rule over our bodies and our cattle as they please. We are in great distress.

APPLICATION

➔ **Anything that takes my Focus off of GOD and His Rule in my Life is idolatry**

SO WHAT ?? What can I take Home with me?

Deuteronomy 8:10-14 (NIV) When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. [11] Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. [12] Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, [13] and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, [14] then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

➔ **If we Focus on the GIFTS instead of the GIVER the Next step is to FORGET GOD**

Dangers of Focusing on the Gift Not the Giver

- think God's Blessings have Something to do with us
- take God's Blessing for Granted
- start to think that God OWES us those Blessings