

COSTLY COMMITMENT ~ Nehemiah 9:38-10:39

→ **Scripture Reading** Deuteronomy 7:1-11

SIGNING THE CONTRACT ~ Nehemiah 9:38-10:29

[9:38] "In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it." [10:1] Those who sealed it were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah. Zedekiah,

The 84 who Signed Agreement:

Nehemiah
22 Priests
17 Levites
44 Leaders

[28] "The rest of the people--priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, temple servants and all who separated themselves from the neighboring peoples for the sake of the Law of God, together with their wives and all their sons and daughters who are able to understand-- [29] all these now join their brothers the nobles, and bind themselves with a CURSE and an OATH to follow the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully ALL the commands, regulations and decrees of the LORD our Lord.

Blessings - Deuteronomy 28:1-2

Curses - Deuteronomy 28:15-18, 24-25, 47-48 68

APPLICATION

Exodus 24:3-4, 7 (NIV) When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." [4] Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel

...[7] Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do EVERYTHING the LORD has said; we will OBEY."

Joshua 24:14-15 (NIV) Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. [15] But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

→ **It is our job to pass along that Faith to the next Generation...**
...so that they will EMBRACE the Lord Jesus as their LORD

REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONTRACT ~ Nehemiah 10:30-39

THEY MADE A COMMITMENT... (R. Steadman)

- Not to Marry unbelievers - vs. 30
- to Obey Seventh Day Rest - vs. 31
- to Obey the Seventh Year - vs. 31
 - rest the land (Ex. 23:10-11)
 - free all Jewish slaves (Ex. 21:2-6)
 - cancel all debts to Israelites (Deut. 15:1-2)
- to Pay temple tax - vs. 32
- to Provide wood for the Temple - vs. 34
- to Bring the first fruits of their sons, crops, and flocks - vs. 35
- to Pay 10% of all their income - vs. 37
- Not to NEGLECT the house of God - vs. 39

[30] "We promise not to give our daughters in marriage to the peoples around us or take their daughters for our sons. [31] "When the neighboring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on any holy day. Every seventh year we will forgo working the land and will cancel all debts. [32] "We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give a third of a shekel each year for the service of the house of our God: [33] for the bread set out on the table; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, New Moon festivals and appointed feasts; for the holy offerings; for sin offerings to make atonement for Israel; and for all the duties of the house of our God. [34] "We--the priests, the Levites and the people-- have cast lots to determine when each of our families is to bring to the house of our God at set times each year a contribution of wood to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the Law. [35] "We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree. [36] "As it is also written in the Law, we will bring the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks to the house of our God, to the priests ministering there. [37] "Moreover, we will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God, to the priests, the first of our ground meal, of our [grain] offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and of our new wine and oil. And we will bring a tithe of our crops to the Levites, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all the towns where we work. [38] A priest descended from Aaron is to accompany the Levites when they receive the tithes, and the Levites are to bring a tenth of the tithes up to the house of our God, to the storerooms of the treasury. [39] The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine and oil to the storerooms where the articles for the sanctuary are kept and where the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the singers stay. "We will not neglect the house of our God."

APPLICATION

Their Commitment to God Impacted Their... (Life Application Notes)

- Relationships
- Use of Time
- Use of Economic Resources

SO WHAT ??

➔ **Commitment is Costly... and we pay the Price in Steps of Obedience over a Life Time**