

## Nehemiah 9:1-38 **Confession of Sins – Sure Covenant Made**

### The People Confess Their Sins

1 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads.

2 Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

3 And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of Yahweh Eloheyhm (the Lord their God) for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped Yahweh Eloheyhm (the Lord their God)

4 Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood on the stairs of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to Yahweh Eloheyhm (the Lord their God).

5 And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said:

"Stand up and bless Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God) Forever and ever!

"Blessed be Your glorious name, Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!

6 You alone are Yahweh (the Lord); You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

7 "You are Yahweh Elohiym (the Lord God), Who chose Abram, And brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, And gave him the name Abraham;

8 You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give the land of the Canaanites, The Hittites, the Amorites, The Perizzites, the Jebusites, And the Girgashites — To give it to his descendants. You have performed Your words, For You are righteous.

9 "You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, And heard their cry by the Red Sea.

10 You showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, Against all his servants, And against all the people of his land. For You knew that they acted proudly against them. So You made a name for Yourself, as it is this day.

11 And You divided the sea before them, So that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; And their persecutors You threw into the deep, As a stone into the mighty waters.

12 Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road Which they should travel.

13 "You came down also on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven, And gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments.

14 You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, And commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, By the hand of Moses Your servant.

15 You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, And brought them water out of the rock for their thirst, And told them to go in to possess the land Which You had sworn to give them.

16 "But they and our fathers acted proudly, Hardened their necks, And did not heed Your commandments.

17 They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them.

But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage.

But You are Elowah (God), Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.

18 "Even when they made a molded calf for themselves, And said, 'This is Eloheyka (your god) That brought you up out of Egypt, 'And worked great provocations,

19 Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, To lead them on the road; Nor the pillar of fire by night, To show them light, And the way they should go.

20 You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst.

21 Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell.

22 "Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations, And divided them into districts. So they took possession of the land of Sihon, The land of the king of Heshbon, And the land of Og king of Bashan.

23 You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, And brought them into the land Which You had told their fathers To go in and possess.

24 So the people went in And possessed the land; You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, The Canaanites, And gave them into their hands, With their kings And the people of the land, That they might do with them as they wished.

25 And they took strong cities and a rich land, And possessed houses full of all goods, Cisterns already dug, vineyards, olive groves, And fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and grew fat, And delighted themselves in Your great goodness.

26 "Nevertheless they were disobedient And rebelled against You, Cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations.

27 Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven; And according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies.

28 "But after they had rest, They again did evil before You. Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, So that they had dominion over them; Yet when they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; And many times You delivered them according to Your mercies,

29 And testified against them, That You might bring them back to Your law. Yet they acted proudly, And did not heed Your commandments, But sinned against Your judgments, 'Which if a man does, he shall live by them.' And they shrugged their shoulders, Stiffened their necks, And would not hear.

30 Yet for many years You had patience with them, And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

31 Nevertheless in Your great mercy You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You are El (God), gracious and merciful.

32 "Now therefore, Eloheynu (our God), The great, the mighty, and awesome El (God), Who keeps covenant and mercy: Do not let all the trouble seem small before You That has come upon us, Our kings and our princes, Our priests and our prophets, Our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria until this day.

33 However You are just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly.

34 Neither our kings nor our princes, Our priests nor our fathers, Have kept Your law, Nor heeded Your commandments and Your testimonies, With which You testified against them.

35 For they have not served You in their kingdom, Or in the many good things that You gave them, Or in the large and rich land which You set before them; Nor did they turn from their wicked works.

36 "Here we are, servants today! And the land that You gave to our fathers, To eat its fruit and its bounty, Here we are, servants in it!

37 And it yields much increase to the kings You have set over us, Because of our sins; Also they have dominion over our bodies and our cattle At their pleasure; And we are in great distress.

38 "And because of all this, We make a sure covenant and write it; Our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it."

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

**The People Confess Their Sins** [[Nehemiah 9:1-38](#)]

✧ Now on the twenty-fourth day of this (seventh) month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. [[Nehemiah 9:1](#)]

✧ The people humbled themselves before Yahweh.

✧ Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. [[Nehemiah 9:2](#)]

✧ In confessing their sins and the sins of their ancestors, they recite the history of Yahweh and his dealings with the Children of Israel.

✧ One fourth of the day they read from the Book of the Law learning what Yahweh views as sin. The next fourth of the day they confessed the sins that had been revealed and worshipped Yahweh Eloheyhm.

✧ They called the people to stand and bless Yahweh Eloheykem forever and ever.

✧ They acknowledge Yahweh is the creator and preserver of all Creation, worshipped by all the host of Heaven.

✧ Yahweh called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldea, changed his name to Abraham and made a covenant with him to give his descendants the land of Canaan because his heart was faithful. Yahweh was faithful, fulfilled His promise and cast out six nations before them.

✧ Yahweh did great signs in Egypt bringing them out, made a path through the Dead Sea, and drowned Pharaoh's pursuing army. All of this made a world known name for Yahweh.

✧ Yahweh led them with a pillar of cloud, and of fire, and gave His Laws at Mount Sinai where He spoke to them from Heaven to establish a holy nation before Him.

✧ Yahweh gave them food from heaven and water from the rock, and told them to go in and possess the land of promise.

✧ The people refused to possess the land for fear of the giants living there, forgetting all the miracles Yahweh had performed bringing them to this point. They sought to return to bondage in Egypt.

- ✧ But You are Elowah (God), Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them. [\[Nehemiah 9:17\]](#)
  - ✧ Yahweh continued to provide for them and guide with the pillar of cloud and of fire even after the sin of the golden calf and their great provocations.
- ✧ Forty years Yahweh sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell. [\[Nehemiah 9:21\]](#)
  - ✧ Great kingdoms were delivered into their hands and they possessed their land.
  - ✧ Yahweh multiplied their children like the stars of heaven and brought them into the land He had told their fathers to go in and possess. Yahweh delivered all the inhabitants of the land into the hands of the Children of Israel who possessed the strong cities, rich land, houses full of goods, cistern already dug, vineyards, olive groves, and fruit trees in abundance.
  - ✧ They ate, grew fat, and delighted themselves in Yahweh's goodness.
- ✧ "Nevertheless they were disobedient And rebelled against You, Cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations. [\[Nehemiah 9:26\]](#)
- ✧ Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven; And according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies. [\[Nehemiah 9:27\]](#)
- ✧ "But after they had rest, They again did evil before You. Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, So that they had dominion over them; Yet when they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; And many times You delivered them according to Your mercies, And testified against them, That You might bring them back to Your law. Yet they acted proudly, And did not heed Your commandments, But sinned against Your judgments, **'Which if a man does, he shall live by them.'** And they shrugged their shoulders, Stiffened their necks, And would not hear. Yet for many years You had patience with them, And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. Nevertheless in Your great mercy You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You are El (God), gracious and merciful. [\[Nehemiah 9:28-31\]](#)
  - ✧ The prayer then turns to their present situation and they called on the great, mighty, and awesome El to consider the troubles that have come upon the people of Israel, their kings, princes, priests, and prophets From the days of the kings of Assyria until this day. [\[Nehemiah 9:32\]](#)
  - ✧ They confess that Yahweh is just in all that has befallen us; For **You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly.** [\[Nehemiah 9:33-35\]](#)
  - ✧ Now here we are as servants in the land Yahweh gave to our fathers, eating its fruit and bounty, and the land yields much increase to the foreign kings Yahweh has set over us because of our sins. They have dominion over our bodies and cattle, and we are in great distress.
- ✧ "And because of all this, We make a sure covenant and write it; Our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it." [\[Nehemiah 9:38\]](#)

(covenants made by men are useless because men cannot live up to their pledge)