

## Invitation to Salvation.

Wouldn't you like to have someone to believe in, something to live for, and someone who will and can care for you. Then by simple faith commit your life to Christ. You will immediately experience His salvation and all of these blessings.

## BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

"The God of Glory"  
(Neh. 9:4-6)

### Introduction

God promises that His Word will not return unto Him void of effect (Isa. 55:11a). His Word always accomplishes His will (Isa. 55:11b). One of the purposes of God's Word is to produce praise and thanksgiving within the heart of the believer (cf. Col. 3:16-17). After hearing the Word of God read for about three hours ("one fourth part of the day," v. 3), some of the Levites were mightily moved to offer praise and blessing to the Lord. (9:4-5). Others were encouraged by the singing Levites to "stand up and bless the Lord, your God, for ever and ever" (v. 5).

In the process of praising the Lord, these Israelites recounted the history of their nation (9:7-37). However, before they mentioned Abraham (v. 7), they praised the Lord for "thy glorious name" (v. 5) and for His role as Creator and Sustainer (v. 6).

### Outline and Comments

1. The glory of God's Character -- "thy glorious name" (9:4-5).

What's in a name? Not very much when it is an average American name but a handle by which to call and to identify a particular person. In contrast, Hebrew names are generally significant in that they are usually descriptive of the person's character who bears the particular name.

We have already noted that the Israelites were praising God for His "glorious name" (v. 5). The main idea of "glory" (Hebrew, cabod) or "glorious" as applied to God is "the shining forth of His perfect characteristics" or "the radiance of His perfections." God's name (or names) is glorious because it shows forth the brightness of His wonderful character. In brief, the various names of God tell us

what He is like and what He does mean and can mean to us. Below are listed a few of His names and their practical significance to us.

- a. God (Hebrew, Elohim; Greek, Theos). The basic meaning is "Strong One," and the Hebrew plural form indicates plenitude of power. This name emphasizes God as the Creator and Controller of the universe and mankind. God is the "all-powerful One" and able to solve our "impossible problems" and to meet our "greatest needs" (Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17; Matt. 19:26). Next time you hit a tough problem or a big need remember the glorious name, God, the "Strong One." Trust Him in problems and for needs.
- b. LORD (Hebrew, Yahweh; Greek, Kurios). Note that when the KJV is translating Yahweh, then LORD is spelled with all capital letters. The basic meaning is "self-existent One" (cf. Ex. 3:14). This name emphasizes the Lord as Redeemer, especially in relationship to His own people. Receive Him as personal Saviour (Jonah 2:9; John 1:12). Obey Him as Lord of your life (John 13:13 cf. Luke 6:46).
- c. Lord (Hebrew, Adonai; Greek Kurios). The basic meaning is "Lord" or "Master." The name emphasizes the Master-servant relationship between the Lord and His people. Paul considered himself a "slave" or "bond servant" of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1 cf. Ex. 21:1-6). Submit to Him as Master over your life. He has bought you and has the right to use you as it pleases Him (I Cor. 6:19-20). Christ has freed us (Jn. 8:31-32, 36) that we might no longer be slaves to sin (Jn. 8:34) but truly free as slaves to Him forever (Ex. 21:5-6).

There are many other names for God and His Son, Jesus Christ, which may be studied with great spiritual profit. Some are listed in the New Scofield Reference Bible, p. 981.

## 2. The glory of God's creation (9:6).

- a. He created all things for His glory (v. 6a). The fact that God created all things both visible and invisible, material and spiritual is also taught in Gen. 1:1ff.; John 1:3; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2.
  - (1) The heavens were created primarily to show forth God's glory (Psalm 19:1).
  - (2) Man was created for God's glory (Isa. 43:7). God glorifies Himself through the heavenly bodies (Ps. 19:1), but He mainly uses human bodies to glorify Himself. (Isa. 43:7). Man has a unique capacity to glorify God since man alone of all God's creatures was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27 cf. Matt. 22:19-21). Christians were redeemed for God's glory (I Cor. 6:19-20). Thus, the total purpose for the Christian's creation by God and redemption by Christ is to glorify God (I Cor. 10:31). The Christian can glorify God through the works of his labor (Matt. 5:16), the words of his lips (Ps. 50:23), and the whole of his life (I Cor. 10:31).
- b. He cares for all things for His glory (v. 6b). That God cares for all of His creation is clearly taught in Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3. The universe and all that's in it would collapse without God's sustaining and directive power (cf. Eph. 1:11). If God is interested in caring for sparrows (Matt. 10:19-21), how much more interested He is in caring for us (Matt. 6:26). The key to a carefree life is I Pet. 5:7. God is a much better burden-bearer than you are.

### Challenge to Believers.

When we consider what the God of glory is like and what He has done, then we should trust in His power, live for His glory, and rest in His care.