



## HOMEWORK FOR October 31

### Exile: Rebuild and Renew

Nehemiah 1-2, 4-6, 9, and 13; Malachi 1:6-14; 2:10-15; 3:1; 3:8-12; 4:5-6; Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Isaiah 40:3; Mark 1:1-11

#### QUESTIONS

- 1) Read Nehemiah 1. How did Nehemiah approach God in prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was Nehemiah upset? How did he come to God with his mourning? What did he ask of God and how? What did he say about the people? How did he hold God to his promises? What type of heart attitude did he have? Do you think it's appropriate to speak to God like this? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) Read Nehemiah 2:1-18. What was Nehemiah's posture towards the Persian king? How is Nehemiah's story similar to the stories of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and Esther? \_\_\_\_\_

To what does Nehemiah credit everything working out for him to go back to Judah? \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Read Nehemiah 2:19-20 and Nehemiah 4 and Nehemiah 6. How was Nehemiah's experience with the locals in Judah similar to when the original remnant returned to build the Temple? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Nehemiah's response tell us about his commitment to the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

Note that Nehemiah's people armed themselves for defense, but didn't attack. What does this tell us about their mission? \_\_\_\_\_

How did Nehemiah show commitment to his mission? \_\_\_\_\_

How did the building of the wall bring glory to God? \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) Read Nehemiah 5. How did Nehemiah show servant leadership over the people? How did he correct injustice? \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Read Nehemiah 9 and reflect on the prayer of the Levites. What did they say about God? What did they confess about themselves? What type of heart attitude did they have? \_\_\_\_\_

What does this tell us about how we can and should come to God in prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was it so important that they reinstitute worship at the tabernacle as a nation? What is worship at its core? How is worship the foundation of our faith? \_\_\_\_\_

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- 6) Read Nehemiah 13:6-31 and describe what happened when Nehemiah went back to Persia. Why did the people behave this way? \_\_\_\_\_

How did Nehemiah purify them? \_\_\_\_\_

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- 7) Read Malachi 1:6-14 and describe the Lord's complaint against the people. What is the theological principle behind this law? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Colossians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, and Romans 12:1-2. How does the New Testament address this theological concern? \_\_\_\_\_

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- 8) Read Malachi 2:10-15 and describe the Lord's complaint against the people. What are the theological principles behind this law? \_\_\_\_\_

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. How does the New Testament address this theological concern? \_\_\_\_\_

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- 9) Read Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6; Isaiah 40:3 and Mark 1:1-11. What do these passages tell us about John the Baptist? About Jesus? About the connection of the Old Testament to the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### **APPLICATION**

**The God of the Old Testament is a God of grace, forgiveness, and longsuffering covenant love.**

A lot of people read the Old Testament and only see a vengeful God of wrath. They think the God of the Old Testament and the New Testament must be different gods. Or they struggle to see how Jesus, so full of compassion and love, could be the same person as the God of the Old Testament. But that's only because they don't really understand the Old Testament. Take some time right now to reflect on the character of God as displayed through His covenant love of His unfaithful wife, Israel, in the Old Testament.

- What does it say about the character of God that He continues to love His people even though they continue to break His covenant?
- What does it say about the character of God that, even after all of this, He still sent His Son to die for us?
- Looking back on the whole Old Testament (I know that's a lot to remember!), what stood out most to you? Maybe something new you learned or something you understand better now?

Take some time to pray these Psalms aloud to the Lord and meditate on God's character as displayed throughout the Old Testament story: Psalm 136, 103, 105, 106, 80, 145.