

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

*Accompanies podcast "Clarity" - 7/12/20  
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**Read Nehemiah 10**

Look at verses 36-39 of chapter 9 to get the context of the commitment the people are making. How does that change the way you think about their commitment? How does that impact the way you look at your own situation? Compare their "In view of all this" to the "In view of" Paul gives us in Romans 12:1.

The people of Jerusalem were choosing to be defined by their relationship with God to the point where they were no longer going to allow for intermarrying with the nations around them. Read 1 Peter 1:13-19. What distraction competes for your focus?

Not working on the Sabbath and cancelling debts every seven years required the people to not give in to fears: Fears of making people upset, fears of not having enough, fears of people taking advantage of the system. Are there any fears that make it difficult for you to trust God?

The chapter ends with the people saying, "We will not neglect the house of our God." What do you think that means for us today? How do we honor verses like Hebrews 10:24-25 in the middle of quarantine?

Within 3 chapters, the people of Jerusalem had already walked away from their big commitments. How is their story like that of Peter and his big commitments to Jesus? What difference does it make to think of Jesus being the "firstfruits" and "firstborn" (as God's offering on our behalf)?