

## Adoration for Jehovah (Part 1 of # 23)

Nehemiah 9: 4-15

We have considered one of the greatest worship services recorded in the Bible and yet the people of Jerusalem remain committed and hungry for the presence of the Lord in their midst. We discovered that they had been faithful in seeking the Lord for twenty four consecutive days. This continued worship has led the people into an increased awareness of the Lord and they begin to offer their praise and adoration for all that God has done for them. Our text verses are actually part of a prayer the people prayed in Jerusalem.

As I studied this passage, I was reminded that we serve the same God they served. Our needs may be somewhat different, and we clearly live in a different age, surrounded by a different culture, but the attributes of God have not changed. He is the same God today that He was then. The heart-felt need for adoration ought to be evident in our lives as well. We may not have been enslaved by a foreign people and our land may not have been destroyed physically, but we too have experienced God in the same ways they did. We have been blessed beyond measure and ought to have a desire to offer praise unto the Lord. If anyone ought to feel compelled to worship the Lord, we should.

This evening I want to begin considering this prayer that was offered unto the Lord. As we do, I pray that we too will sense the goodness of God in our lives and develop a greater desire to praise Him. So, let's take a few moments to examine the [attributes](#) of our God that are revealed in these verses as we think on: [Adoration for Jehovah](#). First of all we see:

**I. Praise for His Glory (5)** – [Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.](#) Here we find that they praised the LORD their God. They were conscious of the glory of the LORD. The name Jehovah or Yahweh was considered so holy by most that it was often substituted for the name Adonai. When the scribes came across the name Jehovah in their transcriptions, once the name was recorded, often the pen would be burned, deemed too holy to write anything else. God's glory had been neglected, but they were once again recognizing His glory.

- I want to take a moment to discuss the name Jehovah, translated LORD in our text. This is God's personal and redemptive name. It is always connected with deliverance. It means the "self existing One." Jehovah's name exalts Him above all others. We can find a clear description of Jehovah in [Ex.3:14 – And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.](#) He is the great I AM; beside Him there is none other. He alone is God, the true and living God, full of glory!

- That ought to stir our hearts this evening. We have been given the glorious privilege of knowing the LORD. We have the ability to enter His presence through Christ our Savior. Jehovah of the Old Testament is Jesus of the New Testament. [Phil.2:9 – Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name](#): Isn't it amazing that the Lord of glory would desire to have fellowship with us and even consider our existence? If that doesn't compel us to praise the LORD, I don't know what will.

## **I. Praise for His Glory (5)**

**II. Praise for His Preeminence (6a)** – [Thou, even thou, art LORD alone](#). The people acknowledged the fact that God was the LORD alone. They had dwelt among a people that served many gods. They had witnessed the false worship of idols, but these idols possessed no power. They could not move or work on behalf of those who worshipped them. They were gods in the minds and imaginations of men, but they were not the LORD. The people adored the true and living God, the only LORD that exists.

- Our world is filled with those who worship other gods. The Hindus worship literally hundreds of gods. They may genuinely believe in a particular god, but they do not recognize it to be their only god. Others may worship a single god, but they too do not worship the true God unless they worship the LORD. We may even be guilty of allowing idols a place in our lives, but God alone is the LORD.
- As I think of that awesome truth, I stand amazed at the privilege of knowing Him. Many today are sincere in their faith, but they are sincerely wrong. Their gods are of little benefit in this life and will be of no benefit in the life to come. We have been adopted into the family of Jehovah. We need not look to another. He alone is the LORD and He alone is worthy of our praise. Our every need He can supply!

**III. Praise for His Power (6)** – As the people praised the LORD, they were reminded of His great power. In this prayer they mention two distinct aspects of God's power.

**A. He is the Creator** – [Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein](#). They were aware of the creative power of the LORD. He alone made the heavens and the earth, as well as all that is therein. They realized that God had created the sun that rose, the stars that shone, the rain that fell, the plants that grew, the animals that grazed, and the

people who dwelt upon the earth. All they experienced upon this earth, all they sensed and enjoyed was the handiwork of the awesome and powerful LORD. [John1:3 – All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.](#)

- Many today doubt and deny the creative work of our God, but He alone is the Creator. He stood on the presence of nothing and created everything by the word of His power. He placed everything within its place here upon the earth. He formed man of the dust of the earth, breathing life into him, making him a living soul. [Ps.139:14 – I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.](#) We are not here by luck, chance, or millions of years of evolution. We are here by the hand of God! The phrase [wonderfully made](#) in that verse has the idea of “*being made distinct, marked out, distinguished.*” We are all uniquely created by the hand of God. We are made for His glory and to fulfill His purpose. Praise the LORD for His creative work!

**B. He is the Sustainer** (6b) – [Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.](#) God not only created this vast universe and all that it contains, but He also sustains it. He preserves it all and the host of heaven worships Him because of that. [Preserving](#) has the idea of “*sustaining, to preserve alive, to let live.*”

- This truth is further emphasized in [Col.1:17 – And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.](#) Here the word [consist](#) has the idea of “*cohesion, literally holding it all together; of placing together and keeping in order.*” We do not inhabit an earth that has been formed and left to run its own course. Our lives were not created to wander aimlessly through. We serve One who has created all things and He is keeping all of creation in its order. How could we not offer praise to the giver and sustainer of our lives? God is worthy of all the praise that we could possibly offer and so much more!

**I. Praise for His Glory** (5)

**II. Praise for His Preeminence** (6a)

**III. Praise for His Power** (6b)

**IV. Praise for His Grace** (7-8) – As they continued in prayer, they were reminded of the marvelous grace of God and were compelled to praise God for His grace. Notice:

**A. The Choosing (7)** – Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham. They spoke of their father, Abraham, who was chosen of the Lord from among a heathen people to be accepted of God. Abraham was greatly revered among the people, but they recognized that he had no goodness within himself to merit the grace of God. He did not seek out the Lord, the Lord came looking for Abraham. He lived among an idolatrous people. Josh.24:2 – And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. This can be attributed to nothing other than the grace of God to one who was undeserving.

- Have we not been recipients of such grace? I too was like Abraham. I had no desire for the things of God. I was not looking for Him and had no plans for salvation. By His grace, God came to me, choosing me and drawing me unto Himself. In fact, God chose to provide for all our redemption. He did not have to send His Son to die for our sin. Christ did not have to submit to the death of the cross, bearing our sin and judgment. He chose to do so that we might be saved and reconciled to God. We too were undeserving and yet God chose to extend His marvelous grace to us! Ephes.2:8-10 – For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**B. The Covenant (8)** – And foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou art righteous: God didn't just choose Abraham, bringing him out of a land of sin, and cause him to wander through this life. When God chose Abraham, He made a covenant with him. God promised to raise a great and mighty nation of him, providing a land for them to dwell. God chose Abraham and then covenanted to meet all his needs. They rejoiced because they too had claim to the covenant that God had made with Abraham. This was their land to inhabit according to the promise of God.

- We have no claim to that covenant, but we can claim the new covenant that we have through Christ our Lord. Through His suffering and atoning death, the saved are heirs to a better covenant. We are promised forgiveness of sin, reconciliation to God, and eternal life surrounded by His glory! Heb.7:22 – By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. Heb.9:15 – And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

- If we can't praise God for that, then I don't what we could praise Him for. Have we not all been blessed beyond measure? Do you not rejoice to know that your name is written in the Lambs' book of life?

We have considered a portion of the offering of praise unto the Lord by the people of Jerusalem. We will continue in our next study. As we consider what we have discovered thus far, I think you would have to agree that we have much to praise our Lord for. How could we possibly consider all that He has done, continues to do, and will do for us, without a compelling desire to praise Him?