

Pastor Roy's Sermon on Nehemiah 9:22-38

(September 9, 2026)

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. The Israelites repeatedly fell into disobedience even after experiencing miraculous deliverance and provision from God -- what does this pattern reveal about the nature of human hearts, and how do you see this same tendency at work in your own spiritual life?
2. God gave the Israelites a land filled with cities, farms, vineyards, and abundance they did not build themselves, yet their prosperity led them away from Him rather than toward Him -- how can believers guard against allowing God's blessings to become a source of spiritual complacency?
3. The sermon highlights that God bore with Israel for many years, sending prophets and warnings before allowing consequences to fall -- what does this long-suffering patience of God reveal about His character, and how should it shape the way we respond to His correction in our own lives?
4. The leaders of Israel -- kings, priests, and princes -- are identified as bearing a primary responsibility for leading the people astray -- what does this say about the weight of spiritual leadership, and how should those in positions of authority approach their responsibility before God?
5. Israel is described as a 'stiff-necked' people who hardened their hearts even in the face of clear evidence of God's power and faithfulness -- in what ways can stubbornness and pride prevent people today from surrendering fully to God?
6. The prayer in Nehemiah 9 recounts both the failures of the people and the unwavering faithfulness of God -- why is it important for believers to hold both of these realities together when reflecting on their own spiritual history?
7. Even after returning from captivity and rebuilding the temple and walls, the people were still enslaved to a foreign power -- how does this reality challenge any assumption that outward religious activity or restoration automatically results in full spiritual freedom?
8. The cycle in the book of Judges -- sin, oppression, crying out to God, deliverance, and then sin again -- is a recurring theme in this passage -- what practical steps can a believer take to break free from their own personal cycles of spiritual failure and return?
9. The sermon concludes with the people making a firm covenant with God, yet the speaker notes that history shows this covenant would not hold -- what does this tell us about the limitations of human resolve alone, and why is the New Covenant established by Christ fundamentally different?
10. Romans 2:4 is referenced to show that God's kindness is intended to lead people to repentance -- how does understanding God's goodness as a call to repentance rather than simply a reward for good behavior change the way you relate to His blessings in your daily life?