

Man's Response to God's Grace & Mercy as seen in Nehemiah
Lesson 3 of 5
"To Show them Light
Neh 9:12,19
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how despite man's rebellion and his faults God still tried to give man light (physically & spiritually) and show him the way of eternal life.

Intro: 1. Despite man's faults God has patience with him. (**Ps 86:15, Neh 9:19**)
2. God will guide those who are willing to be guided (**Mt 23:37**).

I. You gave your good spirit to them (Provided for them spiritually)

A. Your good spirit (**Neh 9:20a**)

You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,

1. The good spirit given to them by God was there to instruct them. Instructing them (in brief) in how to avoid the bad things and how to enjoy the blessings of God
2. Good spirit is the opposite of a bad spirit or an evil spirit. If God had a bad spirit in this type of situation a destructive action would ultimately take place-they would die. (Rom 6:23a).
3. God continued to give them things which they were not deserving of-His good spirit, His guiding spirit, is just one example of that.

B. Did not withhold (**Neh 9:20b**) (Provided for them physically)

And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst

1. In the previous section of this verse God provides them with spiritual guidance. Here He provides for their physical needs.
2. The Lord provided for them from His own hand. (**Ex 16:4**).
 - a. He gave them food and water. The Lord didn't spoil them but He did provide a living for them. A lesson many can learn from still today (**Matt 6:30,33**).

II. You sustained them (Provided for the faithful spiritually and physically)

A. The Lord was with the faithful while they endured (**Neh 9:21a**)

Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness;

1. The Lord's faithfulness is a description of how the faithful were provided for while they endured.
2. The Lord sustaining them means no one else, including themselves were a source of help but God was the one completely sustaining them. (Ps 3:5). He did this not just physically but spiritually as well. There is no doubt God answered the prayers of the faithful during this time of difficulty.

B. They lacked nothing (**Neh 9:21b**)

They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell.

1. Notice that the people were NEVER in need. God meet all their needs. They didn't lack food(**v.20b**), they didn't lack clothing(**v.21b**).
2. If they lacked nothing it's obvious their needs were met by God-all of them.
3. Their clothing didn't wear out, their feet did not swell (because of all their walking/wandering).

III. They delighted themselves in your goodness (Read all of Neh 9:24-25 focus on 25b and 25c)

A. They were filled (**Neh 9:25b**) (How they responded to God's guidance and care)

So they ate and were filled and grew fat

1. After the wandering ended some still, after a period of time, again became too comfortable.
2. They took advantage of God's mercy and generosity. They grew fat on God's generosity. They were filling themselves on God's physical blessings but were spiritual starving themselves by continuing to rebel against Him (**Neh 9:26a**).

B. Delighted themselves in your greatness (**Neh 9:25c**)

And delighted themselves in Your great goodness.

1. They enjoyed the blessings God gave them, but what did they give Him in return?
2. They only seemed to give God heartache, they continued to disobey until the wrath of God had to come upon them (**Neh 9:30**).

Conc: 1. God guided these people, provided for them and yet He received little or nothing in return.

2. God – “gave”, “**did not withhold**” (Neh 9:20); “**sustained them**”, “**they lacked nothing**” (Neh 9:21). God was not pleased with what He received in return! Is He pleased with what you are giving Him in return?

3. Full Invitation