

BETHANY BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION



NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 13 PART-15

KJV

10.22.2025

JERUSALEM IN RUINS (SPIRITUALLY)

JERUSALEM IN DECLINE: What is the context for this spiritual decline? How long did Nehemiah stay in Jerusalem? Why did he return? How long was he away? What did he expect to see on his return and what did he observe?

FAILURES #1 and #2 (1-9): What are the two failures identified? How did Israelites discover their failure #1? How did they react? How was the house of God desecrated (failure #2) and how did Nehemiah react?

FAILURES #3-#5(6-31): What were these three failures? How did Nehemiah react? What does it say about man's ability to honor the covenant?

REFLECTION

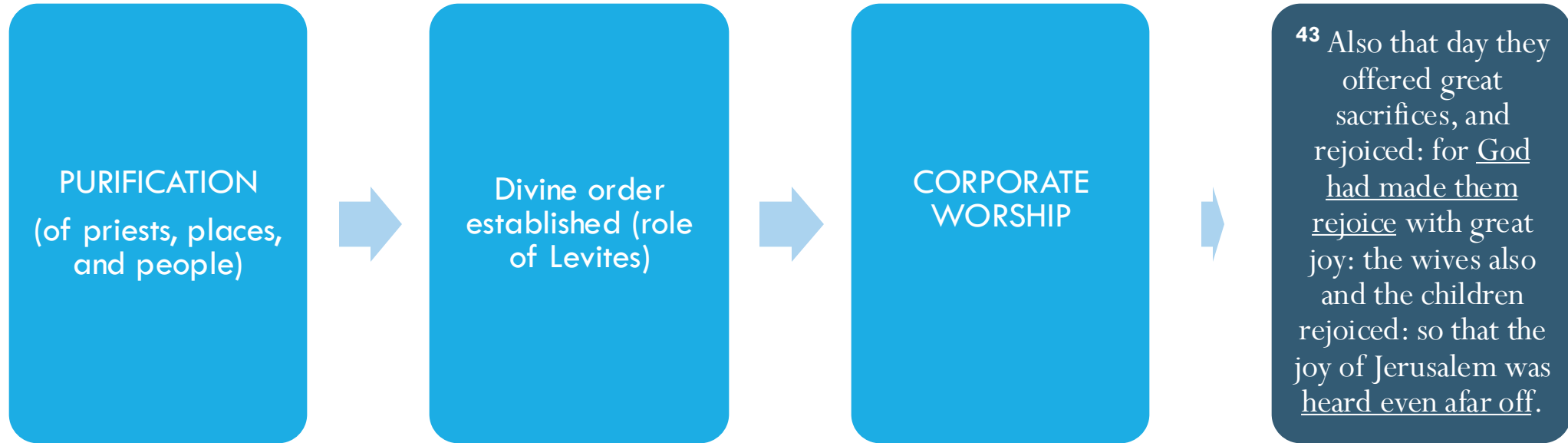


NEHEMIAH

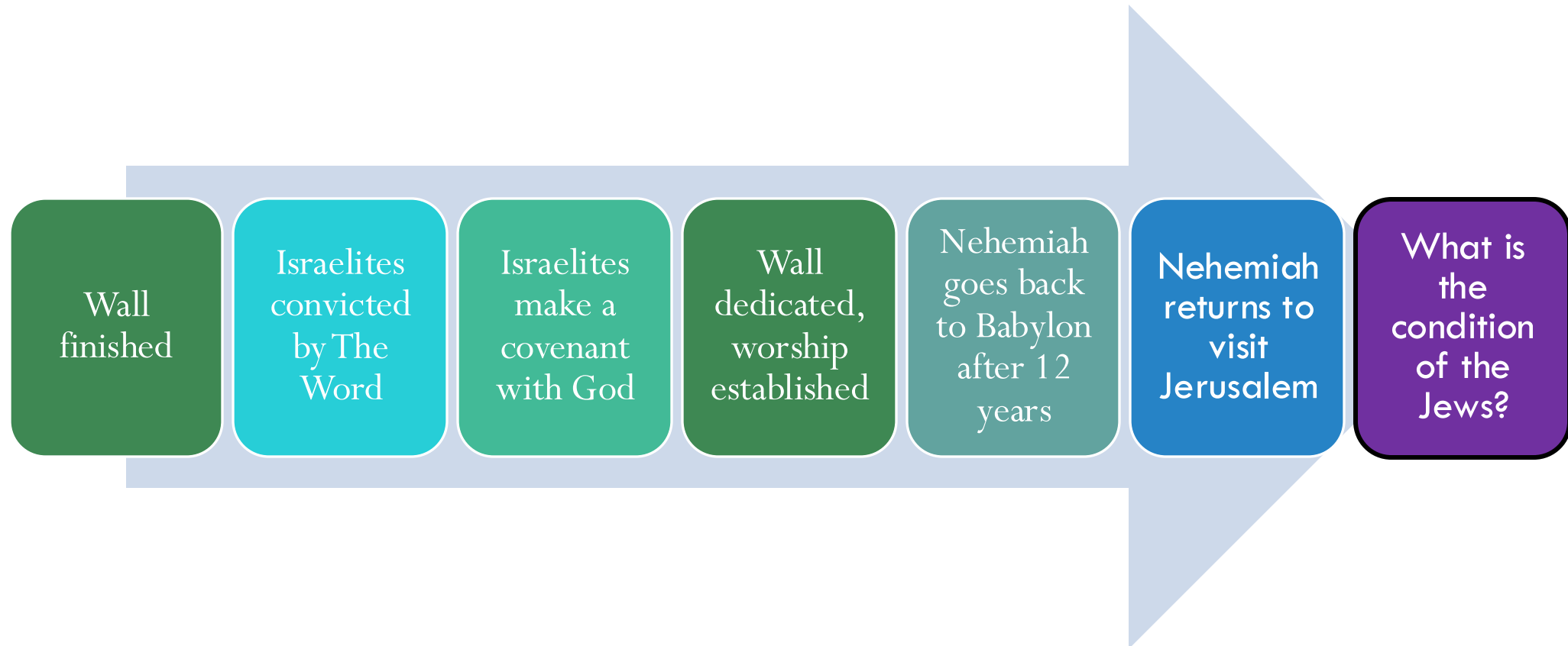
Chapter 13, Part-15

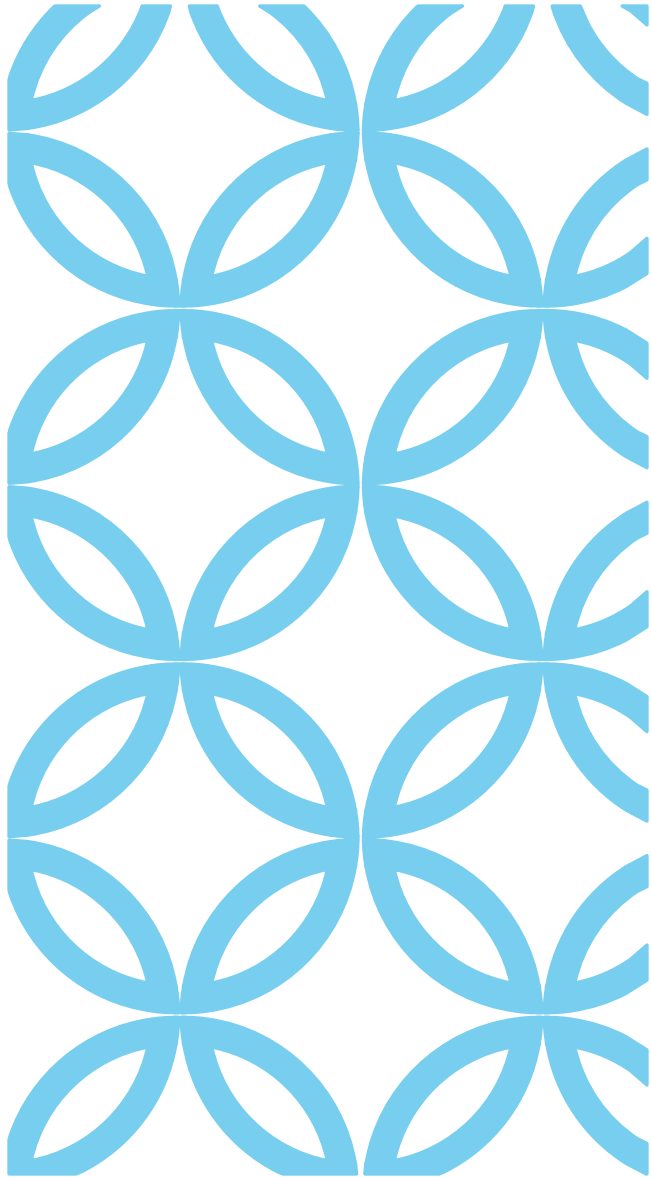
October 22, 2025

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK/ DEDICATION SERVICE OF JERUSALEM WALLS



JERUSALEM IN RUINS (SPIRITUALLY)





REMEMBER THE COVENANT?

THREE ELEMENTS OF THE COVENANT

(CH.10)

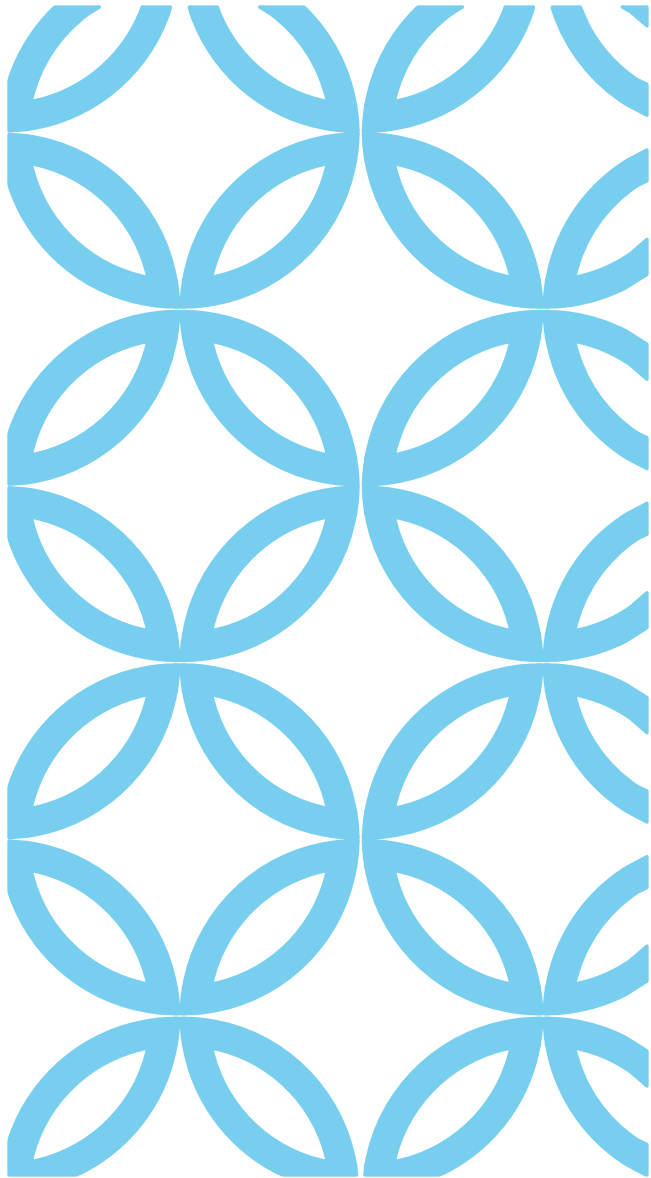
FOUNDATION:

WILL OBEY GOD'S WORD (29)

1. NOT BE UNEQUALLY YOKED

2. HONOR SABBATH

3. SUPPORT GOD'S WORK



SADLY (BUT NOT SURPRISINGLY) COVENANT BROKEN
WITHIN A FEW MONTHS ... FROM WORSHIP OF
CH.12 TO DECLINE IN CH.13!

FIVE FAILURES

Evil
Associations

Desecrated
Temple

Didn't Support
Levites

Neglected
Sabbath

Unequally
Yoked

FAILURE #1 EVIL ASSOCIATIONS

On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever;

² Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing.

³ Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.



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graph LR; A((Reading of law brings conviction)) --> B((What did the law say? How did they respond?))
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Reading of
law brings
conviction

What did
the law say?
How did
they
respond?

ORIGINS & CURSE OF AMMONITES AND MOABITES

Lot's incest with his two daughters when he was drunk lead to these two nations (Genesis 19:30-38)

WHAT DID THE LAW SAY? Deuteronomy 23:3-6

An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the Lord for ever:

⁴ Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee. ⁵ Nevertheless the Lord thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the Lord thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the Lord thy God loved thee. ⁶ Thou shalt not seek their peace nor their prosperity all thy days for ever.

GOD'S INTERVENTION (NUMBERS 22- 25)

Ammonites and Moabites opposed to Israelites

#1 Asked Baalam to curse Israel but God reversed into a blessing

#2 Seduce Israelites to inter-marry ... eventually this will lead to idol worship and wrath of God. God judged Israel and 24,000 died.

Source of correction: Word of God

Israelites convicted when historical account read.

How did they respond?

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

IMMEDIATE OBEDIENCE to the Word even though laws were old. Word of God never becomes irrelevant!

Obedied beyond what is required.

Not just excluded Moabites and Ammonites, but all foreigners barred from the Temple (exceptions: foreigners who converted to Judaism, Ezra 6:21)

THROUGH CHRIST ALL GIVEN ACCESS TO GOD

Exclusive entrance to temple does not apply today. Through the cross, all given the opportunity to enter into the New Jerusalem.

Ephesians 2: ¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

(wall broken between sinner and God, and between Jews & Gentiles)

MIXED
MULTITUDE
WEAKENS THE
GODLY
GROUP...
SEPARATE!

Exodus 12:37 And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children. ³⁸ And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle.

Numbers 11:4 And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

13:3 that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude

DO WE HAVE MIXED MULTITUDES TODAY?

Yes, many believers are unequally yoked and have drifted away in their spiritual life!

Many believers are “equally yoked” but still living compromised lives!

Revival was needed then

Revival is needed today!

THE CROWD AND THE CHOSEN ONES ... JESUS SEPARATED THEM!

LUKE 14:25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, ²⁶ If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple

Are we part of the ‘great multitudes’ or a smaller group of ‘disciples’?

FAILURE #2 HOUSE OF GOD DESECRATED

⁴ And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah:

⁵ And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests.

⁶ But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king:

⁷ And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.

⁸ And it grieved me sore:

therefore I cast forth all the household stuff to Tobiah out of the chamber. ⁹ Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense.

HOUSE OF GOD DESECRATED BY PRIEST ELISHAIB

Elishaib - Son of Joiakim and grandson of Jeshua

Abused the Temple premises - verse 5

Emptied room that was meant to store Levites provisions in order to make room for Tobiah

Stewards of God's House should not abuse or misuse their authority in the use of God's resources.

ALLIANCE WITH & FAVOR TO TOBIAH

Tobiah - enemy of Nehemiah (2:10,19, 4:3, 6:10-12, 17-19)
Tobia was an Ammonite, 2:10

But Priest chose to forge an alliance with him

For business reasons or connected by mixed family relationships.

Even today, Love of Money & wrong relationships continue to corrupt the kingdom of God

NEHEMIAH'S REACTION

⁸ And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff to Tobiah out of the chamber.

⁹ Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense.

Grieved at rapid decline after revival & **Took action** (earlier, Nehemiah was grieved and took action when the walls were broken)

God's children grieve, pray, and take action when God's house is compromised. (action without grieving and praying will lead to fleshly action)

Nehemiah's Action

- Threw all the household goods of Tobiah out of the room
- Cleansed the room
- Returned to proper use – returned temple items that had been removed. The articles and offerings of grain. storage for sacred things of the temple

REACTION OF JESUS

Mathew 21:12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, ¹³ And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Righteous anger of Jesus aroused at lack of order in the Temple

Like Nehemiah, Jesus loved the house of God more than trying to please the people.

HOW ARE WE
DESECRATING
THE HOUSE OF
GOD?

ARE WE DESECRATING THE HOUSE OF GOD?

Personally: I Corinthians 6:19-20 ¹⁹ What? know ye not that **your body** is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

As a body of believers: I Corinthians 3:16-17 Know ye not that **ye are the temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

FAILURE #3 DID NOT SUPPORT LEVITES

¹⁰ And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field.

¹¹ Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

¹² Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries. ¹³ And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful, and their office was to distribute unto their brethren.

¹⁴ Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

FAILURE #3 DID NOT SUPPORT LEVITES

Levites forced to leave the house of God and go the fields to support themselves.

As a result, services in house of God neglected

NEHEMIAH'S REACTION

Called and held the ruler accountable

Recalled the forsaken Levites back to Jerusalem to return to their temple duties (11)

People renewed their tithes and offering of corn, wine, and oil (12)

Appointed faithful men for orderly collection and disbursement

He prayed to God, and pleaded not to forget prior work

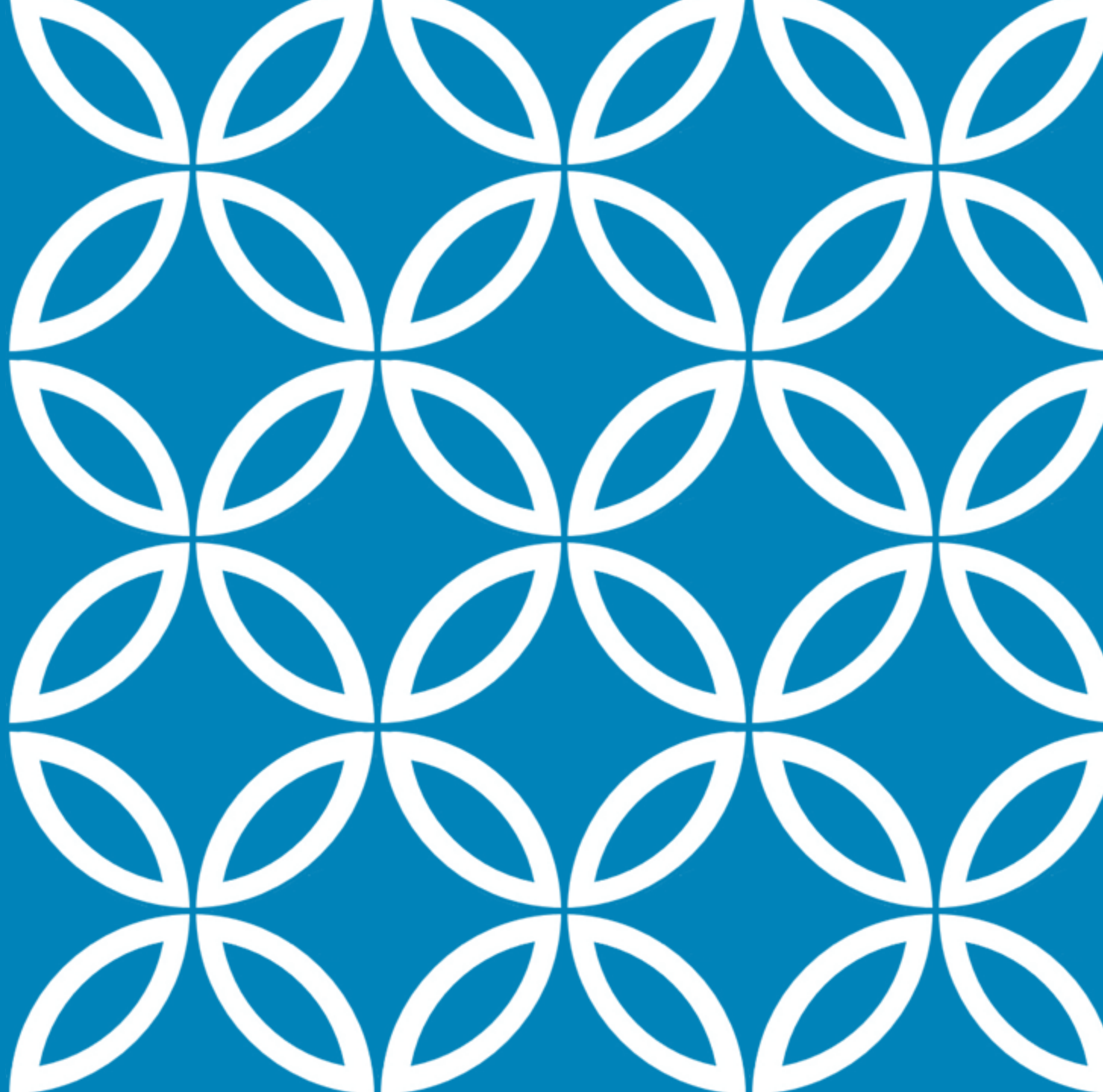
ARE WE NEGLECTING THE HOUSE OF GOD?

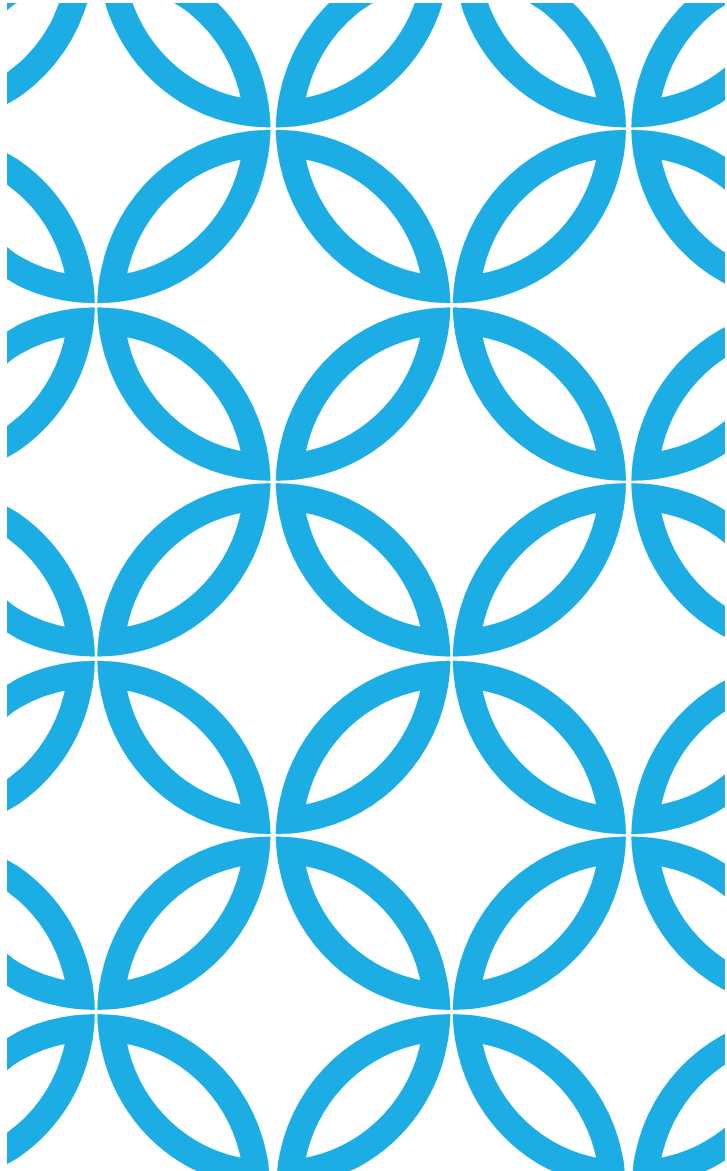
The body is ‘interdependent’ ... failure by one part of the body impacts others in the body! Levites and the Temple suffered because of negligence towards Levites.

Are we playing our part in the Body?

Do we know our role in the Body?

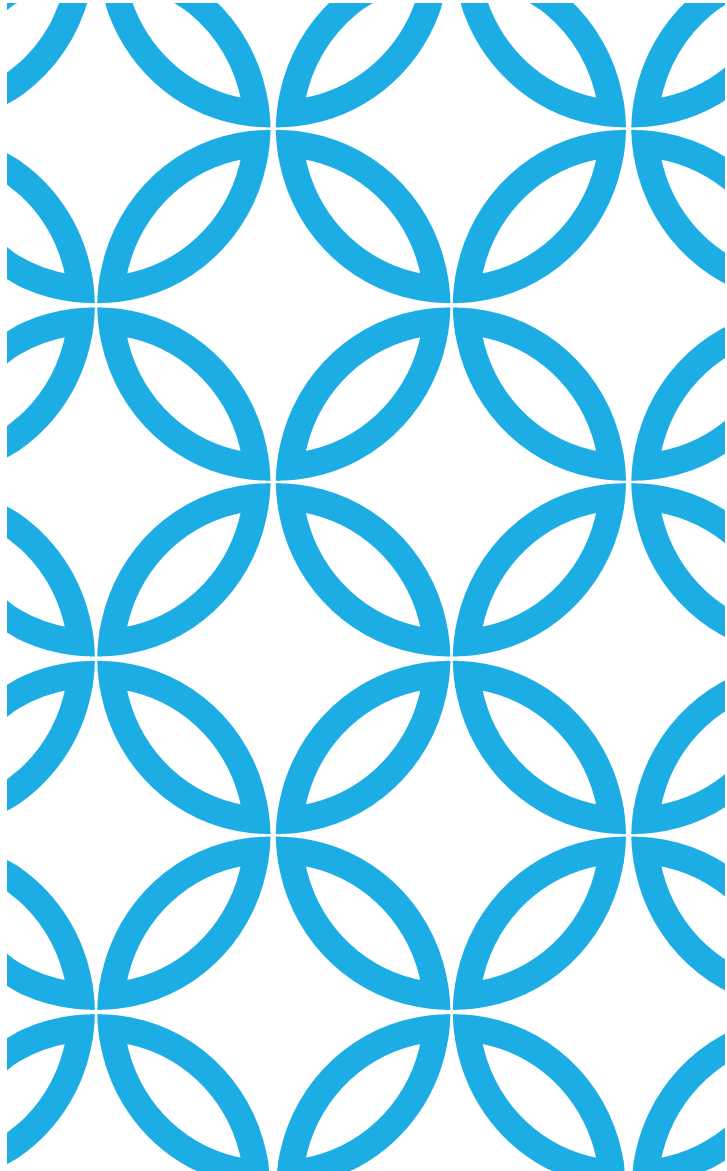
REFLECTIONS



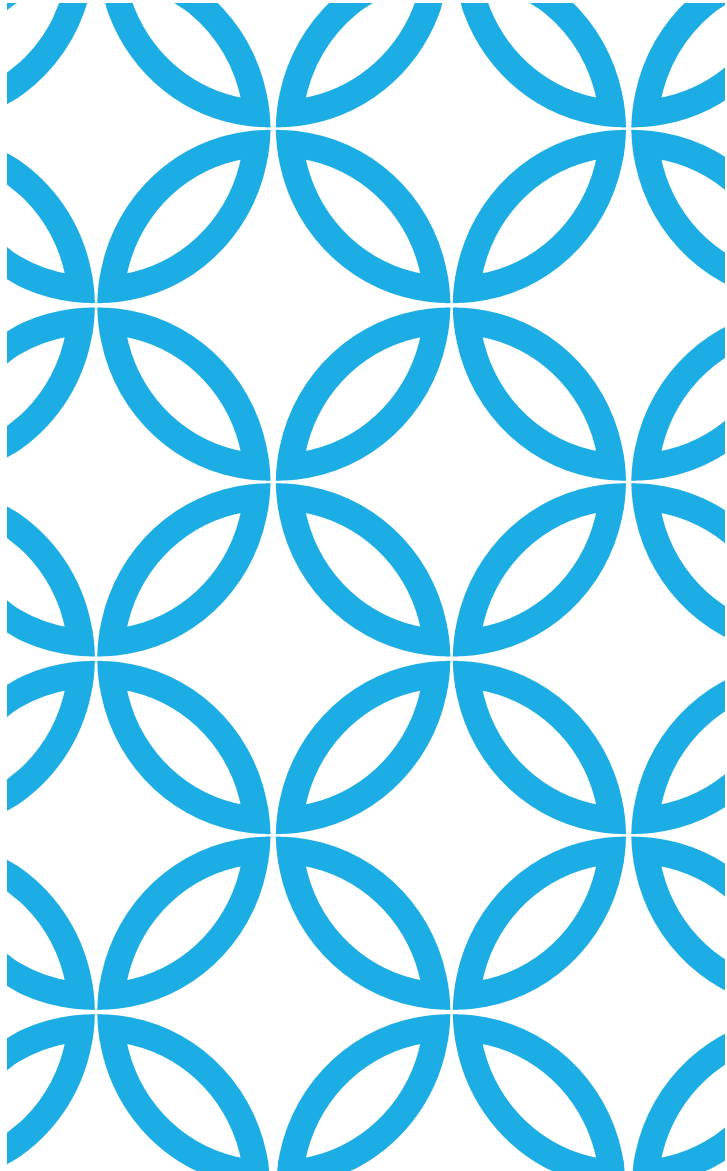


#1 HISTORY SHOWS WE ARE INCAPABLE OF HONORING COVENANT

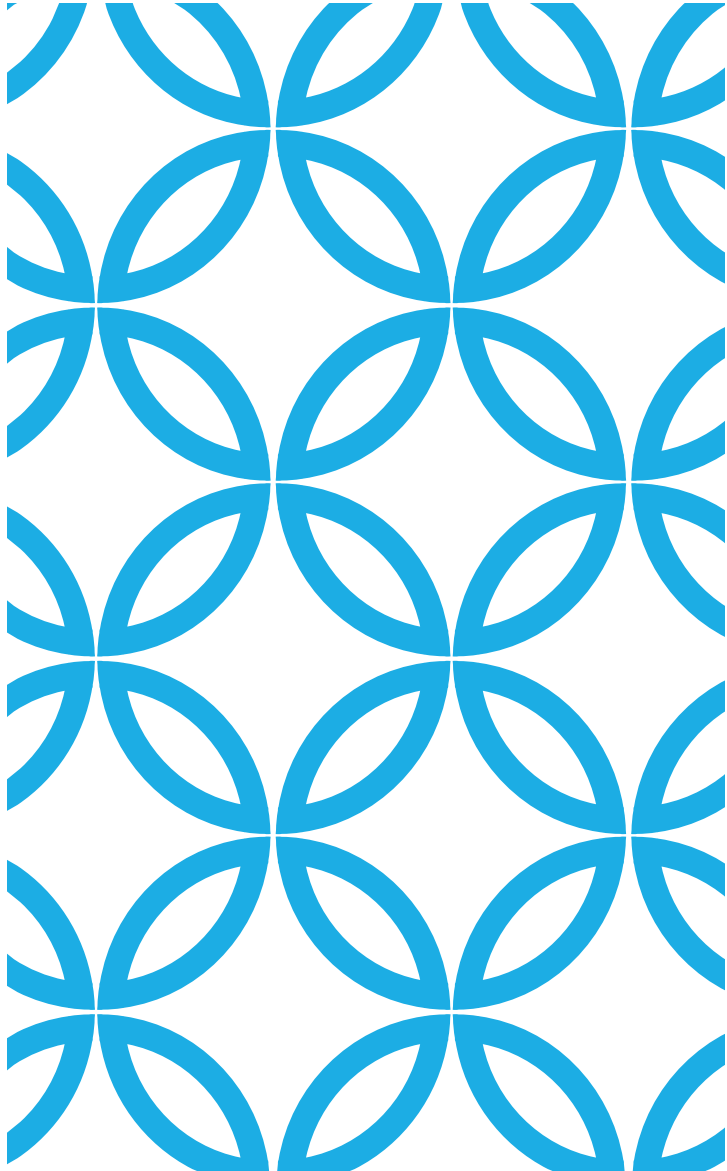
We need God's grace to perform,
and mercy when we fail



#2 WRONG ASSOCIATIONS
ALWAYS LEAD TO SPIRITUAL
LOSSES

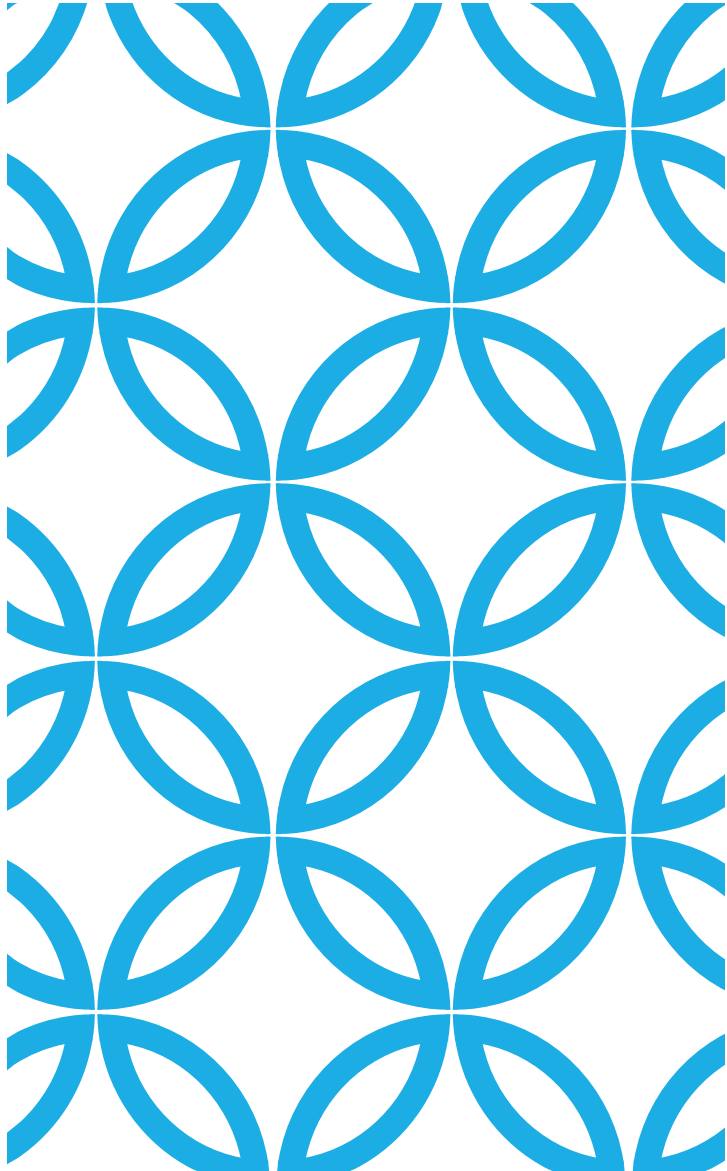


#3 WE MUST REVERENCE THE
HOUSE OF GOD, AND NOT
ABUSE ANY OF THE RESOURCES



#4 WE MUST DO OUR PART TO BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM

There is a time to work in the field, and time to be in the house of God. Balance your Time.
(since unlike Levites most co-workers today are serving God part-time)



#5 GOD IS MERCIFUL DESPITE
OUR REPEAT FAILURES...
LET US REPENT & AND BE
RESTORED
