

# BETHANY BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION



## NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 13 PART-16

KJV

10.29.2025

### JERUSALEM IN RUINS (SPIRITUALLY) (part-2)

**FAILURE #4:** What did Sabbath require? How was Sabbath violated? How did Nehemiah react? Is the principle of sabbath relevant and applicable today?

**FAILURES #5:** How were the Jewish people unequally yoked? What are the dangers of being unequally yoked? How did Nehemiah react? Do we see such marriages/relationships today? What do the four prayers of Nehemiah show?

*REFLECTION*

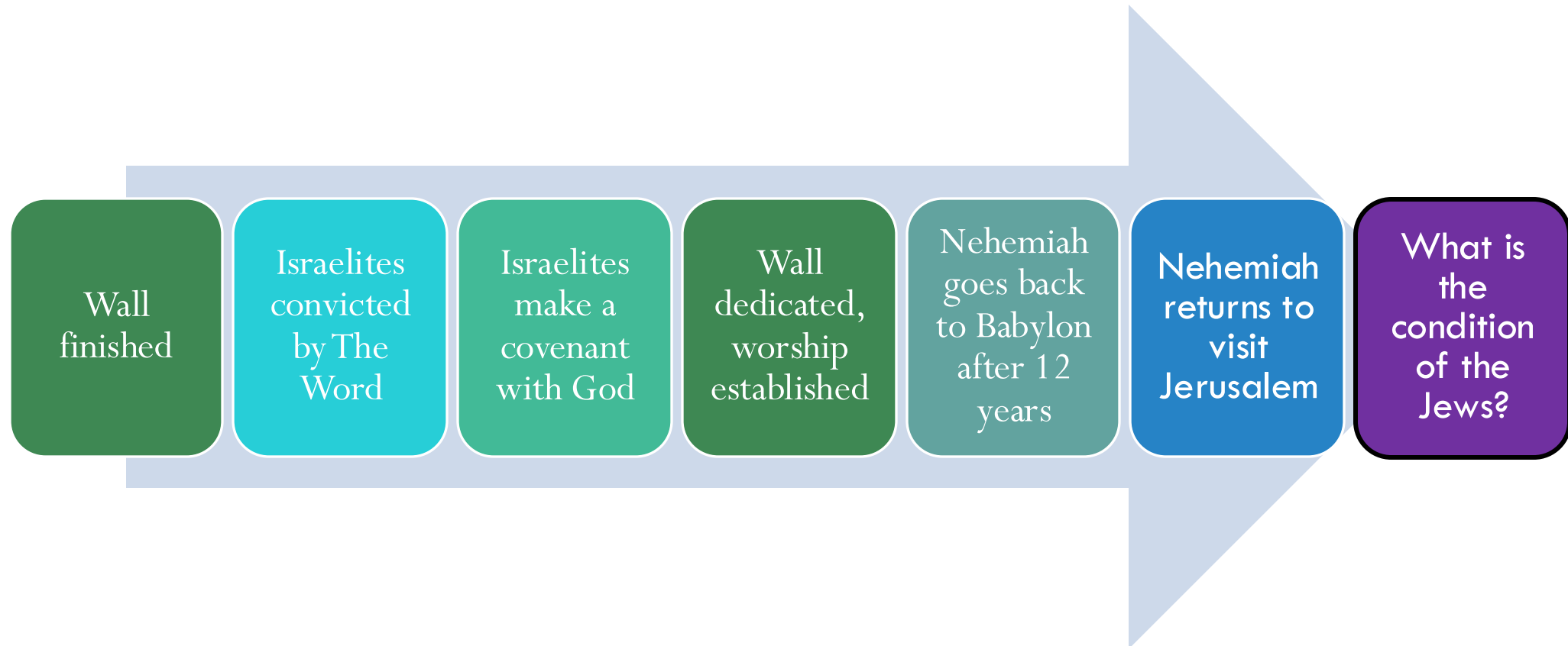


# NEHEMIAH

## Chapter 13, Part-16

October 29, 2025

# JERUSALEM IN RUINS (SPIRITUALLY)



# THE COVENANT MADE

9:38 AND BECAUSE OF ALL THIS WE MAKE A  
SURE COVENANT, AND WRITE IT; AND OUR  
PRINCES, LEVITES, AND PRIESTS, SEAL UNTO IT.

# THE COVENANT BROKEN! (CH.13)

1. NOT BE  
UNEQUALLY YOKED

2. HONOR  
SABBATH

3. SUPPORT GOD'S  
WORK

# FIVE FAILURES

Evil  
Associations

Desecrated  
Temple

Didn't Support  
Levites

Neglected  
Sabbath

Unequally  
Yoked

# FAILURE #4 NEGLECTING SABBATH

**SABBATH VIOLATED** <sup>15</sup> In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals. <sup>16</sup> There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

**NEHEMIAH'S ANGER** <sup>17</sup> Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? <sup>18</sup> Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.

**NEHEMIAH'S SOLUTION** <sup>19</sup> And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.

<sup>20</sup> So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice.

<sup>21</sup> Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath.

<sup>22</sup> And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

# FAILURE #4 NEGLECTING SABBATH

<sup>15</sup> In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals. <sup>16</sup> There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

Violated earlier covenant and commitment (9:38, 10:31)

**10:31** And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.

Instead of honoring God and resting – engaging in labor and trade.

# NEHEMIAH REACTION

- Rebuked the nobles (17-18); warned them and reminded them of the judgment of God (Jeremiah 17:27 - But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched)
- Ordered gates of city to be closed before sabbath began, and not to open until sabbath over (19). This will stop foreigners coming in for commerce.
- Stationed guards to stop inflow of merchandise into the city (19)
- Rebuked for apparent breach of security (21)
- Ordered Levites to purify themselves and to guard the gates (22)
- Again, prayed for God's help – his mercy and love (22)



# SABBATH & NT

We are not under laws of Sabbath (Colossians 2:16-17)

We enjoy "rest" all the time because Jesus "finished" the work!

Hebrews 4:<sup>9</sup> There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. <sup>10</sup> For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Christ fulfilled the law (Romans 10:<sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth)

He is the Lord of the Sabbath (Mathew 12:8)

# SABBATH — PRINCIPLE VERSUS PRACTICE

**COLOSSIANS 2:16** LET NO MAN  
THEREFORE JUDGE YOU IN MEAT, OR IN DRINK, OR  
IN RESPECT OF AN HOLYDAY, OR OF THE NEW  
MOON, OR OF THE SABBATH DAYS:

**EATING Mark 2:23** And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn. <sup>24</sup> And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful? <sup>25</sup> And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him? <sup>26</sup> How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him? <sup>27</sup> And he said unto them, **The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:**

**HEALING Mark 3** And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. <sup>2</sup> And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup> And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. <sup>4</sup> And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

**We should not add to the law or make the law irrational or burdensome as the Pharisees did**

# HAVE WE IGNORED THE PRINCIPLE OF SABBATH?

Practice of sabbath is not mandated, but principle of Sabbath is relevant for us today.

Jews observe: From Sunset on Friday to Saturday night (about 25 hours). A Time of rest and celebration with family & Community.

**Are we resting in the Lord?**

How many hours (out of weekly 168 hours) are we setting aside for physical rest, spiritual renewal, and fellowship?

# FAILURE #5 UNEQUALLY YOKED

**IMPACT OF INTER-MARRIAGES** <sup>23</sup> In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: <sup>24</sup> And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.

**NEHEMIAH REACTION** <sup>25</sup> And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.

<sup>26</sup> Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin. <sup>27</sup> Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?

**DEFILEMENT BY PRIEST** <sup>28</sup> And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me.

<sup>29</sup> Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

<sup>30</sup> Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business; <sup>31</sup> And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

# EARLIER:

Commitment to put away foreign wives in Ezra 10 and Nehemiah 10

**Ezra 10: 10** And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel  
<sup>11</sup> Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. <sup>12</sup> Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do.

**Nehemiah 10:30** we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, not take their daughters for our sons:

# FAILURE #5 UNEQUALLY YOKED

<sup>24</sup> And their children spake  
half in the speech of  
Ashdod, and could not  
speak in the Jews' language,  
but according to the  
language of each people.

Jews took foreign wives of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab

## Result

Children could not speak Hebrew language

Law was in Hebrews, so laws likely not taught to children

Loss of Jewish identity and cultural norms

(again, foreign wives lead the family away from the true God  
and Jewish identity ... so be not 'unequally yoked')

# NEHEMIAH'S REACTION

**Rebuked them**, cursed them, smote some of them, plucked their hair (25)

Made them **swear again** to renew their old covenant (25)

**Warns** them about Solomon & his foreign wives (even the wisest man was tempted and lost spiritual riches) (26-27)

**Exiled** grandson of high priest Eliashib, who married the daughter of Sanballat (enemy of Nehemiah) (28)

**Purified** priests and reassigned them to their temple tasks (30)

**Prayed** to God (31) Remember me, O my God, for good.

# ARE WE UNEQUALLY YOKED?

How can we be unequally yoked ...

In our marriages?

In our friendships?

In our work relationships?

In our ministry?

How has being 'unequally yoked' impacted us spiritually?



# NEHEMIAH'S FOUR PRAYERS ... ULTIMATELY, IT IS GOD'S GRACE, NOT MAN'S EFFORT!

**PLEA FOR RECOGNITION FROM GOD** <sup>14</sup> 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.

**PLEA FOR MERCY** <sup>22</sup> Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

**PLEA FOR JUSTICE** <sup>29</sup> Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

**PLEA FOR GOD'S FAVOR & GRACE**

<sup>31</sup> Remember me, O my God, for good.

# THE LAST BOOK: BY CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE BIBLE



Nehemiah is the last historical book in the OT

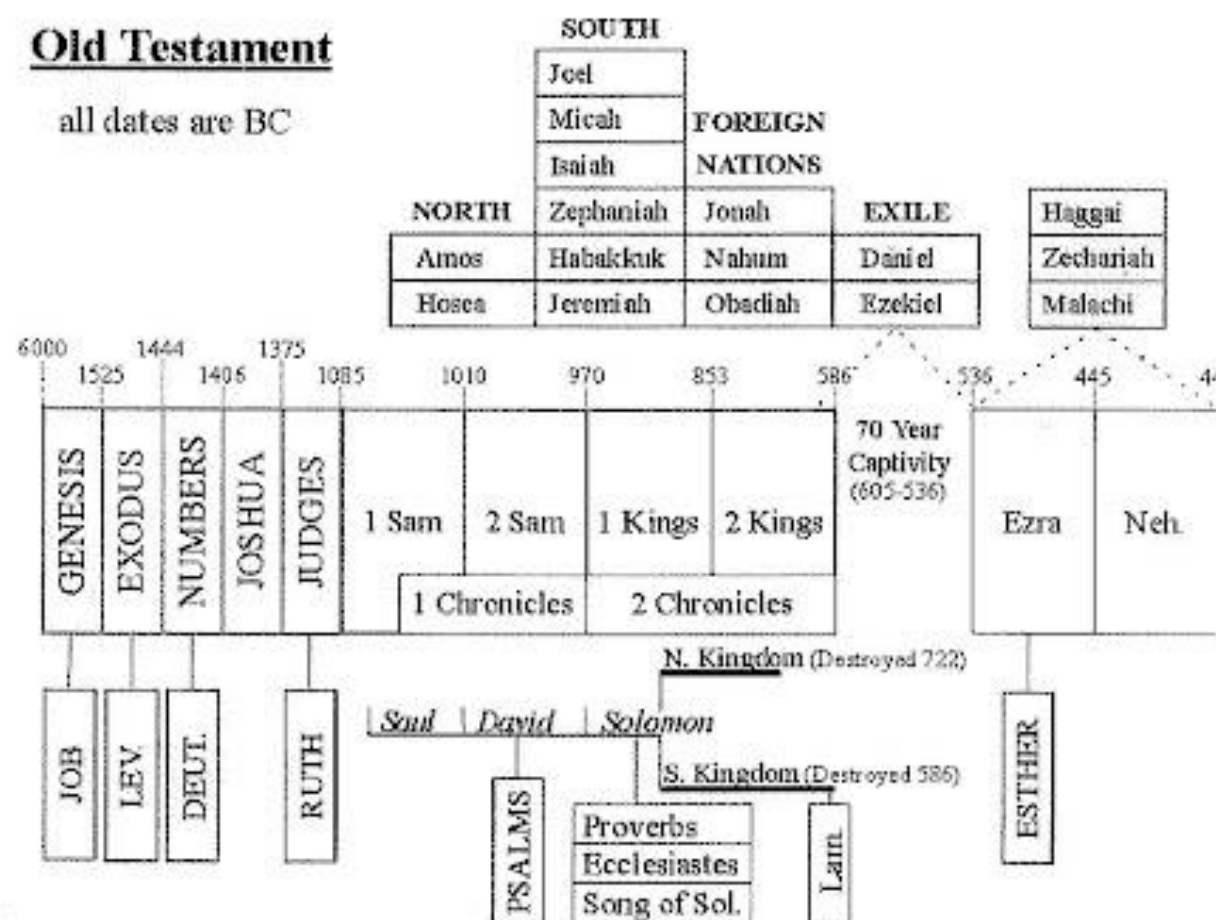


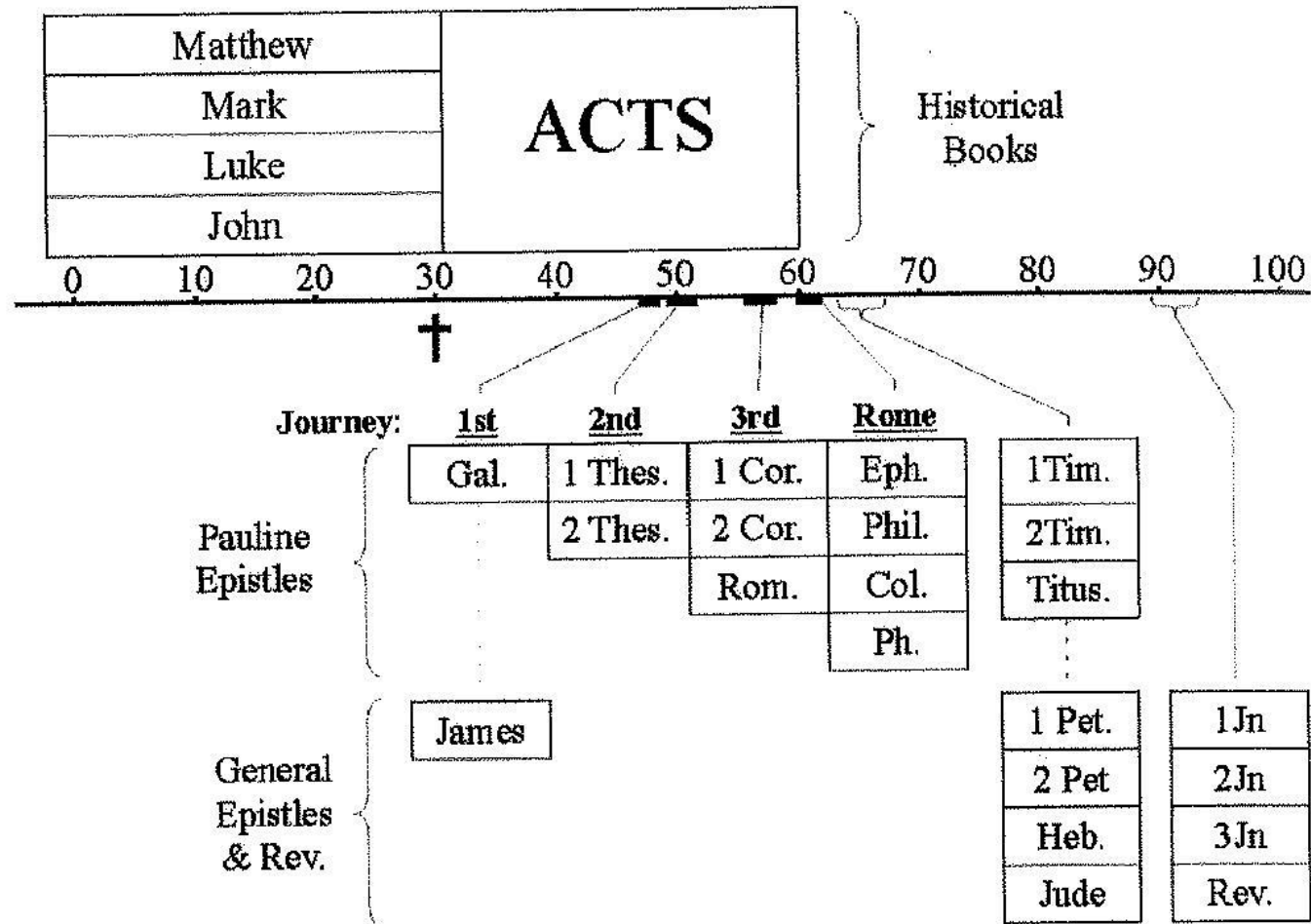
Malachi – last book  
(contemporary of Nehemiah)

BY: GENE HARR

## Old Testament

all dates are BC





# FIVE FAILURES

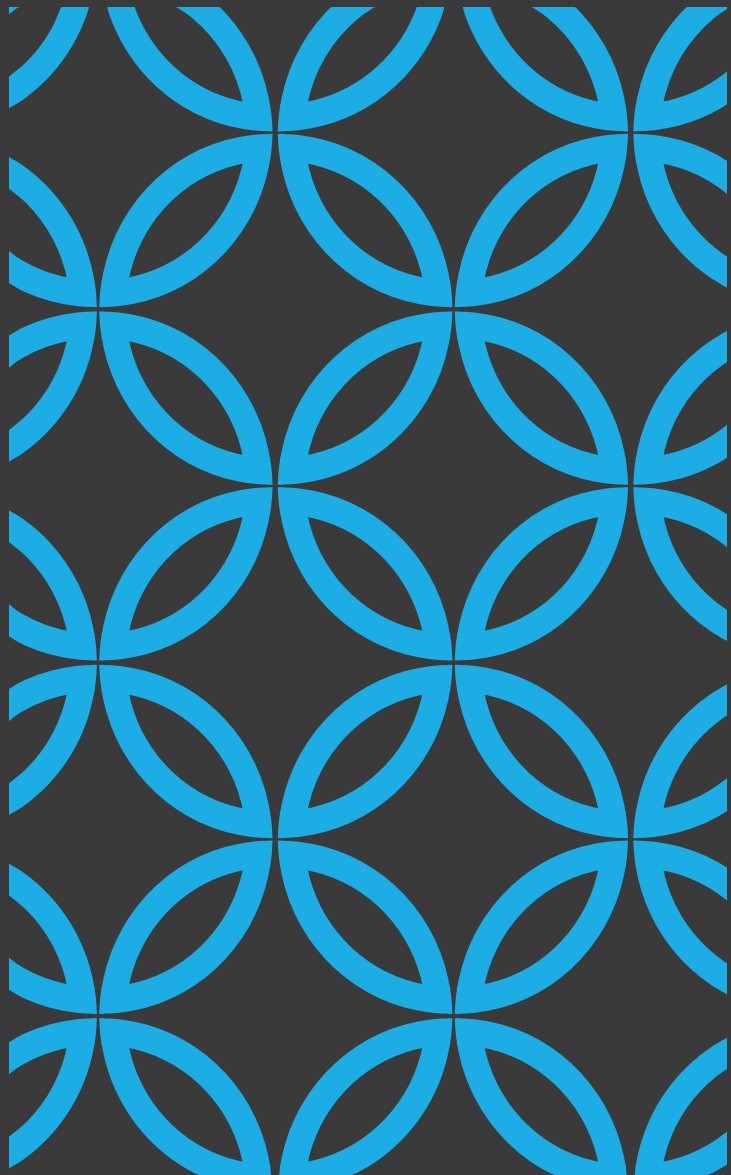
Evil  
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Desecrated  
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Didn't Support  
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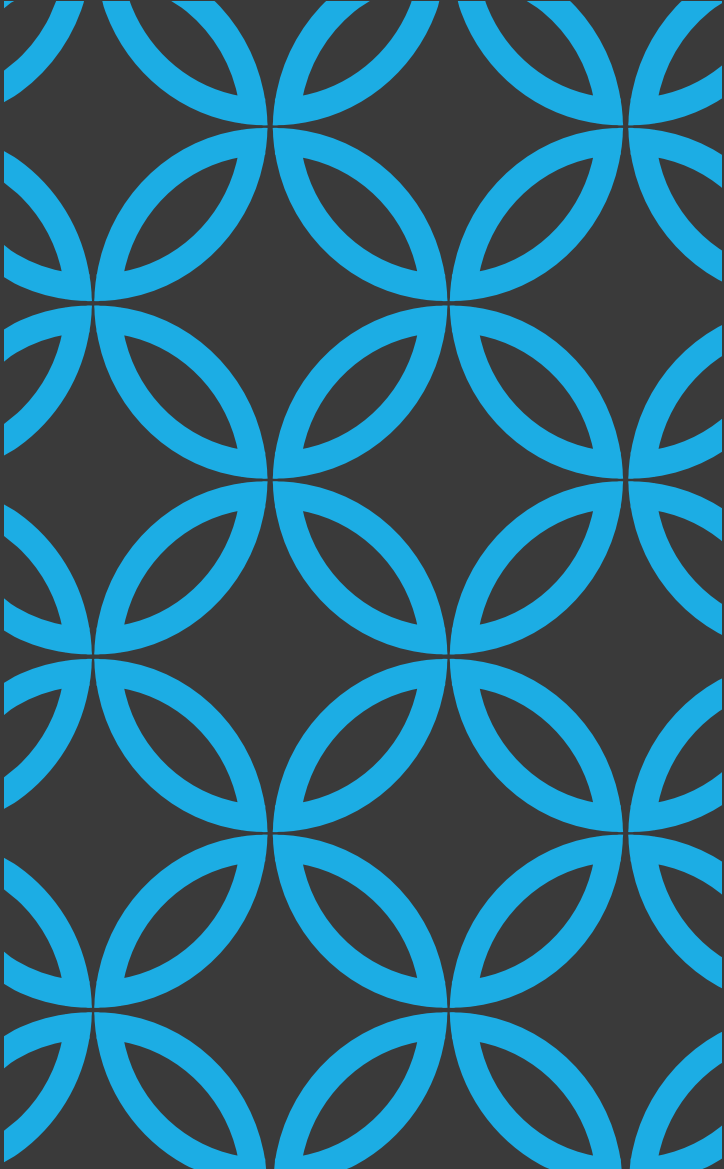
Neglected  
Sabbath

Unequally  
Yoked



# REFLECTIONS

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# #1 MOVING FORWARD IS CHALLENGING WHEN WE ARE UNEQUALLY YOKED

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There will be friction/conflicts

There will be compromises

Movement is slowed and delayed

Final destination maybe different



## #2 SABBATH REST IMPORTANT FOR REFRESHING US PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY

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#3 FAILURES IN THE HOUSE OF GOD SHOULD  
GRIEVE US, AND LEAD US TO PRAYER AND  
CORRECTIVE ACTION

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#4 WE BREAK COVENANTS, BUT GOD  
FORGIVES AND RESTORES IF WE REPENT

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## #5 IF WE WERE TO MAKE A COVENANT WITH GOD, WHAT WILL IT INCLUDE?

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1.

2.

3.

4.

5.