A Renewed Remnant

Lesson 16

A Great Confession (Neh. 9)

Introduction

As this "community of believers" continued to develop, an important realization seems to have set in. The remnant obviously felt the need to acknowledge the nation's unfaithful past in order to gain God's favor for the future. *"Confession is good for the soul"* (1 Jn. 1:9). Remembering the past can be painful. However, it can also be very beneficial (Eph. 2:1-3, 11-12).

1) What "time marker" is given in v. 1a? (cp. 8:2) What action is described in vv. 1b-2?

2) What else did the remnant do in connection with their public mourning? (v. 3)

3) In vv. 5b-31, the remnant reviews their past. Outline this "long confession" and comment on the various episodes reviewed. List the original text in the Law you think corresponds to what the remnant mentions here.

4) What is admitted in vv. 32-35?

5) As a result, what did all this history produce? (vv. 36-37)

6) What was the remnant resolving to do? (v. 38)

7) *Thought question*: why do you suppose the remnant felt the need to confess all this tragic past? Consider Ezra 7:25, Neh. 8:5, & Mt. 5:3-4, 8 in your answer.