



God Most High in a manger laid  
Lift your voices and now proclaim

God Most High in a manger laid  
Lift your voices and now proclaim

2024

# VISION

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? • NEHEMIAH 9:1-8



Five people standing in front of the church entrance.



God Most High in a manger laid  
Lift your voices and now proclaim

God Most High in a manger laid  
Lift your voices and now proclaim

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

1 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. 2 And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. 3 And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God.

---

**NEHEMIAH 9:1–8**



4 On the stairs of the Levites stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani; and they cried with a loud voice to the Lord their God. 5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, “Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

---

**NEHEMIAH 9:1–8**



6 “You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. 7 You are the Lord, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham.

---

**NEHEMIAH 9:1–8**



8 You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite. And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous.

---

**NEHEMIAH 9:1–8**



# Context of Nehemiah

---

1. Israel lived in the land (900 years)
2. Taken into exile in Babylon (temple destroyed)
3. Return to the land (after 70 years in exile)



# Three Phases of Return

---

1. Zerubbabel rebuilds the temple (Ezra 3-6)
2. Ezra reestablishes practice of the Torah (Ezra 7-10)
3. Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem (Neh.1-7)



# Principles of Religious Practice

---

## 1. Gathered Community – the people assembled

*1 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month **the people of Israel were assembled** with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads.*

**NEHEMIAH 9:1**



# Principles of Religious Practice

---

## 2. Set Apart Community – they were distinct

*2 And the Israelites **separated themselves** from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.*

**NEHEMIAH 9:2**



# Principles of Religious Practice

---

## 3. Worshipping Community – their focus was on God

*3 And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and **worshiped the LORD their God.***

*5 ... “Stand up and **bless the LORD your God** from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.*

**NEHEMIAH 9:3, 5**



# Principles of Religious Practice

---

## 4. Committed Community – they made a covenant

38 *“Because of all this we make a **firm covenant in writing**; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.*

**NEHEMIAH 9:38**



# DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?



19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

---

**EPHESIANS 2:19–22**



# OUR VISION AS A CHURCH

## *Worshipping*

Declaring the worth of God and his Son Jesus Christ.

## *Growing*

Making disciples in community united through a common mission.

## *Serving*

Serving Christ's church, serving the community in which we exist and serving the world for the glory of God.



# WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?



---



**Deepening our ministry vision and  
enlarging our ministry impact**

---

# DEEPENING THE VISION

## ***Multiplying***

Strengthening and planting churches to be healthy worshipping, growing, serving congregations.



“ —  
|

**Vision is simply your preferred future**

— ”  
|



*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

DEUTERONOMY 6:5-7

# What Does Multiplying Look Like?

KAWAI

# Multiplying

---

- Planting a church locally



# Multiplying

---

- Planting a church locally
- Supporting church plants in other places



# Multiplying

---

- Planting a church locally
- Supporting church plants in other places
- Revitalizing declining churches



# Multiplying

---

- Planting a church locally
- Supporting church plants in other places
- Revitalizing declining churches
- Investing in emerging leaders



# Multiplying

---

- Planting a church locally
- Supporting church plants in other places
- Revitalizing declining churches
- Investing in emerging leaders
- Developing resources for training and equipping



# Two Rails

---

1. Continue working to maximize our campus (long-term)
2. Local church plant (short-term)



*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

DEUTERONOMY 6:5-7

---

# Continue working hard to remain a one worship service church

---



# Fellowship

CHURCH



***Worshipping, Growing, Serving, Multiplying***