Nehemiah 9 Chiasm

by Sterling D. Allan *Greater Things*; September 3, 1998

Though man is full of contradiction and disobedience, God is faithful and fulfills his promises.
-S.D.A.

A v1 Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were *assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them*.
v2 And the seed of Israel *separated themselves* from all strangers, and *stood and confessed their sins*, and the iniquities of their fathers.
v3 And they stood up in their place, and *read in the book of the law* of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they *confessed*, and *worshipped* the LORD their God.
v4 Then stood up upon the stairs, of the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani, and cried with a loud voice unto the LORD their God.
v5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

B-1 v6 Thou, even *thou, art LORD* alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all;
B-2 and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.
C-1 v7 *Thou art the LORD the God*,
C-2 who didst choose *Abram*, and *broughtest him forth* out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham;
D-1 v8 And *foundest his heart* ***faithful*** *before* thee,
D-2 and *madest a covenant* with him
D-3 to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed,
E and hast *performed thy* ***words***;
F for thou *art* ***righteous***:
G-1 v9 And didst see ***the affliction***
G-2 of our fathers in *Egypt*,
G-1 and heardest ***their cry***
G-2 by the *Red sea*;
H-1 v10 And *showedst* ***signs*** and ***wonders***
- upon Pharaoh,
- and on all his servants,
- and on all *the* people of his land:
H-2 for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them. So didst thou get thee a name, *as it is* this day.
I v11 And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters.
J-1 v12 Moreover thou *leddest* them in the day by a cloudy pillar;
J-2 and *in the night* by ***a pillar of fire***,
J-3 to give them ***light***
J-4 in the way wherein they should go.

K-1 v13 Thou *camest down* also upon mount Sinai,
K-2 and *spakest with them* from heaven,
L-1 and gavest them right judgments,
L-2 and ***true laws***,
M-1 *good*
M-2 *statutes* and commandments:
N-1 v14 And *madest known unto* them
N-2 thy *holy sabbath*,
N-1 and *commandedst* them
N-2 *precepts*,
N-2 *statutes*,
N-2 and laws,
O *by the hand of* ***Moses*** thy servant:
P v15 And gavest them ***bread*** from heaven for their *hunger*,
P and broughtest forth ***water*** for them out of the rock for their *thirst*,
Q and *promisedst* them
R that they should go in to *possess* the land which thou hadst sworn to give them.

S-1 v16 But they and our fathers *dealt proudly*, and *hardened their necks*,
S-2 and *hearkened not to thy commandments*,
S-2 v17 And refused to obey,
T-1 neither were mindful of *thy wonders that thou didst among them*;
T-2 but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain
T-3 to *return to their bondage*:
T-4 but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness,
T-5 and forsookest them not.
U-1 v18 Yea, when they had *made them a molten calf*,
U-2 and said, *This is* ***thy God*** that brought thee up out of Egypt,
U-3 and had wrought great provocations;
V v19 Yet thou in thy *manifold mercies* forsookest them not in the wilderness:
a the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day,
b to lead them in the way;
a neither the pillar of fire by night,
b to show them light, and the way wherein they should go.
W v20 Thou gavest also ***thy good spirit*** to instruct them, and withheldest not thy ***manna*** from their mouth, and gavest them ***water*** for their thirst.
X v21 Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that *they lacked nothing*; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.
Y v22 Moreover thou gavest them kingdoms and *nations*, and didst divide them into corners:
Z so *they* possessed the land
- of Sihon,
- and the land of the king of Heshbon,
- and the land of Og king of Bashan.

➜ v23 Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it. [= Essence of God's Promise to Abraham (Gen. 15:5; 22:17,18; 26:4; Exo. 32:13)]

Z v24 So *the children* went in and possessed the land,

Z and *thou subduedst before* them the inhabitants of the land, - the Canaanites,

Y and gavest them into their hands, with their kings, and the *people* of the land, that they might do with them as they would.

X v25 And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses *full of all goods*, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance:

W so they did ***eat***, and were ***filled***, and became fat,

V and delighted themselves in thy *great goodness*.

U-1 v26 Nevertheless they were *disobedient*,

U-2 and *rebelled against thee*,

U-2 and *cast thy law behind their backs*,

U-2 and *slew thy prophets* which testified against them to ***turn them to thee***,

U-3 and they wrought great provocations.

T-1 v27 Therefore *thou deliveredst them*

T-2 into the hand of their enemies,

T-3 who *vexed them*:

T-4 and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven;

T-5 and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.

S-1 v28 But *after they had rest*,

S-2 they *did evil* again before thee:

R therefore leftest thou them *in the hand of their enemies*, so that they had the *dominion* over them:

Q yet *when they returned*,

Q and *cried unto thee*,

P thou ***heardest*** them from heaven;

O and many times didst thou ***deliver*** *them* according to thy mercies;

N-1 v29 And *testifiedst against* them,

N-1 that thou mightest *bring* them *again*

N-2 unto thy law:

M-1 yet they *dealt proudly*, and *hearkened not*

M-2 unto thy commandments,

L-1 but sinned against thy judgments,

L-2 (which if a man ***do***, he shall ***live*** *in them*;)

K-1 and *withdrew* the shoulder,

K-1 and *hardened* their neck,

K-2 and *would not hear*.

J-1 v30 Yet many years didst thou *forbear* them,
J-2 and *testifiedst against them* by ***thy spirit in thy prophets***:
J-3 yet would they *not* give ***ear***:
J-4 therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.

I v31 Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God.

H-1 v32 Now therefore, our God, the ***great***, the ***mighty***, and the ***terrible*** God, who *keepest covenant and mercy*, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that *hath come*
- upon us,
- on our kings,
- on our princes,
- and on our priests,
- and on our prophets,
- and on our fathers,
- and on all *thy* people,

H-2 since the time of the kings of Assyria *unto* this day.

G-1 v33 Howbeit thou art ***just***
G-2 in all that is *brought upon us*;

F for thou *hast done* ***right***,
F but *we have done* ***wickedly***:

E v34 *Neither* have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, *kept thy* ***law***,
E *nor hearkened unto thy* ***commandments*** and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst *testify against them*.

D-1 v35 For they *have* ***not served*** thee in their kingdom,
D-2 and in thy *great goodness* that thou gavest them,
D-3 and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them,
D-1 *neither turned they from their* ***wicked*** *works*.

C-1 v36 Behold, *we are servants* this day,
C-2 and for *the land that thou gavest* unto *our fathers* to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof,
C-1 behold, we are servants in it:

B-1 v37 And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also *they have dominion* over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure,
B-2 and we are in great distress.

A v38 And because of all this ***we make a sure covenant***, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, *seal unto it*.

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