**GOD KEEPS HIS COVENANT OF LOVE**

Nehemiah 9:1-37

Key verse 32a

“Now therefore, our God, the great God, mighty and awesome, who keeps his covenant of love, do not let all this hardship seem trifling in your eyes.”

**Introduction[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. Why did the Israelites gather together 16 days after the festival of booths? (1; 36-37) How did the Israelites practically turn back to God? (2-3) Here, what do you learn about repentance?
2. Why did the Levites then call with loud voices to the Lord their God (4-5) Why should Israel worship the Lord their God? (6) In verses 7-31 the prayer servants walked through Israel’s history. How did God start it all? (7-8) What does it mean God ‘made a covenant’ with Abraham? (Gen 15:17-20[[2]](#footnote-2))
3. How and why did God keep His promise to Abraham? (8b-15, 33) But how did their ancestors become and what did they do? (16-17a) Why did God not desert them (17b-18) and why did He not abandon them in the wilderness? (19a) Instead, what did God do? (19b-24) What was the result? (25)
4. But how did they respond to God’s faithfulness? (26) Then what did God do? (27a) What pattern of behaviour followed? (27b-30) Why did God not put an end to them or abandon them? (27c-28, 31)
5. After revisiting their history, what was the Israelites’ conclusion about God and His covenant with them? (32a; 1 Cor 13:8a[[3]](#footnote-3); Romans 5:8[[4]](#footnote-4) ) Then what did they confess? (33-35) What was the people’s prayer request? (33b,36-37) How does God keep His covenant of love with us today?

1. Today’s passage focuses on God who keeps His covenant of love. Though the Israelites sinned and stood guilty before God, when they remembered His covenant of love, they could cry out to Him in their distress, with repentance and pleading for deliverance. Because of His covenant of love, God forgives, He is gracious, He is compassionate, He is slow to anger and abounding in love. That is why Israel could wholeheartedly return to Him [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Gen 15:17-20 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land…. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 1 Cor 13:8a: Love never fails [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Romans 5:8: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)