**MAKING A BINDING AGREEMENT**

Nehemiah 9:38-10:39

Key Verse 9:38

“In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it.”

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

1. What did the people do after confessing all their sins? (38a) Why? (8:8-11; 9:3,33-36; 9:38)Why do you think they put the agreement “in writing” Who affixed their seal on the agreement? (38b, 10:1-27) Who else joined the proceedings? (10:28-29a)
2. What did the people agree to and why did they “bind themselves with a curse and an oath?” (29b) What did they promise regarding marriage? Why? (30, Ex 34:15-16[[2]](#footnote-2)) What did they promise to do on the Sabbath and every seventh year? Why? (31)
3. What responsibility did they assume in serving the service of the house of God? (32-33) How did they determine when each of their families should bring wood to the house of God? (34; Lev 6:12-13[[3]](#footnote-3)) What can we learn from this?
4. What did they agree to do with their first fruits? (35-37a) What did they decide about tithes? (37b-38) What else did the people of Israel bring to the storerooms in the temple and why? (39)
5. What can you learn from the Israelites’ binding agreement about how to practically live as God’s Holy people before God?

1. After reflecting on how God keeps His covenant of love, the Israelites made a binding agreement to observe the Law regarding marriage, the Sabbath and offering for the temple. It was their willing decision to live a new life as God’s holy people. They didn’t just confess words of repentance but took practical actions to make their repentance real and restore their right relationship with God. We can think about what kind of decisions and practical actions we need to take to live as God’s holy people. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Ex 34:15-16** Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **Lev 6:12-1**3 The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)