

## MESSAGE NOTES

### Fall Sermon series:

*The Cry of the Soul of Nehemiah*

### Today's message:

*The rest only God can offer*

**Introduction** – make of a Hopester and make of a 1<sup>st</sup> century religious leader

### This week: 13:15-22

- Nehemiah confronts the Israelites for not observing the Sabbath (13:15-16)
- It was due to such failures that exile came (13:17-18)
- Nehemiah confronts merchants for not observing the Sabbath (13:19-21)
- Nehemiah restores Sabbath observance (13:22-23)

### The importance of Sabbath

Genesis 2:1-3

Deuteronomy 5:15

Leviticus 25:1-7

Leviticus 25:8-12

Deuteronomy 12:8-11

### Jesus breaks the Sabbath by working!

John 5:16-18

Luke 6:1-5

Luke 6:6-11

John 5:3-9

John 4:33-34, John 19:28-30

### Jesus reorients the Sabbath around himself

**Matthew 11:28-30**

### Gospel Responses

The make of a 21<sup>st</sup> century religious person.

The make of a Hopester

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

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**Genesis 2:1-3** <sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he ~~rested~~ from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he ~~rested~~ from all the work of creating that he had done.

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# The make of a Hopester

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The make of a 1<sup>st</sup> century religious leader

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- And if any person falls into a place of water or into a place of ... he shall not bring him up by a ladder or a cord or instrument.



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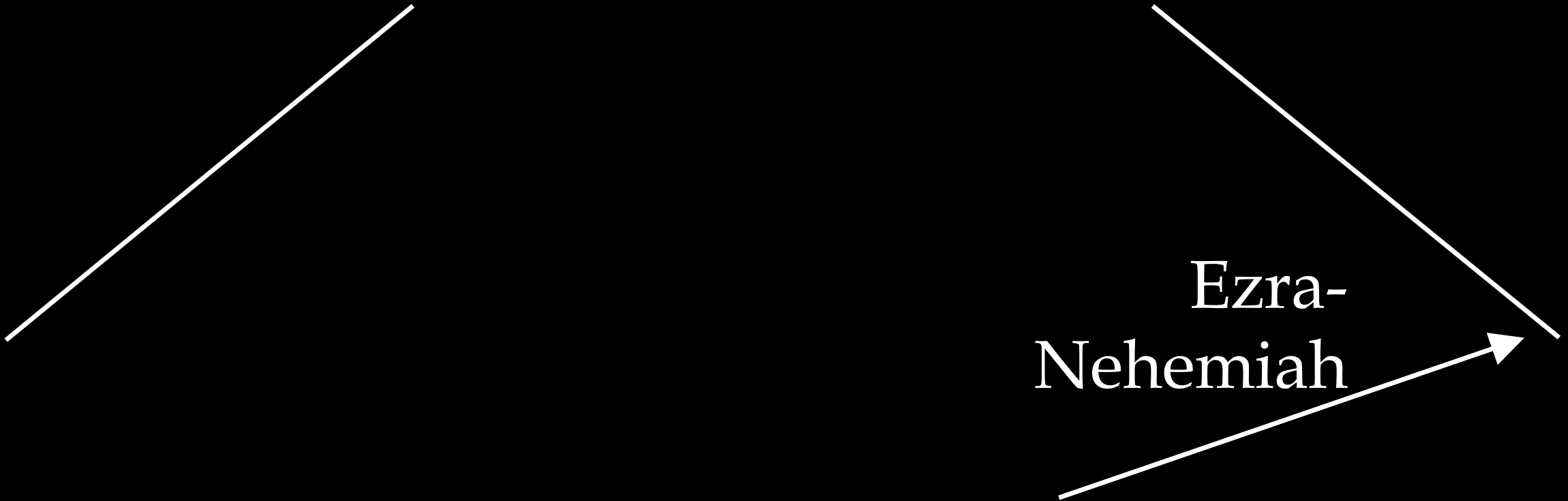
*Nehemiah*

# The Old Testament in brief

Abraham

David

Exile



Ezra-  
Nehemiah

Previously in the book of Nehemiah

This week's message:

*The rest only God can offer*

[hopecc.com/slides](http://hopecc.com/slides) & [hopecc.com/notes](http://hopecc.com/notes)

# Nehemiah confronts the Israelites for not observing the Sabbath

## Nehemiah 13:15-16

<sup>15</sup> In those days I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day. <sup>16</sup> People from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise and selling them in Jerusalem on the Sabbath to the people of Judah. <sup>17</sup> I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, “What is this wicked thing you are doing – desecrating the Sabbath day? <sup>18</sup> Didn’t your ancestors do the same things, so that our God brought all this calamity on us and on this city? Now you are stirring up more wrath against Israel by desecrating the Sabbath.”

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# Nehemiah confronts merchants for not observing the Sabbath

## Nehemiah 13:19-21

<sup>19</sup> When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over. I stationed some of my own men at the gates so that no load could be brought in on the Sabbath day. <sup>20</sup> Once or twice the merchants and sellers of all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem. <sup>21</sup> But I warned them and said, “Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you do this again, I will arrest you.” From that time on they no longer came on the Sabbath. <sup>22</sup> Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and go and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember me for this also, my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love.

# Nehemiah restores Sabbath observance

## Nehemiah 13:22

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*Why was Sabbath observance so important?*

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**#1 - God completed his work so he stopped working**

**Genesis 2:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

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<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he ~~rested~~ stopped from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he ~~rested~~ stopped from all the work of creating that he had done.

Possible Translations: שָׁבַת, שָׁבַת / *shabath* / shaw ·bath

- **stop**, cease, be still, be quiet, i.e., have an activity no longer continue
- **observe the sabbath**, formally, rest, i.e., do the religious practice of ceasing from all activity or work on the seventh day of the week, as prescribed by God, as an extension of ceasing from an activity or state

# *Why was Sabbath observance so important?*

**#2 - God saved his people**

**Deuteronomy 5:15**

<sup>15</sup> Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

# *Why was Sabbath observance so important?*

**#3 - God provided for his people without their working**

**Leviticus 25:1-4, 6-7**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses at Mount Sinai, <sup>2</sup> “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. <sup>3</sup> For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. <sup>4</sup> But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD... <sup>6</sup> Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you — for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, <sup>7</sup> as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.

# *Why was Sabbath observance so important?*

## **#4 - God canceled debt and proclaimed liberty**

### **Leviticus 25:8, 10-11**

<sup>8</sup> “Count off seven sabbath years – seven times seven years – so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years... <sup>10</sup> Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. <sup>11</sup> The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you.”

# *Why was Sabbath observance so important?*

#5 – God conquered their enemies and brought them  
into the Promised Land *of rest*

**Deuteronomy 12:8–10**

<sup>8</sup> You are not to do as we do here today, everyone doing as they see fit, <sup>9</sup> since you have not yet reached the resting place and the inheritance the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>10</sup> But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and he will give you rest from all your enemies around you so that you will live in safety.

# *Why was Sabbath observance so important?*

1. It acknowledged God created the heavens and the earth.
2. It acknowledged God saved them from the Egyptians.
3. It acknowledged God was their provider, not themselves.
4. It acknowledged God was the canceler of debts and the proclaimer of liberty for the captive.
5. It acknowledged God conquered their enemies and brought them (for a time) to the Promised Land of rest.



*How does Jesus observe the Sabbath?*

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#1 - He breaks the Sabbath by working!

**John 5:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. <sup>17</sup> In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” <sup>18</sup> For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

# *How does Jesus observe the Sabbath?*

#1 - He breaks the Sabbath by working!

What was Jesus doing? How was he working?

**Luke 6:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. <sup>2</sup> Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup> He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

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**Luke 6:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. <sup>7</sup> The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. <sup>8</sup> But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." So he got up and stood there. <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" <sup>10</sup> He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored. <sup>11</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

# *How does Jesus observe the Sabbath?*

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What was Jesus doing? How was he working?

**John 5:3-9**

<sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. <sup>3</sup> Here a great number of disabled people used to lie — the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. <sup>4 5</sup> One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” <sup>7</sup> “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” <sup>8</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” <sup>9</sup> At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath.

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Jesus cared for the hungry, the disabled, and the permanently unable.

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All of which, the religious leaders opposed.

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## **John 4:33-34**

<sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" <sup>34</sup> "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."



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## **John 19:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

# *How does Jesus observe the Sabbath?*

#2 - He reorients the Sabbath around himself!

## **Matthew 11:28–30**

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

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The Sabbath is not about inactivity or not doing anything.

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It's about coming to Jesus who breaks the yoke of dead works and slavery (Lev. 26:13, Isa. 9:2-7, 58:6, Jer. 28:2, Ezek. 34:27, Lam. 1:14, Hos. 11:4, Nah. 1:13).

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Jesus offers you – here and now – rest for your weary and burdened souls.

You have formed us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in you.

**AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO**

IXOVS

*How does Jesus teaching impact us  
here and now?*



The make of a 21<sup>st</sup> century religious person

The make of a 21<sup>st</sup> century religious person

The make of a Hopester

# To respond to Jesus' invitation

Dear Lord Jesus, I acknowledge you are the Creator. You are the Provider. You are the Healer. You conquer the great enemies of sin and death. You cancel my debts and proclaim freedom over me. I know that I am a sinner. I've rebelled against you. Jesus, I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Your finished work, not my own, I trust in today. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. I want to experience the rest you promise for weary souls like mine. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.



# Possible responses to the LORD

Remember and celebrate Jesus in his death through communion

Respond with giving and prayer

Worship the LORD through song