

SABBATH DAY DEALINGS. NEH. 13:15-22. 03/23/25. #23.

III- Physical indicators: circumcision, Sabbath, tithes, feasts

¹⁶In those days I saw *people* in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys with wine, grapes, figs, and all *kinds of burdens*, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned *them* about the day on which they were selling provisions. ¹⁸Men of Tyre dwelt there also, who brought in fish and all kinds of goods, and sold *them* on the Sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. ¹⁷Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What evil thing *is* this that you do, by which you profane the Sabbath day? ¹⁸Did not your fathers do thus, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you bring added wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath." ¹⁹So it was, at the gates of Jerusalem, as it began to be dark before the Sabbath, that I commanded the gates to be shut, and charged that they must not be opened till after the Sabbath. Then I posted *some* of my servants at the gates, *so that* no burdens would be brought in on the Sabbath day. ²⁰Now the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice. ²¹Then I warned them, and said to them, "Why do you spend the night around the wall? If you do *so* again, I will lay hands on you!" From that time on they came no *more* on the Sabbath. ²²And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should go and guard the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, *concerning* this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy!

1. Commandment 4

- a. The Jews were to keep the Sabbath Day holy
 - a1. Cease from labors
 - a2. Time of rest & reflection
 - a3. Time of celebration of the Lord
- b. Gen. 1 God set the pattern by creating the universe in 6 days & then ceasing his labor on the seventh day
 - a1. God hallowed the seventh day
 - a2. Ex. 20:11 God set aside the seventh day for the Jews to rest
- c. Even though the church has been given no commandments concerning the Sabbath Day, God did set a pattern that man should have a day of rest each week
 - a1. 1 Cor. 16:2 the church was in the habit of meeting on the Lord's Day (Sunday – the day of the Lord's resurrection)
 - a2. Heb. 5 feast days, sacrifices, Sabbath Day observances, etc. were not a part of the church

2. Wine, fish, & oil

- a. Neh. left Jerusalem in proper order when he departed

- a1. The Levites & priests were serving in the temple & the singers were at the gates
- a2. Guards had been posted to open & shut the gates at the proper times

b. When Neh. returned, he discovered that all proper order had been overturned

- a1. The tithes of grain, oil, & wine no longer flowed into the temple
- a2. The Levites returned to farming to live
- a3. The singers had abandoned their posts
- a4. The Jews were treading grapes on the Sabbath in order to make wine
- a5. The merchants from Tyre brought preserved fish, wood, & other items to sell

c. Same violations that led to the exile of both Israel & Judah were happening again

- a1. Besides idol worship, the Jews disregarded all the provisions of the Law (Mal. 1)
- a2. Amos 8:5 Israel could not wait until the Sabbath Day was over so they could buy & sell again
- a3. Jer. 17 a flood of goods & burdens entered Jerusalem on the Sabbath Day

3. Reset

- a. Once again Neh. confronts the nobles for their violations & lack of moral leadership
- b. Neh. set about reordering proper worship again
 - a1. Tobiah had been removed from the storerooms
 - a2. Tithes of grain, oil, & wine again
 - a3. The Levites, priests, & singers renewed their work & were put in their place
- c. Neh. set guards at the gates
 - a1. The gates were closed at sundown & all day on the Sabbath
 - a2. The trumpet was blown 3 times to mark the end the work week & then 3 times to mark the start of Sabbath; the trumpet was blown to end Sab.
- d. The merchant from Tyre kept coming to the walls
 - a1. Neh. warned them twice
 - a2. Neh. threatened to lay hands on them if they lodged around Jer. during Sabbath
- e. Neh. had to enforce the Law to insure compliance
 - a1. Compliance should have been automatic
 - a2. Those who loved God joyfully obey him
- f. Again, Neh. asks God to remember him for what he did