



"BACKSLIDDEN PEOPLE"

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR SABBATH SCHOOL

LESSON 11: DECEMBER 7 - 13, 2019

"And 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!"(Nehemiah 13:22, NKJV).

H Y M N S F O R W O R S H I P . O R G

RECURRING THEME IN THIS WEEK'S LESSON & HYMN LIST

A. Tithing

- **Come All Christians, Be Committed, SDAH 634**
BEACH SPRING, 8.7.8.7.D
- **A Diligent and Grateful Heart, SDAH 639**
ST. COLUMBA, C.M.
- **We Give Thee But Thine Own, SDAH 670**
SCHUMANN, S.M.
- **God, Whose Giving Has No Ending, SDAH 636**
RUSTINGTON, 8.7.8.7.D.
- **Lord of All Good, SDAH 635**
MORESTEAD, 10.10.10.10.

TOPIC NOTES

ON TITHING

One of the aspects that was extremely important to Nehemiah was tithing. He restored the practice in Israel because the temple and its services could not properly function without it.

When tithes and offerings are mentioned, we often focus on the reward that we will receive, based on Malachi 3:10. However, the giving of tithes and offerings should not be dependent on the blessings we receive. In fact, the giving of tithes is called the "return" of tithes, because everything we have is already a blessing from God, for it has been given to us by Him. It is because God is our Creator and we acknowledge Him as such that we give back to Him. We give out of gratitude for what He has done: created us, sustains us, takes care of us, died for us, and continues to re-create us.

Therefore, it is from a full heart of gratitude and thankfulness that we return tithe. Not primarily because we will receive a blessing by doing so but because God is faithful and awesome by taking care of us and by providing for us every single day. Nehemiah demonstrated through his actions that tithing is extremely important, not only for supporting God's work but in helping us acknowledge that everything comes from Him. We give because God gives to us. In this way, we participate in His ministry for humanity.

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H Y M N S F O R W O R S H I P . O R G

RECURRING THEME IN THIS WEEK'S LESSON & HYMN LIST

B. Sabbath

- **Holy Sabbath Day of Rest, SDAH 381**
7.7.7.7.REF.
- **The Sacred Anthem, SDAH 386**
WALLOWA, 8.6.8.6.5.8.6.8.6.
- **Don't Forget the Sabbath, SDAH 388**
12.13.13.13.REF.
- **Far From All Care, SDAH 394**
PEVENSEY, 11.10.11.10.

ON THE SABBATH, CONTINUED

and to celebrate the Lord of the Sabbath. He encourages us to recognize the Sabbath as "a delight," as "the holy day of the Lord," and to honor Him by not doing our own ways, nor finding our own selfish pleasures, nor speaking our own worldly words. God once again promises a blessing (Isa. 58:13, 14). In the same way that He promises to bless us when we give tithe, He also promises a blessing when we live the Sabbath His way, not focusing on our own desires but rather by glorifying God in all that we do. However, once again, just as was mentioned with tithe, we are not to keep the Sabbath holy in order to gain blessings. Rather, we are to keep it holy because it is a day that was given to us as a gift to focus on the goodness of the Lord.

TOPIC NOTES

ON THE SABBATH

The second aspect that Nehemiah addresses in this chapter is the day of worship, the Sabbath. Israelites were doing business transactions with people from surrounding places on the Sabbath instead of worshiping the Lord (Lev. 23:3).

Nehemiah strongly objected to the way the Sabbath was being kept. Nehemiah was the governor of the land, and because he was a strong, godly man, he wanted to make sure that the people also followed God's instructions. Nehemiah felt that he had to take some strict measures in order for the people to understand that the Sabbath was really supposed to be holy. It was to be a day of resting in the Lord in which God's people took time to be with family and friends, and most important, spent time with God.

By doing business on Sabbath, God's people were taking away the opportunities for fellowship with God and robbing themselves of the opportunities to show love and care for one another, as well. God the Creator saw the Sabbath as extremely important, or He would not have created it as a special day. If all that was needed had been completed in six days, then God would not have created the seventh. But He did in order to give us a special day as a reminder that He is our Creator and that we are created to be in fellowship with Him and dependent upon Him.

Also, on this day of rest from everyday business, we rejuvenate our strength, and, most important, we respect God's way of celebrating life when He made this day holy. It was not to be like every other day; this was a holy day. Holy means "separated to" a special purpose and "set apart for" uplifting activities. Therefore, the things we do should be different from the things we do on all the other days of the week. Jesus Himself stayed in the grave on the Sabbath day and was resurrected on Sunday, keeping the Sabbath even in His death. That is how important the Sabbath is to God.

Throughout the Bible, God shows us how crucial the Sabbath day is by instructing us to turn away from business and common activities

