

Turning away from everything pagan, Part 1
Nehemiah 13:1-14

In Nehemiah 13, we encounter the final scenes of reformation among those who returned from exile in Babylon over a hundred years before. After many dramatic reformations among the people through the years, we learn that Nehemiah traveled to back to Susa for some period of time. Finally, he returns to Jerusalem only to find that the people had allowed paganism to creep in. They turned back from their original devotion and covenants in some very specific areas. This timeframe corresponds with the preaching of the last prophet of the Old Testament, Malachi. In this chapter we learn of specific ways that we too might turn away from everything pagan. This is the first part of a three part series on turning away from everything pagan.

I. Keep returning to the Word of God, v1-3

The Word of God calls for separation from the influence of unbelievers.

II. Confront compromise, v4-9

Nehemiah confronts compromise in the worship of God in the temple.

III. Increase the support of the ministry, v10-13

The lack of support for the Levites is confronted and restored.

IV. Pray for usefulness and long-term fruit, v14

Nehemiah prays for good to prevail.

Words for kids to listen for

Paganism

Reforming the church

Reforming the family

Ammonite

Moabite

The ammonite within

Throwing out Tobiahs things

Carless in taking care of the singers

Faithful men

Do not wipe out my good deeds

We need a covenant keeper