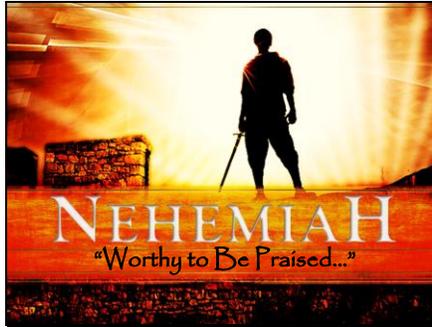


Slide 1



Worthy To Be Praised

Psalm 18:3 (part 4 of 5 –prev. *Never the Less*)

326 Open My Eyes That I May See

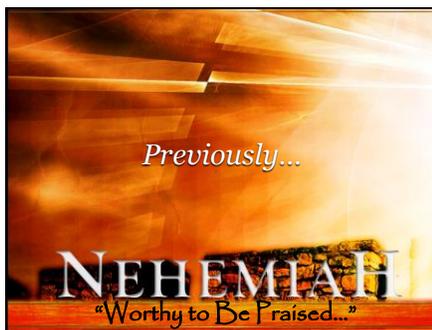
483 I Need Thee Every Hour

Consider Changing Title: “Bless the LORD!” to stay consistent with selecting a title and text from the chapter

and Text: Nehemiah 9:5 b

Ref: HOP Vol. 6 pp. 149-152

Slide 2



I Beseech Thee - Chapter 1: 7 characteristics of prevailing prayer... Harmony with God’s will... Earnestness... Knowledge of God... Importunity...

Confession/Repentance... Faith... and Consecration

So I prayed - Chapter 2:

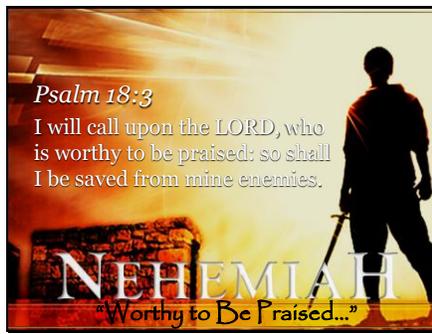
More... Patient... Instant... the secret... when “the good hand of God is upon us”... Faith and God’s leading is contagious... We will have to face opposition when we stand in God will

Never the Less - Chapter 4: We discover that when the heat went up Nehemiah prayed “Always-the-More”

Today... I would like to look at what we might call a good old fashioned prayer and praise session found in Nehemiah chapter 9

From this prayer we will highlight 7 reasons for praising God

Slide 3



First however lets look at our scripture verse taken from:

If any one attribute could be given to **summarize the book of psalms...**

It would probably be this word: **PRAISE**
And the central focus of that praise is of course God

Praise **takes many forms** and is offered for a **variety of reason...**

Not only the Psalms... but the nearly every book... of scripture is **replete with praise**

Praise seems to be the **natural outflow** of the thankful heart... from earth to heaven...

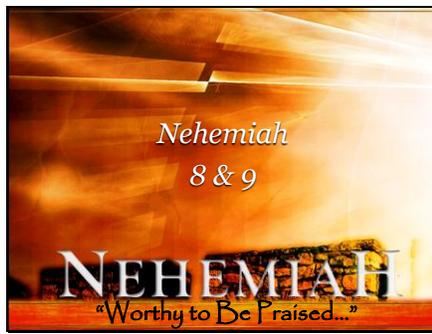
Both **Human and Angels...** are seen singing forth the praises of God

As the Psalm says God is **"worthy to be praised"**... and

Even when things are not going as we would had hoped or planned...

One of the **best "pick me ups"** is to... look away from our circumstance and **find a reason to praise God**

Slide 4



Before looking at Nehemiah 9 **lets get the setting** for the later prayer from chapter 8

Several months have gone by... and **God has richly blessed...**

The wall is built... "even in troublous times" as the angel Gabriel had told Daniel...

But, the **opposition has been vanquished** and God...

Through His faithful, humble, and trusting servants... has fulfilled His promise

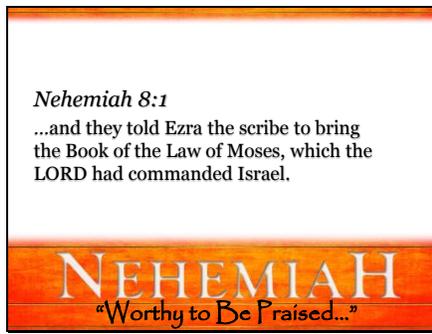
So... Nehemiah 8 & 9 is a **time of even deeper consecration**

Perhaps you have experienced this in your life also... your doing God's work... and He comes through for you
And this **inspires not only gratitude...** but a sense of **yet a deeper need...**

To be even more committed to God... in holiness and in servitude

That's what was happening here in Nehemiah 8 & 9

Slide 5



The walls are finished and now it is the fall of the year... and Ezra the scribe...

The same Ezra who wrote the book of with his name...

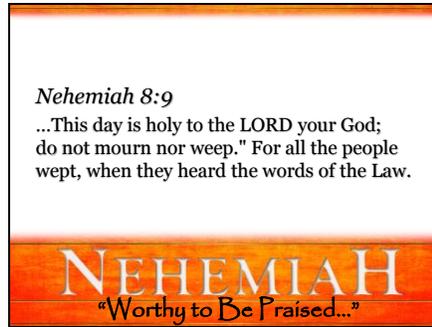
Gathers for with the people to open the book of the law...

To read and to help the people understand vs. 8

As they read the books of Moses... and see the mighty works of God and How their forefathers... had backslidden again and again...

A deep conviction came over this people of God:

Slide 6



The people were mourning... because they felt their guilt...

The conviction that **they too were sinners**... akin to the rebellion of their forefathers

But it was not to be a time for hopeless weeping... because it was the time of **the fall feasts**

The Feast of trumpets... the day of Atonement... and the feast of Tabernacles

God gives specific direction in Leviticus 23... that this was to be a time of rejoicing...

A time of thankfulness and praise... for the cleansing of their sins...

By the One who alone makes Atonement

So after the people were instructed in the things...

They had forgotten during the 70 years of captivity

Verse 17 says:

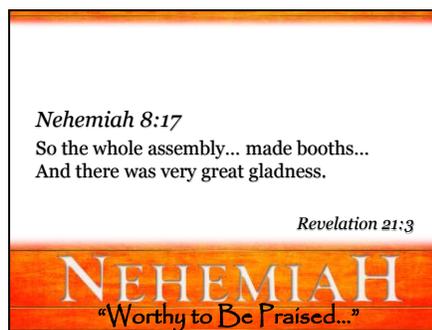
The **booths were symbols**... of their fathers mighty **deliverance from bondage** in Egypt...

And what a special significance they must have had... to this small band of Jews **just delivered from captivity** in Babylon

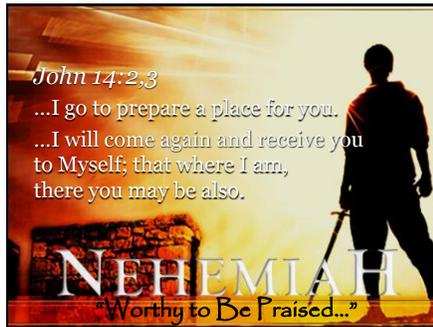
But the booths were **also symbolic**... of the great deliverance day that lay **yet future**

When God will **tabernacle once again** with His people... when total and **final**

Slide 7



Slide 8



At-one-ment is made

When Jesus comes in the clouds of
Glory... **we too...** even more than they...
should live our lives with

Very great gladness... not only have we
been

**Delivered from the bondage of sin and
death** but...

We know many things they did not...

The lamb slain from the foundation of
the world... is risen... **and promised:**

Not only this but... we know his coming
is near

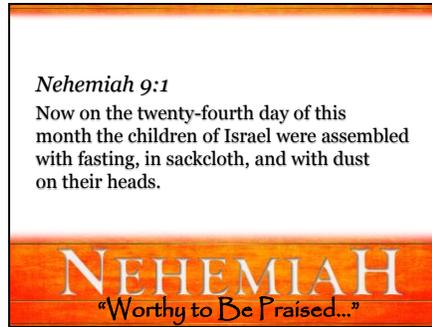
The council of Ezra from Leviticus 23...
should be our motivation also... to
"mourn not, nor weep"

Lift up your heads... Jesus says for your
redemption draweth neigh...

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken
to you, that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation;
but be of good cheer, I have overcome
the world."

The **next chapter** in Nehemiah...
Opens with a time of **deep corporate
consecration:**

Slide 9



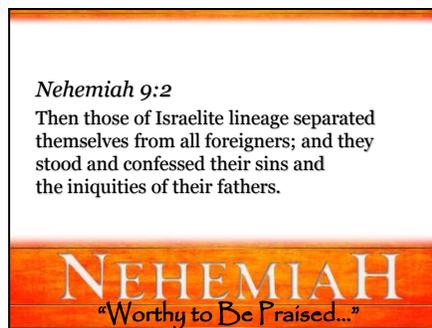
They had done some things in ignorance...
Contrary to God's law... and His will for them... to be a separate holy people

As the law was read... they became aware of their transgressions... and this called for the need for consecration

It is one thing to be sorry for... our transgressions of ignorance...
But when we become aware of our sin...

We need to **make things straight**... and make restitution if necessary

Slide 10



The books of Nehemiah and Ezra tell us **how serious they were**...

Even being willing to... **dissolve marriage relationships**... they had entered into against God's will...

Today we tend to consider such lengths... as "above and beyond"... what God would expect of us...
But such recordings in scripture...
Indicate that our Jewish forefathers... **had a different ideas**

Of what making restitution... even for sins of ignorance entailed...
Perhaps we all would do well... to seek to understand these depths of commitment better.

Slide 11



Stand up and bless the Lord... there are a few different... **postures for prayer and praise** illustrated in scripture

The humblest of these perhaps... is bowing or laying face down... this like its similar posture of kneeling
Are forms that **illustrate lowliness** and humility

However sometimes... as here... the people would stand
Standing is often used... at the end of reading or sermon as an **illustration of two things**

One a **willingness to "take a stand"** of commitment to what was just shared and two...

As a posture of positioning...To thus move forward or take action...

This is why we stand for prayer... at the close of each Sabbath service

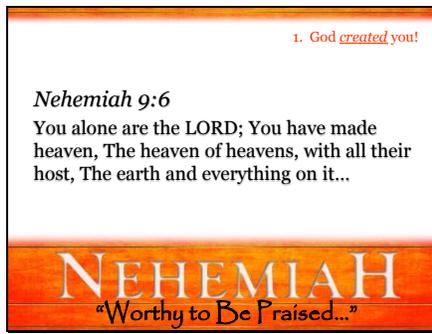
Next let's talk about those 7 reasons why God is... "Worthy to be praised"

Slide 12



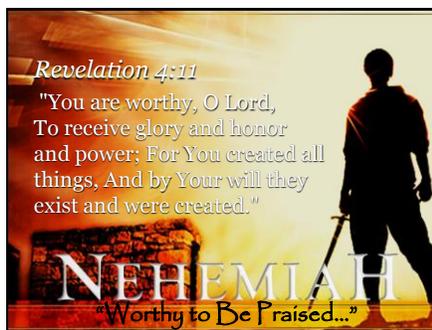
From Nehemiah 9:

Slide 13



1. God created you!

Slide 14

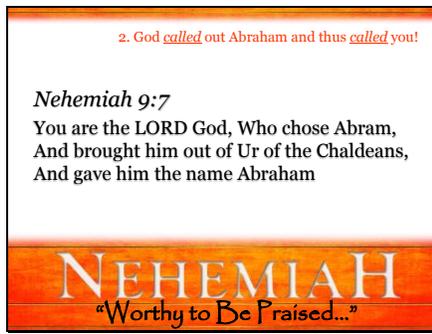


Remember you were no accident... God made you for a reason... and As your maker He is worthy of your praise

Not just in words only... but in action... the greatest form of praise is not elegant or euphoric song The greatest praise is to do God's will... to seek His good pleasure for our lives... to be the His servants to a dying world

The **second reason** God is... worthy of our praise... as found in Nehemiah 9 is this:

Slide 15



- God called Abraham by His grace and thus you.

Has God called you?

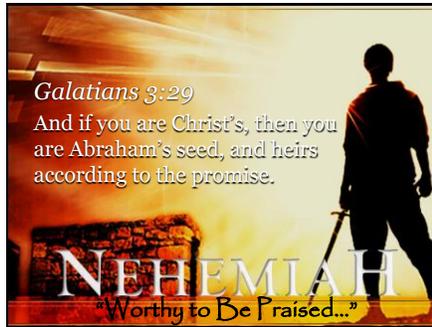
Out of the land of idolatry and sin... Has He brought you forth and... made His covenant of promise with you?

Have you excepted His calling... His forgiveness?

Just as God gave Abram... **an new name**... when he had brought Him to the land of promise

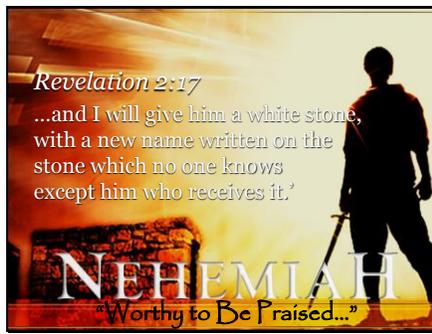
So he has a new name... in store for you... in the promised land also

Slide 16



And:

Slide 17



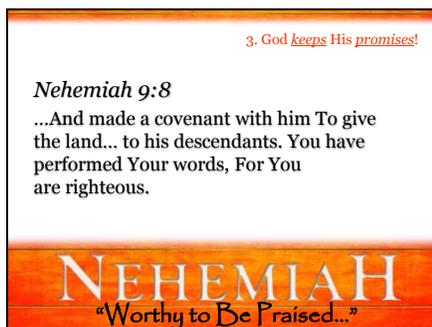
God promise that... "To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat."

If in Jesus we are overcomers... If we walk by faith as did Abraham... God promises a new name... Written on the white stone of innocence and acquittal... just for you!

That makes Him worthy of your praise!

Point #3

Slide 18



- God keeps His promises

Noah... Abraham... Isaac... Jacob... Moses... David... Daniel... and the Apostles

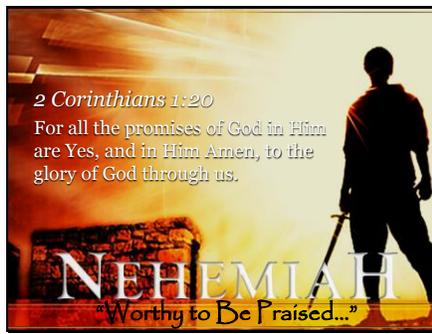
Each life of faith... testifies boldly... God keeps His promises

He is righteous... He is true... He is trustworthy... He is faithful
Sometimes it may take years... it did with Abraham... but God always keeps His promises

We just need to... trust and wait

As Paul reminds us... Jesus is our guarantee:

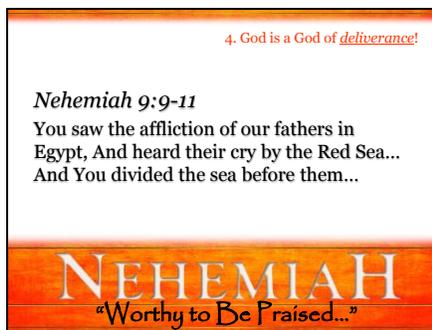
Slide 19



God keeps His promises... He always has... He always will!

Praise worthy point number 4:

Slide 20



- God hears and answers in the time of need...

God is a God of deliverance

Have you ever stood on the shore of an impassible sea...

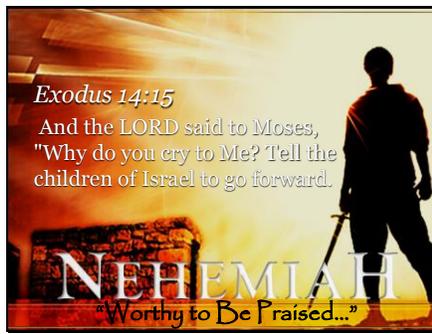
With the enemy in strong array... seeking your life behind?

Has God ever delivered you from the impossible?

When your there in the midst of the trouble it seems like there is no way out

God asked Moses:

Slide 21



Oh what a song they sang on the other side!

God had drowned their adversaries in the sea

Oh what a song we will sing on the other side too... but faith is to work on this shore also

To sing praises to a worthy God... knowing even though it seems impossible...

That He is the God of the impossible and He will deliver... Like Israel of old...

How quickly we forget the deliverances of yesterday...

In the darkness of our circumstances today

One way to overcome the gloom is to Take our eyes off the situation and place them on His promises...

Then go forward in faith

Slide 22

5. God is a God of *revelation* and *truth*!

Nehemiah 9:13
You came down also on Mount Sinai,
And spoke with them from heaven, And
gave them just ordinances and true laws,
Good statutes and commandments.

NEHEMIAH
"Worthy to Be Praised..."

- God is a God of revelation and truth

God wants us to be Healthy... Happy...
and Holy... so He teaches us His ways
Even before the rebellious nation
ended up in Babylonian captivity...
God had counseled they through
Jeremiah:

Slide 23

Jeremiah 6:16
Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the
ways and see, And ask for the old paths,
where the good way is, And walk in it;
Then you will find rest for your souls.
But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'"

NEHEMIAH
"Worthy to Be Praised..."

Praise is... **nothing but empty words**
When we refuse to walk in the good
way

Ask for the old paths... and walk in it...
Then you will find rest for your souls.

Praise point number 6:

Slide 24

6. God *supplies* all our *needs*!

Nehemiah 9:15
You gave them bread from heaven
for their hunger, And brought them
water out of the rock for their thirst...

NEHEMIAH
"Worthy to Be Praised..."

- God supplies all of our needs

Who was the God of Israel?
Is He not our God too?

What does Paul say of this God?

Slide 25



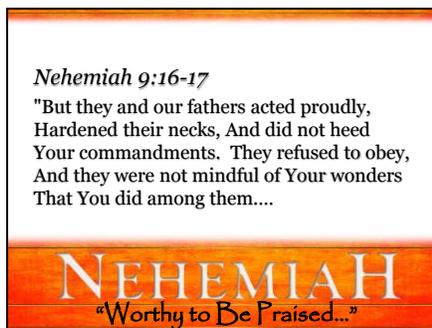
Christ **was that bread** which came down out of heaven...
He was **that rock** which followed them in the desert...
He is **the water of life**... the stream from which when we drink we thirst not again

He will supply **all your needs**... not your wants is His promise... He is too good and too wise to ere

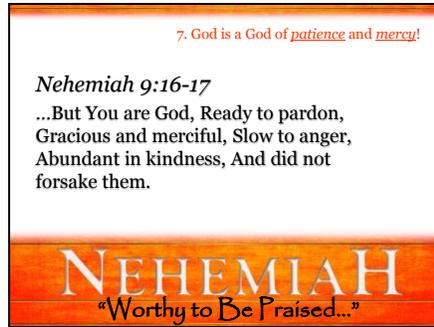
Mt 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Our **last point** is found in verses 16 and 17

Slide 26



Slide 27



This prayer repeats the words of Moses found in Exodus 34:6:7
...the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth...

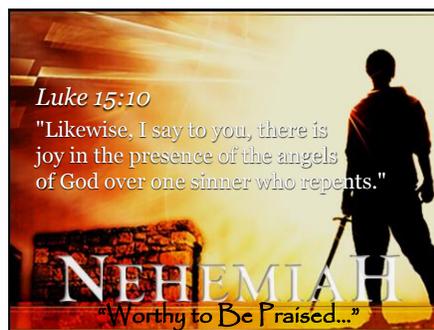
Point 7. God is a God of patience... indeed He is all of these... And though they forsook Him... He forsook them not

God is always ready to pardon the repentant sinner... He follows us... and works on us and for us... even when we stray...

Though He is patience he tells us that it can not last forever
But if you have wandered and heard His call to return...
If you have sensed His grace anew... then You know that God is worthy to be praised...

In fact Jesus said:

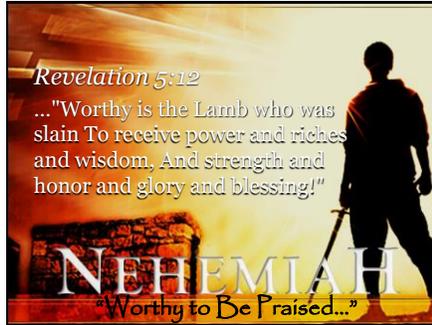
Slide 28



The joy of heaven... is the repentant sinner... the one who turns from death onto life
And one day... I believe soon... a great multitude will gather...
On the other shore and sing a mighty song of deliverance

John records these words saying:

Slide 29



That he beheld ...the number of them was **ten thousand times ten thousand**, and thousands of thousands And with one loud and uniform voice they said:

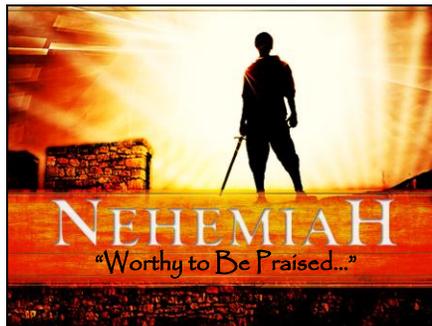
Worth is the Lamb...
And throughout **all of eternity** this will be our praise song...
Worth is the Lamb that was slain!

So **when you feeling down** and the situation around you seems hopeless...
Or when your heart is **overjoyed with His goodness**...

Weather in song... or public prayer... or simple solitude...
Set aside your request for a moment... and **worship Him**

Who alone is... Worth to be Praised!

Slide 30



Never-the-less (part 3 of 3 –prev. *So I Prayed*)

Nehemiah 4:7-9

326 Open My Eyes That I May See

483 I Need Thee Every Hour