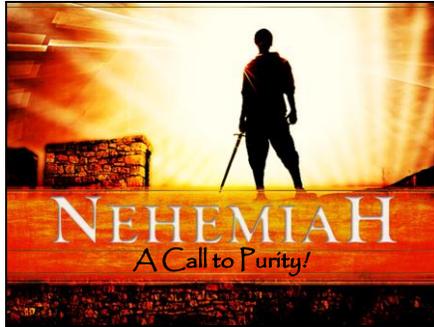


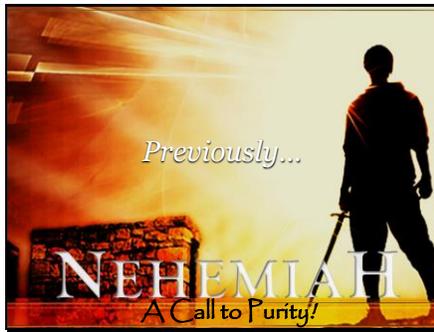
Slide 1



A Call to Purity
Nehemiah 13:30,31 (part 5 of 5 –prev.
Worthy to be Praised)
309 All to Jesus I Surrender
39 Lord, In The Morning

HOP Vol. 6 pp. 152-155

Slide 2



Chapter 1: 7 characteristics of prevailing prayer

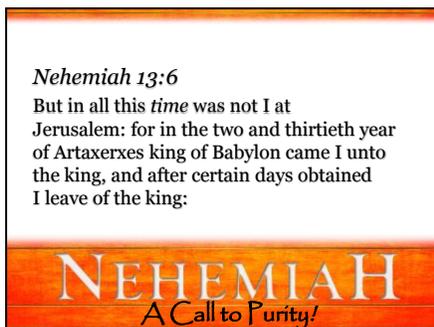
Chapter 2: 2 More (Instant, Patient)

Chapter 4: We discover that when the heat went up Nehemiah prayed “Always-the-More”

Chapter 9: 7 reason to praise God

Today as we close this series on Nehemiah... Discover 4 Calls to Purity found in chapter 13

Slide 3



Nehemiah 13:6
But in all this *time* was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king:

If you remember in Nehemiah **2:1...** **was the 20th** year of Artaxerxes' reign
Now **12 years** have passed between

Nehemiah was **a man of prayer**
He was a man **of strong conviction**
Man **of zeal and fortitude**

A man **who desired purity** and holiness... for himself... and from his people... as God did

Four times in chapter 13... Nehemiah offers up this simple prayer:

Slide 4



Unpretentious prayer... **A simply plea** for his faithful duty to God... Remember me, O my God...

God promises just that... He will remember and reward... All the deeds of love... performed by His faithful children

Remember what Paul said?:

Slide 5



There's a saying that goes like this...

Any fool can learn... from his own mistakes... But a wise man learns... from the mistakes of others This is what Paul is saying... and more... **We understand...** that the things which happened... to Nehemiah and the others...

As God called his remnant people out of Babylon...

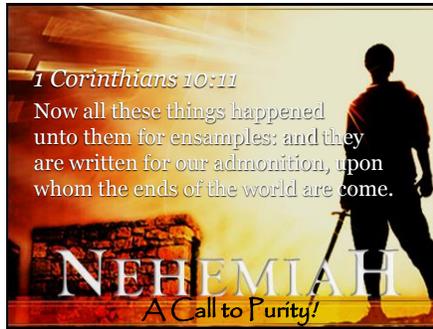
Will be the issues at the close of time

God will again... through his prophets... **call his people to purity and holiness**

Paul says... Without which... **no one will see the Lord...** Hebrews 12:14

Likewise Paul says to the Corinthians:

Slide 6



Written for ensamples... **our examples...** and **for our admonition...** Nehemiah experiences... are for these last days... **we are to learn from** these things

And in them to find hope... the wise man Solomon said
There is **no new thing under the sun...** what has been will be

Before their captivity in Babylon... God had spoken through Isaiah the prophet saying:

Slide 7



Later in chapter 58... God **offered a remedy** to their degradation

If they broke every yoke... If they drew out their hand to the needy... And called the Sabbath a delight... and a honorable to the Lord... and would honor him...

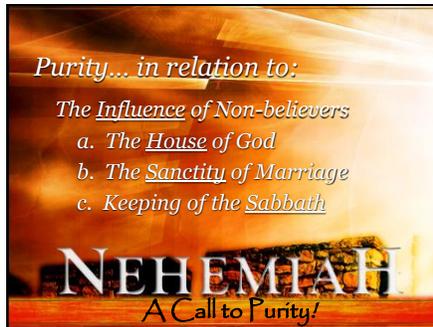
Then they... would build the old waste places... and rise up the foundations... of many generations
And would be called the repair of the breach... the restorers of paths to dwell in.

Today... God is calling his remnant... to do the same... to be a **people of purity**

Remember how in chapters 8 and 9... the **people had fasted, wept, and pray**
A **big revival had** taken place... but Too... often revival is followed... **by complacency and backsliding**

Nehemiah finds just this condition when he returns...

Slide 8



What was the principal cause.... of this loss of purity... among his people?

One of the **devil's most successful tools...** is the tool of influence
If you were to... **list the greatest influences...** in your life... what would they be?

First would probably be... the influence of **your family**
Followed closely by... the influence of **your friends**
You are... Who you hang out with!

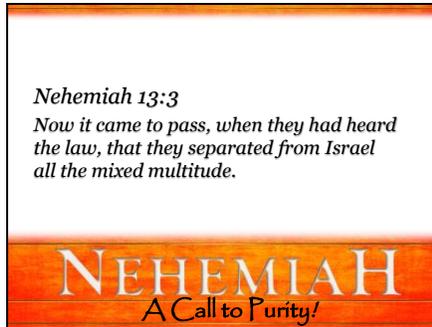
Next... would probably be the influence of... the **situations and circumstances**
However last... but **not least...** would be the **influences of the senses**
Sights... Sounds... Tastes... and Feelings

All of these have... **molded and shaped you...** and make you who you are today
All of these have... influenced you... **for good or for bad...**
Toward God... or away from Him!

So successful is this tool
The devil will often bring... people of poor influence... into our lives... to lead us astray

Thus... the strongest influence of Nehemiah 13
Was the **influence of nonbelievers...** principally in these three areas:

Slide 9



There are **two main things** to see in this passage

First... as before... it was **the word that brought revival and reformation...**

When the people... heard the Scripture... they realize they had done wrong... in their ignorance

God had commanded his people to remain pure...

To keep themselves from the negative influence of the nations around them

Because God knew that these influences... Especially of idolatry... Would pollute their judgment... and a **defile the purity of their faith**

God wanted them... **Needed them...** to be a holy people...

Representatives of him... and his way upon the Earth

That they might... **draw all men** unto Him

Sadly... The history of the Kings of Israel... reveals that they failed at this purity

Even... “wise” Kings Solomon... was negatively influenced by his marriages to unbelieving women
And the nation with him

Thus... Paul wisely counseled Corinthians:

Slide 10



Learning form the mistakes of others!

Of coarse Paul was **not referring to witnessing**

He was talking about being yoked... or forming alliances with... those who do not believe

We are told to be... in the world but... **be not of the world**

How... Paul said Rom 12:2... And be not conformed to this world... but

Be **transformed by the renewing** of your mind

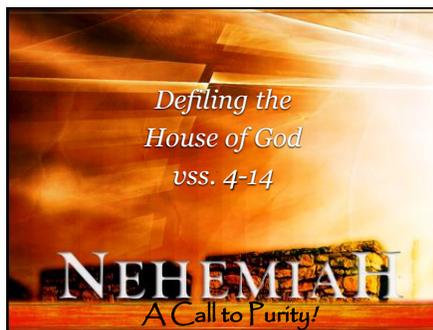
Stay connected to God!

But...it was **just such alliances...**

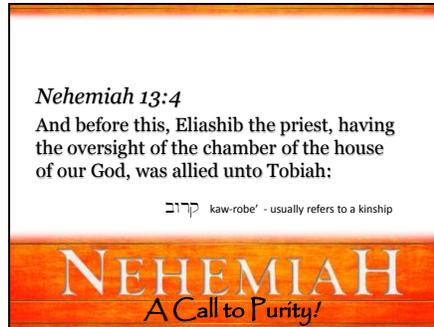
Unequal yoking with unbelievers... that was **behind the backsliding** of God's remnant people!

The negative influence resulted in:

Slide 11



Slide 12



Can you believe it?

In Nehemiah's absence... the priest Eliashib formed an alliance... with Tobiah

The Hebrew word translated allied... 7138 קרוב kaw-robe' Usually **refers to a kinship**... as if Tobiah...

May have become related to him... through a marriage relationship.

However... this is **the same Tobiah**... who with Sanballat... Had been giving them such a hard time... trying to hinder them from building the city walls

And now Eliashib has given him... **his own apartment**... in none other place but... the temple courts.

The **Devil's second most successful strategy**...

If you can't beat them... join them!

Needless to say... **Nehemiah was furious!**

Nehemiah was **cleaning house**... literally

Like Jesus... with the change table... righteous indignation

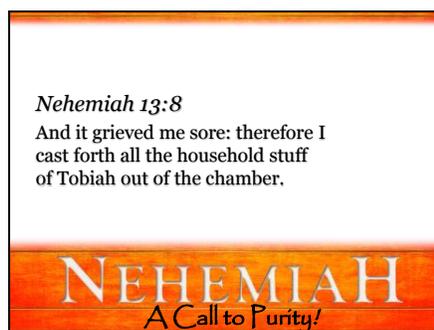
The chamber had been set apart... as a store room for the offerings and gift of the people

So now they were no longer bringing them to the temple

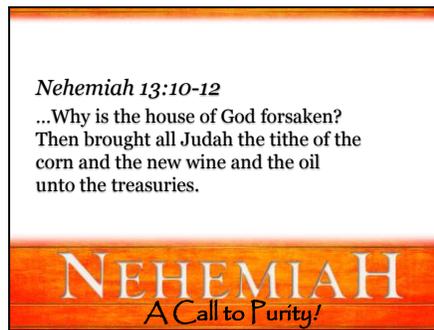
Thus **other aspects of worship**... began to **deteriorate**:

The next few verses tell us... that the people failed at bringing their tithe and

Slide 13



Slide 14



offerings

So the priests returned to the fields...

No ministry... No message... No mission

Why?...influence... followed by even more compromise

What did they need?

A call back to Purity!

When holy things become common...

so does our sense of...

Duty and responsibility... to God work!

Thus... Giving to God is no different... than some other charity... or even our children's education fund

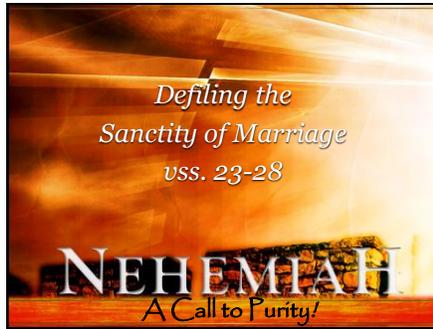
We forget God's work... we forget our mission...

We forget **our purpose**... we forget that **we were bought** with a price

Everything we have... and everything we are... is His

The insidious influences of others
Have their greatest effect... through the bonds of marriage:

Slide 15



No doubt this was a difficult change...

Slide 16



This **can be read as ethnic prejudice...** but with the Israelites it was a religious purity

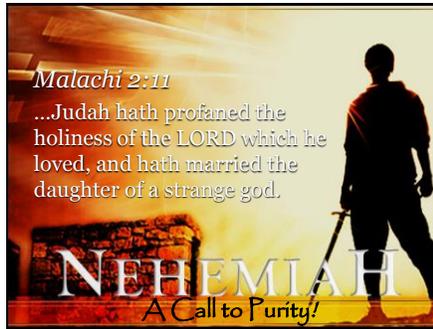
Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

It is a rare thing... that two persons of differing faiths... Can live together in peace...without compromising something!

Be ye not unequally yoked together... What is that something... usually? And most often who wins... and who loses?

The children!

Slide 17



The issue here is influences:
The children are usually the losers...

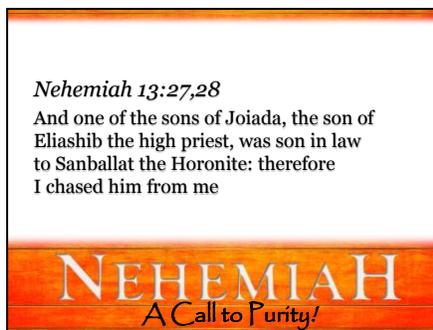
Slide 18



Curiously enough... 797 ' אַשְׁדּוֹד ash-do-deeth'
AV-speech of Ashdod 1; 1 ..."I will spoil"

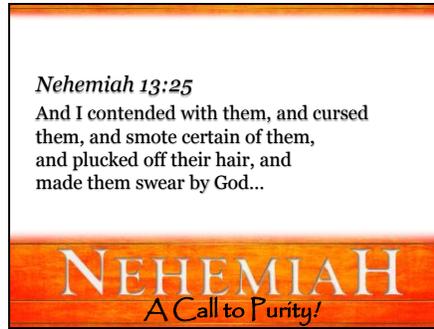
Not only... had Eliashib compromised his allegiances... but maybe Because of his influence... his grandsons did as well:

Slide 19



Boy!... that Nehemiah... was a fire brand for God

Slide 20



Slide 21



What a different time we live in...
How different... are some of our
attitudes... towards religious thoughts
and actions

But... **it is purity that God seeks...** then
and now...

He who changes not... invites us to
come and learn His way

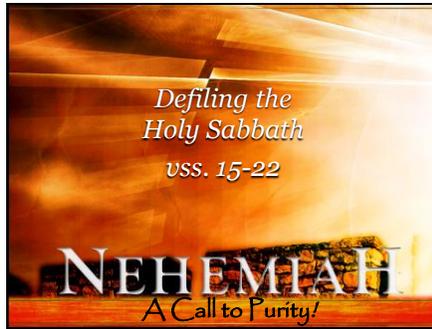
Maybe... just maybe Nehemiah was
over zealous...

I'm sure Eliashib thought so... and
maybe we too...

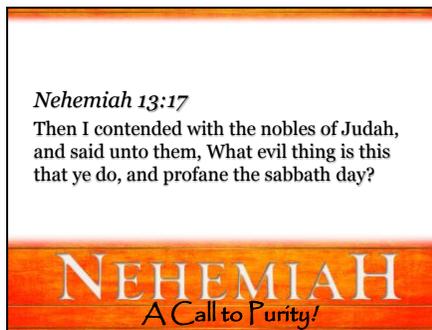
Have been too influenced... by the
culture around us!

The last negative influence... in
Nehemiah 13... **concerns the Sabbath:**

Slide 22



Slide 23



What were they doing?

Verse 15 says some were... treading wine presses...

Others bringing in sheaves... and lading donkeys... or carrying wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens...

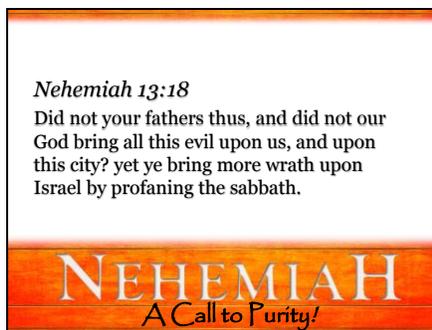
And... even buying and selling provision.

Even... non-Jews were coming to sell their wares

So Nehemiah contended with the nobles... **who weren't so noble**

What evil is this... then he asks:

Slide 24



Why were the Jews carried off into Babylon?

Was it not for worshiping idols?

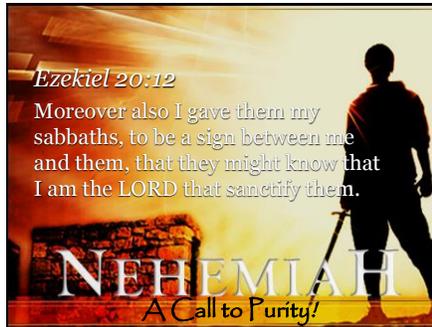
And why did they do so?

It was a direct result... of the influence... of **association and intermarriages**... with the nations around them

Which led to... Their not keeping the Sabbath holy

Now they are freshly out after 70 years:

Slide 25



Slide 26



Slide 27



Then... says God... vs.14... "shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

God's intention is to bless us... not to take from us...
A couple verses later... He **makes plain our trouble:**

59:2 ...your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

Slide 28



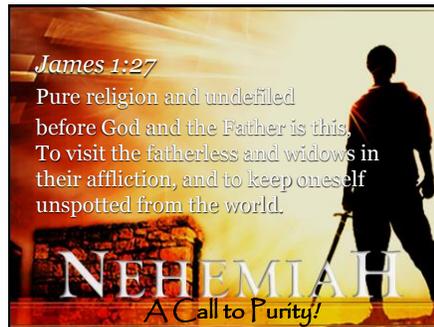
Got to love his zeal... he meant it too... as we will see

Nehemiah recognized... the decline of spirituality amongst his people... He recognized... the influence association with non-believers had had on them He recognized... both the positive consequences for heading God's principles and The inevitable negative consequences... their father's had reaped for not

Thus he was zealous to put a stop to their decline

What does James tell us?

Slide 29

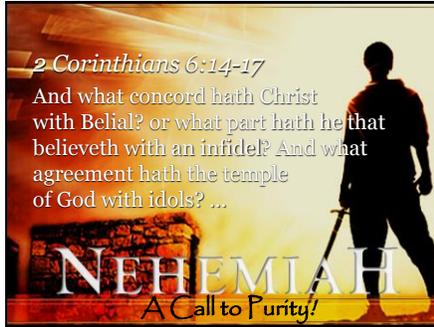


Over and over again... Israel and its kings were influenced negatively by their associations and alliances with the nations around them God pled with them through His prophets but they refused to listen... thus sin had its baneful affects So likewise... the Apostle Paul strongly counseled the NT believer:

Slide 30



Slide 31



Slide 32



Slide 33



Perhaps this has been an issue in your life...

Associations... are some of the strongest influences... for good and for evil

The devil is sly... He knows that we would not "physically" associate with evil wicked people

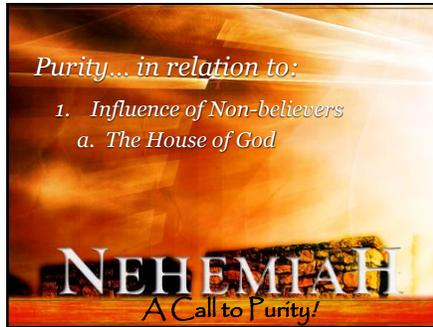
Yet he brings those same influences... into our homes though the media and video games

That they might have their influence on us... usually subtly over a long period of time...

And we wake up one day noticing we have changed

What council do we have?

What can we take away from Nehemiah chapter 13?



Defiling of God's house...

Today.. even the place of worship has become a common thing...

In an attempt to win the unbelievers... we have **appealed to their music** and their ways...

And **what has been the result?** Have we become more pure... more holy... more reverent?

Do we desire the pure unadulterated truth of the word... Or the things that tickle our ears?

People used to have a respect for the house of God... there was a veneration...

A sense that this place was holy... That we were to walk softly...

And that... the things said... the songs sung... and the things done in God's house

Were to be carefully... tastefully... and reverently considered

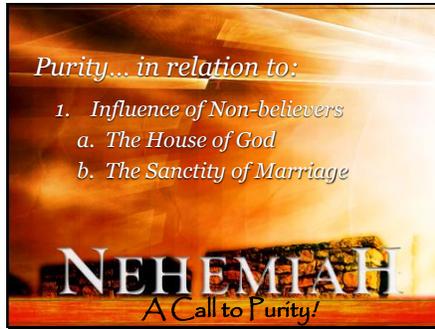
So... that they might bring honor and glory to the Lord...

Read the Scriptures... and you will find that all of heaven functions...

With the **utmost of reverence and respect** for the holiness of God

Eliashib... the priest none the less... had by the influence of unbelievers
Lost this sense of reverence and awe for the holy

What has so influenced us today?
Has our familiarity with the ways of the world... benumbed our sense of reverence or respect for the holy?



Defilement of the Sanctity of Marriage

I have a good friend... who's mother was an Adventist and the father was not

He and his brother grew up... with their fathers disdain for religion... and Although my friend has now changed his course... his brother never has

God made these restriction for our own peace and the purity of the faith to be passed to our children

The Jesus preached in most churches today... would never call for such sacrifices

But the Jesus of the Bible said:

Matthew 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

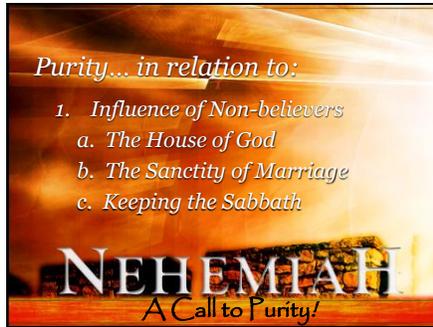
- For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.
- And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

- And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

The Jesus of the New Testament... is the God of Nehemiah... the God who calls for commitment for purity or holiness



What can we take from Nehemiah 13...
for our learning... An admonition for our time

Defiling the Sabbath...

We know... that the message of Revelation 14... is a message given by God's last day remnant
A message to come out... and to be not defiled by Babylon

We know... it is a message to restore the breach... a call back to the worship of the Creator

In contrast... to the worship of the beast... and the things of this world

We know... the issue will drawdown to allegiance... to purity the holiness...
To faith and willingness... to keep God's commandments

The call of Nehemiah... to purity... is a call of even greater importance... for us today...

Upon whom the ends of the world have to an admonition a call to be zealous a call to be faithful and true...

A call to clean house... A call to take up our cross... and follow Jesus... a call to honor God's holy Sabbath

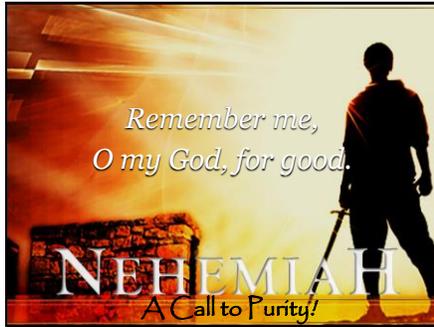
Nehemiah and the faithful... **have gone to their rest...** and they await... the coming of the Lord in glory
Now the task... of laying the foundations of many generations... rests with God's last day remnant

Will you be faithful... and answer the call?

That you... might claim the promise... of the heritage of Jacob our father

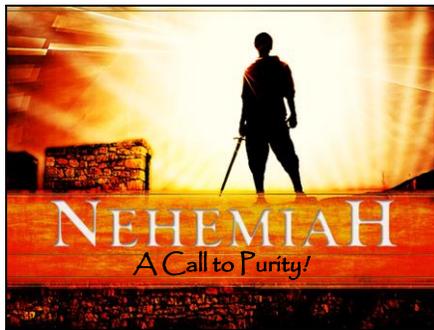
Then we like Nehemiah... will be able to pray:

Slide 37



May this be our confident prayer... while we too seek purity and holiness.

Slide 38



A Call to Purity
Nehemiah 13:30,31 (part 5 of 5 –prev.
Worthy to be Praised)
326 Open My Eyes That I May See
483 I Need Thee Every Hour