

The book of



chapters

10 — 13

Day 1

1. The Israelites have come a long way in their journey back to Israel. In Nehemiah 1-6, we read how God brought them back to the land of promise. He enabled them to rebuild the temple and later the walls of Jerusalem. Then in chapter 7, we read that the restoration work had been completed and assignments of duties were given. In Nehemiah 8, Ezra stood before the people and read the Book of the Law of Moses. This was followed by celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time in over seventy years. The Feast of Tabernacles lasted seven days. During this time the people remembered and rejoiced at the goodness of God to their ancestors. This feast was followed by a time of confession, repentance, and rededication of the people to their God. Nehemiah 9 closed with the writing of a covenant which was sealed as a binding agreement for God's people, Israel. Please read or listen to Nehemiah 10-13.

2. In Nehemiah 10:1-27, there are three distinct groups who put their seal on this covenant scroll?

The _____ Nehemiah 10:1-8 How many?

The _____ Nehemiah 10:9-13 How many?

The _____ Nehemiah 10:14-27 How many?

What do you believe was the significance of these men sealing the document with their personal seal?

What do we do today that signifies we are binding ourselves to an agreement?

3. In Nehemiah 10:28-29 we see that even though not every man present placed a seal on the scroll that day, it was no less binding. What did they bind themselves with?

“all these now join their fellow Israelites the nobles, and bind themselves with a _____ and an _____ to follow the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God and to _____ carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the LORD our Lord.” Nehemiah 10:29 NIV

4. In verse 29, specifically what were they promising to do?

5. The people made a solemn promise in verses 30-33. Specifically, what did they promise to do?

6. If you were with us for our study of Daniel, you may recall the reason for the 70 years of Babylonian captivity. Read 2 Chronicles 36:20-21, what was going on in Israel while the children of Israel were in captivity?

7. When God gives a command what is the only proper response?

8. The children of Israel had neglected the Sabbatical year of rest for the land. God had been very clear in his instructions. Farmers today understand the why behind allowing the land to rest. Allowing the soil to have a specific period of rest gives it an opportunity to replenish nutrients naturally. Studies have shown that a field that has been allowed to lie fallow for just a year produces a higher crop yield when it is planted. Knowing these findings helps us see at least part of the reason God had instructed the Israelites to observe a Sabbath rest for the land every seven years. What would be the result of continual farming on a piece of land?

9. Thinking about this Sabbatical rest for the land, did God have their best interest at heart?

10. What affect should knowing the children of Israel went into a 70-year captivity because of their repeated rebellion and disobedience to God's commands, have on our day-to-day decisions?

Has God changed in his desire to be obeyed?

11. What do you know about the plans of God toward his people? Read Jeremiah 29:10-11.

12. After this time of discipline and correction, God brought them back into the land of Promise. In Jeremiah 29:12-13, what promises are made by God?

13. Read Hebrews 4:14-16 “Therefore, since we have a _____ who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is _____ to _____ with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been _____ in _____, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace _____, so that we may receive mercy and find grace _____ us in our time of need.”

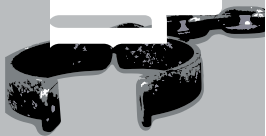
14. What personal application could be made from all we have seen so far in this chapter?

15. Looking back at Hebrews 4:16, highlight or underline what the child of God receives when we come before God’s throne of grace. We do not want to miss this good news!

Think of a situation or a relationship issue where you need help, now take a few minutes to come boldly before God’s throne knowing this is where you will find grace to help.

16. Read 1 John 5:14-15, in what way do these verses encourage your walk of faith?

17. Nehemiah 10:30-37 states very clearly what the children of Israel are promising to do. What did they promise? Be as specific as possible.



18. Do you believe the Israelites were sincere?

Do you believe they meant their promise, “We will not neglect the house of our God.”?

Day 2

19. Now let’s take a few minutes to look at Nehemiah 11. You might like to quickly listen to this chapter one more time before answering the questions. This chapter explains the repopulation of Jerusalem. This city had been left, virtually abandoned for 70+ years. The temple has been rebuilt, the walls restored, and now it is time to repopulate the city of Jerusalem. Nehemiah had not orchestrated this rebuilding project to let it quickly fall into the hands of an enemy force and be destroyed again.

We are told in Nehemiah 11:1, “the _____ of the people settled in Jerusalem.” This is a wonderful example for all leaders. When we are attempting to follow God, we should be the first to move in obedience. John Maxwell, in his book *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*, said, “The world has never seen a great leader who lacked commitment. If you want to be an effective leader, you must be committed. True commitment inspires and attracts people.”

Stop for a few moments and consider the areas God has you leading others. Name the areas where you are considered a leader.

How are you doing as a leader?

What ideas have you gleaned from your study of Nehemiah to improve your leadership?

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20. What decision making method was used to repopulate Jerusalem?

This was a very common way of making decisions at that time. Read Proverbs 16:33, 18:18, what truths do these verses teach about this method of decision making?

If you are a follower of Jesus, what has God given to help us make wise decisions?

21. One of every ten men were chosen to move into the city of Jerusalem. What might they be giving up?

What might that mean for their chosen profession?

How well do you deal with change?

22. Look at the map at the end of this lesson. Two tribes are mentioned in Nehemiah 11, Do you recall where their land allotment was? If you would like to read the specific allotment, see Joshua 15:1-12 and Joshua 18:11-28.

Do you see why these two tribes were the ones chosen to repopulate Jerusalem?

23. Nehemiah 11: 4-6 lists the men as descendants of _____.

Nehemiah 11: 7-9 lists the men as descendants of _____.

Nehemiah 11: 10-14 lists the names of the _____.

Nehemiah 11: 15-18 lists the names of the _____.

Nehemiah 11:19-20 lists the names of the _____.

Nehemiah 11:21 lists the names of the _____.

Nehemiah 11:22-23 these were the _____.

Nehemiah 11:24 this man was the _____.



24. Even though most of these names seem rather unfamiliar to us, they are important to God. He assigned them the task of caring for, protecting, and repopulating his holy city. According to Nehemiah 11:2, how did the people feel about those who voluntarily moved into Jerusalem?

25. Think about the last unsung hero you know or heard of on the news. What made that person a hero?

Being a hero does not always require a monumental act of bravery. What does it require? Talk about this in your small group.

26. Why do you believe volunteering to move into Jerusalem would be considered commendable?

Can you imagine moving back into a city that had been covered in rubble for all those years?

27. The children of Israel had gone through a very long season of disobedience which distanced them from God's blessings for over seventy years. God has allowed them to return, and they are enjoying a sweet season of peace. Assignments and responsibilities had been designated, then in verse 20 we see life is beginning to return to a normal routine. Have you ever experienced a season like that, one of repentance, return, and peace?

Without giving details, think of a word that would describe how you felt.

Day 3

28. Let's look at Nehemiah 12. It describes in detail those who led in worship and thanksgiving to God. Many of the priests and Levites are specifically named. In verse 8 several Levites are named. See Nehemiah 11:17 and 12:8; what was Mattaniah in charge of?



What great ministry were he and his listed associates assigned?

What might be true of a person chosen for this assignment?

29. Do you know anyone who leads worship, singing songs of thanksgiving?

What are some qualities a worship leader might possess?

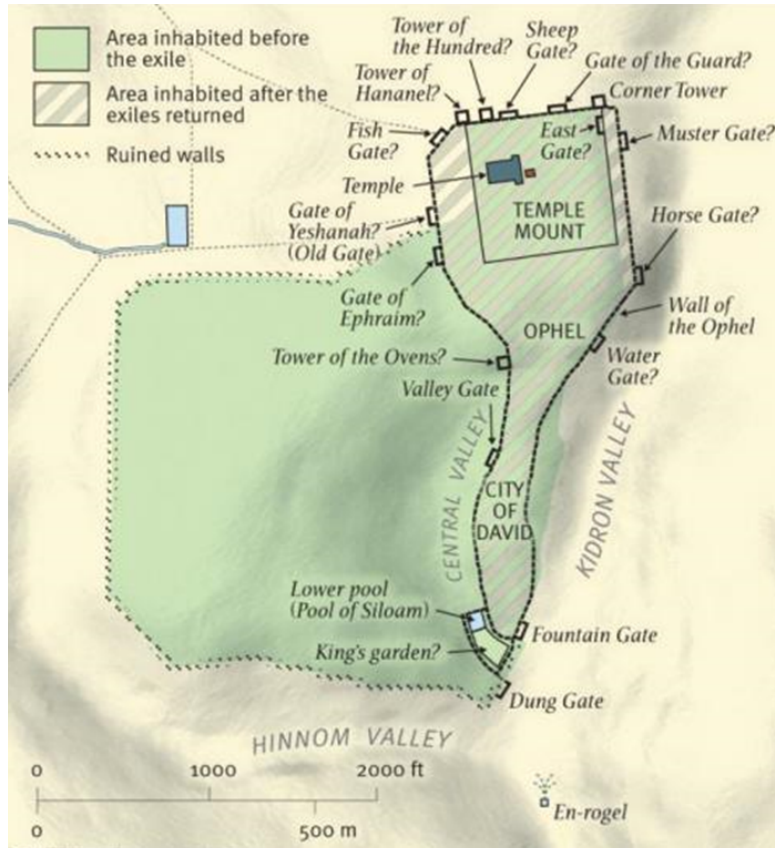
30. If we are to lead others in worship of our God, we must have a heart for God and a love for people. What are some of the ways you express your love for God in worship and praise?

31. What are some of the ways you express love for people that would lead them to worship God?

32. King David appointed 24 priests, chosen from the descendants of Eleazar and Ithamar, to serve in the temple (See 1 Chronicles 24:1-5). In Nehemiah 12:1-7 we see the list of 22 leaders of the priests who had returned from Baylon with Zerubbabel and Jeshua. The explanation for this difference in the number of priests could be, family lines die out if no sons are born or so no one from those two families chose to return to Jerusalem. The important thing to note is the care given to recording the names for future generations. If we look at verses 7, 12, 22, 26, 46, 47 we see a repeated phrase, “in the days of...” Pay close attention to verses 46-47; note the comparison. What do you learn from these verses?

33. Let's spend some time looking at Nehemiah 12:27-43. Using the map of the city of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's day, highlight in different colors, the paths taken by the two large choirs assembled for the dedication of the wall.

The Map of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's Day



34. Nehemiah 12:44-47 tell us these were trustworthy men who were placed in charge of the storerooms. These storerooms had been prepared for the contributions. Why was this such an important responsibility?

What were these contributions?

What were these contributions to be used for?

Who does the tithe belong to?



35. Nehemiah served as the leader and governor of Judea for 12 years. Do you recall the king's questions in Nehemiah 2:4-6?

Read Nehemiah 2:1, what year did Nehemiah hear the news about Jerusalem?

Read Nehemiah 13:1-6, where is Nehemiah?

What year is mentioned in Nehemiah 13:6?

Day 4

36. While Nehemiah is in Susa carrying out his duties as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, scripture tells us the Book of Moses is being read to the people in Jerusalem. What clear instructions were noticed that had previously been forgotten? Read Nehemiah 13:1-2

37. Bonus points for this question.

If you like to do research, you might read the book of Malachi. It will only take a few minutes to listen to it read aloud with the YouVersion Bible app. These four short chapters tell the story of all that was going on after Nehemiah returned to serve King Artaxerxes. Read Nehemiah 9:38 and Nehemiah 10:39. After reading Malachi, would you say the people were faithful to their words?

38. In Nehemiah 13:1-3 the Book of Moses was read aloud to the people, what area of disobedience was brought to their attention?

When the people heard this law what did they do?

39. Think back over all that we have seen in our study of Ezra and Nehemiah this semester. Do you believe this was the first time they had heard this command of God?



40. We have talked about it many times; the cycle of sin is no new thing. What can we do to avoid being trapped in the cycle of sin?

My friend, let me commend you. What you are doing here will be of great value to you and to those you lead.

41. Let's take a few minutes to look at Nehemiah 13:4-5. How had Eliashib, the priest, violated God's commands?

42. Do you recall reading about this man, Tobiah? Read Nehemiah 2:10, 19; 4:7; 6:1, 12, 14, 17-19.

In just a few words, write out what you learn about Tobiah.

43. From what you have seen concerning this man, Tobiah, was he the kind of person who should have been a close friend of a priest?

We, too, should choose our inner circle of friends carefully. Why might Eliashib have wanted to befriend a man like this?

44. What sin had this priest committed that was like the sin of King Belshazzar in Daniel 5?

45. When God sanctifies something how are we to treat it?

The definition of sanctify is to set apart to a sacred purpose. Specifically, what sacred thing had been used for a purpose other than God intended?

46. What was Jesus' prayer for all who follow him? Read John 17:17-19.



47. If you are a child of God, you have been sanctified for his service. How are you treating what God has sanctified?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8. If God has set you apart, what should you be careful to do?

48. Read Exodus 20:8, think about your Sabbath day, do you believe it lines up with God's intended purpose or should you make some changes?

49. The scripture said that "some time later" Nehemiah asked permission to return to Jerusalem. When he arrived what did he learn had been going on in his absence?

Nehemiah 13:7

Nehemiah 13: 10

Nehemiah 13:15-18

50. Nehemiah calls the Levites to purify themselves, then go about the work that had been commanded. This question may seem repetitive but bear with me. We do not want to miss the importance of following God's commands carefully. Look at Nehemiah 13:7-8, 10a and 10b, what had the people been doing that would be displeasing to the LORD?

51. When Nehemiah learned about all that had been going on in his absence what was his attitude toward the people? Nehemiah 13:8, 11

52. What did Nehemiah do to get things back in proper order? Make a list of his steps of restoration in Nehemiah 13:11-13.

53. In Nehemiah 13:15-18, what is the next problem Nehemiah hears about and addresses?

54. Read Nehemiah 13:19-22; what did Nehemiah do to remedy this wicked sin?

55. Even though Nehemiah is doing all he can to keep the people from disobeying God, we read how the foreign merchants did not want to take no for an answer. They were camping outside the city of Jerusalem. This was too close for comfort. Nehemiah wanted them to leave and not return until the Sabbath was over. What did he say he would do if they did not obey?

56. We should do what we can to make sin difficult for ourselves and for others. Ephesians 4:27 warns us to “not give the devil a foothold.” The word “foothold” is the Greek word *Topos* and is defined as place, any portion or space marked off. If God is speaking to you about a particular thing you struggle with, what is the best way to avoid it?

57. Nehemiah 13:23, tells us of another sin they had been committing. Does this sin surprise you?

Was this hard to imagine after all the trouble and heartache so many of them had gone through only a few years earlier?

58. How upset was Nehemiah?

Read Nehemiah 13:25-26, what did he do?



59. Why did God warn them against doing this?

Nehemiah reminds them what happened to King Solomon when he married foreign women. What influence did they have on King Solomon?

Solomon loved God and he was loved by God. What does this show about our ability to withstand sin when we provide sin an opportunity?

60. Nehemiah 13:24 tells us that half of their children spoke the language of _____. They did not speak the language of _____. This is how bad things have gotten; they are not even teaching their children to speak their native language.

61. Which leader's family was involved in this repeated act of sin and rebellion against God? Read Nehemiah 13:28-29

62. Don't you wish the book of Nehemiah ended like so many books today, "and everyone lived happily ever after?" Why is it so difficult for people to remain faithful to God?

63. What is it about the heart that draws us to do what we know is wrong? Read Jeremiah 17:9-10 to help you answer this question.

64. According to Jeremiah 17:10, would you say it is God's desire to catch us sinning or reward our good conduct?

What are some of the "rewards" you may have enjoyed?

65. Read Jeremiah 17:5-8, what are the problems for those who refuse to follow God's plan?

What are the blessings for those who serve God well?



Biblical References

Day 1

Question 6 - 2 Chronicles 36:20-21

²⁰ He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power. ²¹ The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the

LORD spoken by Jeremiah.

Question 11 - Jeremiah 29:10-11

¹⁰ This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Question 12 - Jeremiah 29:12-13

¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Question 13 - Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Question 16 - 1 John 5:14-15

¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Day 2

Question 20 - Proverbs 16:33

³³ The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 18:18

Casting the lot settles disputes and keeps strong opponents apart.

Question 22 - Joshua 15:1-12

¹ The allotment for the tribe of Judah, according to its clans, extended down to the territory of Edom, to the Desert of Zin in the extreme south. ² Their southern boundary started from the bay at the southern end of the Dead Sea, ³ crossed south of Scorpion Pass, continued on to Zin and went over to the south of Kadesh Barnea. Then it ran past Hezron up to Addar and curved around to Karka. ⁴ It then passed along to Azmon and joined the Wadi of Egypt, ending at the Mediterranean Sea. This is their[a] southern boundary. ⁵ The eastern boundary is the Dead Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan. The northern boundary started from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan, ⁶ went up to Beth Hoglah and continued north of Beth Arabah to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben. ⁷ The boundary then went up to Debir from the Valley of Achor and turned north to Gilgal, which faces the Pass of Adummim south of the gorge. It continued along to the waters of En Shemesh and came out at En Rogel. ⁸ Then it ran up the Valley of Ben Hinnom along the southern slope of the Jebusite city (that is, Jerusalem).

From there it climbed to the top of the hill west of the Hinnom Valley at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim. ⁹From the hilltop the boundary headed toward the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, came out at the towns of Mount Ephron and went down toward Baalah (that is, Kiriath Jearim). ¹⁰Then it curved westward from Baalah to Mount Seir, ran along the northern slope of Mount Jearim (that is, Kesalon), continued down to Beth Shemesh and crossed to Timnah. ¹¹It went to the northern slope of Ekron, turned toward Shikkeron, passed along to Mount Baalah and reached Jabneel. The boundary ended at the sea.¹² The western boundary is the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea. These are the boundaries around the people of Judah by their clans.

Joshua 18:11-28

¹¹The first lot came up for the tribe of Benjamin according to its clans. Their allotted territory lay between the tribes of Judah and Joseph: ¹²On the north side their boundary began at the Jordan, passed the northern slope of Jericho and headed west into the hill country, coming out at the wilderness of Beth Aven. ¹³From there it crossed to the south slope of Luz (that is, Bethel) and went down to Ataroth Addar on the hill south of Lower Beth Horon. ¹⁴From the hill facing Beth Horon on the south the boundary turned south along the western side and came out at Kiriath Baal (that is, Kiriath Jearim), a town of the people of Judah. This was the western side. ¹⁵The southern side began at the outskirts of Kiriath Jearim on the west, and the boundary came out at the spring of the waters of Nephtoah. ¹⁶The boundary went down to the foot of the hill facing the Valley of Ben Hinnom, north of the Valley of Rephaim. It continued down the Hinnom Valley along the southern slope of the Jebusite city and so to En Rogel. ¹⁷It then curved north, went to En Shemesh, continued to Geliloth, which faces the Pass of Adummim, and ran down to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben. ¹⁸It continued to the northern slope of Beth Arabah and on down into the Arabah. ¹⁹It then went to the northern slope of Beth Hoglah and came out at the northern bay of the Dead Sea, at the mouth of the Jordan in the south. This was the southern boundary. ²⁰The Jordan formed the boundary on the eastern side. These were the boundaries that marked out the inheritance of the clans of Benjamin on all sides. ²¹The tribe of Benjamin, according to its clans, had the following towns: Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz, ²²Beth Arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, ²³Avvim, Parah, Ophrah, ²⁴Kephar Ammoni, Ophni and Geba—twelve towns and their villages. ²⁵Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, ²⁶Mizpah, Kephirah, Mozah, ²⁷Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, ²⁸Zelah, Haeleph, the Jebusite city (that is, Jerusalem), Gibeah and Kiriath—fourteen towns and their villages. This was the inheritance of Benjamin for its clans.

Question 32 - 1 Chronicles 24:1-5



¹These were the divisions of the descendants of Aaron: The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ²But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did, and they had no sons; so Eleazar and Ithamar served as the priests. ³With the help of Zadok a descendant of Eleazar and Ahimelek a descendant of Ithamar, David separated them into divisions for their appointed order of ministering. ⁴A larger number of leaders were found among Eleazar's descendants than among Ithamar's, and they were divided accordingly: sixteen heads of families from Eleazar's descendants and eight heads of families from Ithamar's descendants. ⁵They divided them impartially by casting lots, for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials of God among the descendants of both Eleazar and Ithamar.

Question 35 - Nehemiah 2:4-6

⁴The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.” ⁶Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

Nehemiah 2:1

¹In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before,



Question 37 - Nehemiah 9:38 “In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it.”

Nehemiah 10:39 “...We will not neglect the house of our God.”

Question 42 - Nehemiah 2:10, 19

¹⁰When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

¹⁹But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?”

Nehemiah 4:7

⁷But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry.

Nehemiah 6:1, 12, 14, 17-19

¹When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates—

¹²I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

¹⁴Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, my God, because of what they have done; remember also the prophet Noadiah and how she and the rest of the prophets have been trying to intimidate me.

¹⁷Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. ¹⁸For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

Question 46 - John 17:17-19

¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Question 47 - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

¹As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

Question 48 - Exodus 20:8

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”



Question 56 - Ephesians 4:27 “...and do not give the devil a foothold.”

Question 63 - Jeremiah 17:9-10

⁹The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ¹⁰“I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”

Question 65- Jeremiah 17:5-8

⁵This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. ⁷“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”