

*“Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did... Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.” (1 Cor. 10:6, 11)*

*Deliverance from Egypt did not mean ultimate deliverance. Israel had to pass through a time of travail and testing in the desert before they could enter the promise land. In the same way, deliverance won by Christ’s death and resurrection does not mean that believers are whisked away to safety and can skip the perilous wilderness journey. They face the same dangers and temptations in their pagan wasteland that foiled the Israelites...10:5 reveals that what eventually happened to Israel ran counter to what one might expect after they had received such divine blessings. That God was not pleased with “most of them” is an understatement since only two, Joshua and Caleb, survived and entered the promised land...The assertion that “these things happened as examples,” unfurls Paul’s understanding of the Scriptures. He believes that “whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope” The Scriptures do not only offer hope; they also contain warnings. The rebellious Israelites were destroyed in the wilderness as a testimony, so we should take heed...The Corinthian Christians now face the desert. An array of dangers surrounds them, as it did Israel, as they make their way. They find themselves now at a critical juncture where the choices they make mean life or death. Receiving God’s spiritual blessings does not exempt them from God’s judgment. – David Garland, Baker Exegetical Commentary, 1 Corinthians 10*

*Therefore let anyone who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall...*

**MY RESPONSE:** Read 1 Corinthians 10:11-13. We all have areas of spiritual battle that require us to “take heed” so we don’t fall. Describe one area where you need to remain on guard in your own walk.

Nehemiah is an account of God restoring Israel despite their unfaithfulness. Share a story of God’s restoration in your own life.



A \_\_\_\_\_ of Brokenness

A \_\_\_\_\_ of Restoration

I Corinthians 10:1-12

**TIME WITH GOD:** If you don't currently have a Bible reading plan, you can download "Our Time with God" at [spcc.tv/resources](http://spcc.tv/resources)

**REFLECTIONS:** Whether you're using SPCC's reading plan or a different one, think about your time hearing and responding to Jesus this week. As you journaled your conversations with Him, what is one thing you felt Him speaking to you about?

---

**SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION:** What stood out to you in Jim's opening message to our Nehemiah series? Did you have any questions?

*"Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope" (Rom. 15:4)*

*The history of the world is a field strewn with broken stones, which are sacred altars designed to awaken worship in the hearts of those who will take the time to read and remember. "I shall remember the deeds of the Lord, surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will meditate on all Your work and muse on Your deeds. Your way, O God, is holy; what god is great like our God?" The aim of providence in the history of the world is the worship of the people of God. Ten thousand stories of grace and truth are meant to be remembered for the refinement of faith and the sustaining of hope and the guidance of love. Those who nurture their hope in the history of grace will live their lives to the glory of God – John Piper, The Legacy of Sovereign Joy*

**MY PERSPECTIVE:** Are you a person who usually finishes what they start (projects, new hobbies, diets, exercise regimens, etc.)? Is there something you meant to follow through on this year but never did? Describe.

**DIGGING DEEPER:** Read the following verses: Exodus 19:3-8, 16-19; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. As Paul summarizes Israel's rebellion, he makes it plain that encounters with God don't guarantee someone will persevere in faith. Describe some things that can lead people to turn away from God.

*Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction... (1 Corinthians 10:11)*

Think about Israel's spiritual journey: from the high point of the exodus from Egypt to the low of their rebellion against God. Describe one thing you can learn from their example that applies to your own walk with Christ.