



Sermon Series Notes

"A Record Keeping God" (Nehemiah 7)

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I. THE TEXT

v.5a I never want to make a move in life or ministry unless the Lord puts it in my heart. How do I know that what is in my heart is from the Lord?

* Psalm 37: 4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

* Luke 12: 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

v.5b Those who were first to return had the first opportunity to live in the city of Jerusalem.

v.59b Is this the guy that invented "Texas Hold 'em?"

v.65b The Urim and Thummim were associated with the high priest's breastplate. The words are traditionally translated "lights and perfections." Urim is believed to have been a "no" or "guilty" answer, while Thummim was believed to be "yes" or innocent.

* I Sam.28: 6 And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

* Ex.28: 30 Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron's heart whenever he enters the presence of the LORD. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD.

* Lev.8: 8 He placed the breastpiece on him (Aaron) and put the Urim and Thummim in the breastpiece.

* See Num.27:15-23

vv.68-69 Very interesting. God thought it was important to tell us how many animals made the trip.

* Eccl.3: 21 Who knows if the spirit of man rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?"

* God really cares about animals. We know there are horses in heaven.

II. LESSONS

A. God Keeps Records

* Mal.3: 16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

* Numbers 21: 14 That is why the Book of the Wars of the LORD says: ". . . Waheb in Suphah and the ravines, the Arnon

* He's really into detail

* Luke 12: 6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies ? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.
7 Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

* Numbers of hair changes from year to year! It takes God a whole lot less time to count mine these days

B. The Records In The Text

1. A record of those who returned from captivity

* This is specifically a record of those who were the **first** to return.

* Why didn't everyone return at the same time? Some never returned. Why?
Some people were comfortable in captivity.
- Rich young ruler

* Some people are ignorant of their captivity (See John 8:31-36).

* Some people are still captive after believing in Jesus Christ (See Acts 8:13-23).

2. A family record

* Without their family record they could not partake of the sacred food. They were considered unclean.

* Note: v.65b, God knows the truth

* Matt.13:24-30

* Does God have you recorded as a member of his family? If so, he has declared you clean in His sight

- Zech.3:1-5; Rev.19:7-8 (Not a works righteousness, but a righteousness that produces works; James 2).

* II Tim.2: 19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

3. A record of service

* Priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, & temple servants.

4. Giving Record

* Philippians 4: 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account.

* "Credited" in KJV = "abound" (4121. pleonazo, pleh-on-ad'-zo; from G4119; to do, make or be more, i.e. increase (trans. or intrans.); by extens. to superabound:--abound, abundant, make to increase, have over.).

* What I give to the work of the Lord not only helps to meet needs in God's kingdom, but it increases my heavenly investment.

* Some people stunt their spiritual growth because they have never made a habit of honoring the Lord with their wealth (Luke 16:11).