Five Key Promises

• Neh 10:30—We will not give our daughters in marriage to foreigners
• Neh 10:31—We will not buy or sell on the Sabbath
• Neh 10:35-37—We will bring our first fruits to the Levites and support them
• Neh 10:39—We will not neglect the house of God
• Neh 13:1—foreigners (foes of Israel) will not enter the sanctuary of God

“Filling the Void of Leadership”
Action Verbs of Chapter 13

• “I threw out (8); I gave orders (9); I confronted (11); I gathered & stationed (11); I appointed (13); I warned (15); I rebuked (17); I ordered (19); I commanded (22); I chased (28).”

• “And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take an oath in the name of God ...” (25)
Nehemiah 13:1, 6-7

• “On that day ...” (ESV)

• “While this was taking place, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king. And after some time I asked leave of the king and came to Jerusalem, and I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done ...” (ESV)
The Timing

• **Nehemiah** first goes to Jerusalem in 445 B.C.—20\(^{\text{th}}\) year of the king. (Neh 1:1)

• **Nehemiah** stays in Jerusalem for 12 years, returning to Susa in 433 B.C.—32\(^{\text{nd}}\) year of the king (Neh 13:6)

• “After some time,” he asks the King permission to return back to Jerusalem—the king dies in 423 B.C. (Neh 13:6)

• **Conclusion**: Nehemiah had been away from Jerusalem for less than 10 years.
MISTAKE #1
THE ENEMY WITHIN

“No Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter into the assembly of God” (13:1)
Deuteronomy 23:3-4

“No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever ... because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.”

(ESV)
Nehemiah 2:19-20

“But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said ... ‘Are you rebelling against the king?’ Then I replied to them, ‘The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.’” (ESV)
“No Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God ...”

(Neh 13:1, ESV)
MISTAKE #2
TOBIAH IN THE TEMPLE

“I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, preparing for him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.” (13:7)
Israel’s Promise

“We shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are ... We will not neglect the house of our God.” (10:39, ESV)
Nehemiah 13:8-9

“And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber. Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.” (ESV)
MISTAKE #3
LEVITES IN THE FIELDS

“I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them, so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had fled each to his field.” (10)
“We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the LORD ... and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.”

(10:35, 37, ESV)
MISTAKE #4
PROFANING THE SABBATH

“Tyrians ... who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath ... profaning the Sabbath” (16-17)
Israel’s Promise

“And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day.”

(10:31, ESV)
MISTAKE #5
A MOCKERY OF MARRIAGE

“I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah” (23-24)
Israel’s Promise

“We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.”

(10:30, ESV)
Nehemiah 13:28

“And one of the sons of Jehoiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite.” (ESV)
How quickly we forget God’s word and our own promises.

If Godly men & women don’t take up the mantle of leadership, the void will be filled by others.

We need people of integrity who will take a stand for God, rather than being molded and assimilated into the culture around us.

To disobey is wrong, but to fail to keep our promises to God is worse still.
Nehemiah 13:14

“Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service.” (ESV)
Who will be willing to stand up for Godly principles and fill the void of leadership?