

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

Nehemiah 13:23-31

¹¹ So I contended with the rulers, and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” And I gathered them together and set them in their place.



WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

HEARTS ARE BEING
CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD

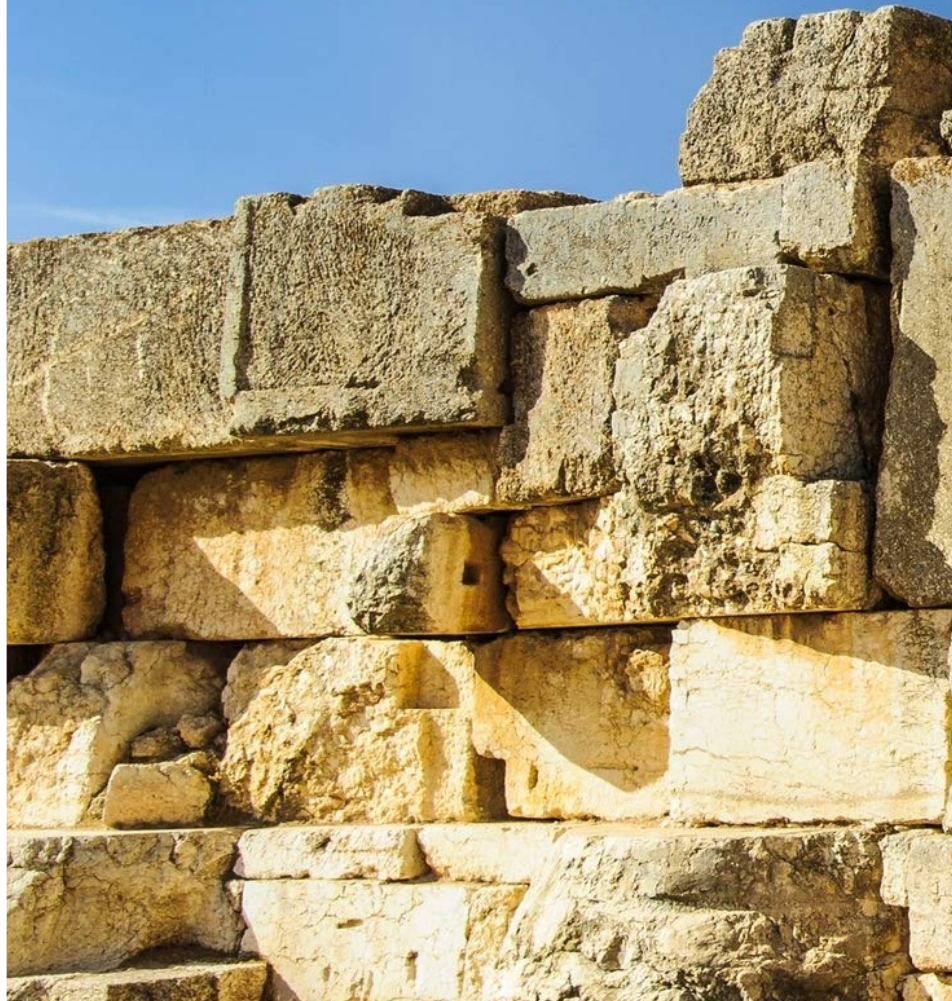
Nehemiah 13:23-31

¹¹ So I contended with the rulers, and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” And I gathered them together and set them in their place.

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

Leadership Lessons from the Book of Nehemiah

NEHEMIAH — ON — LEADERSHIP

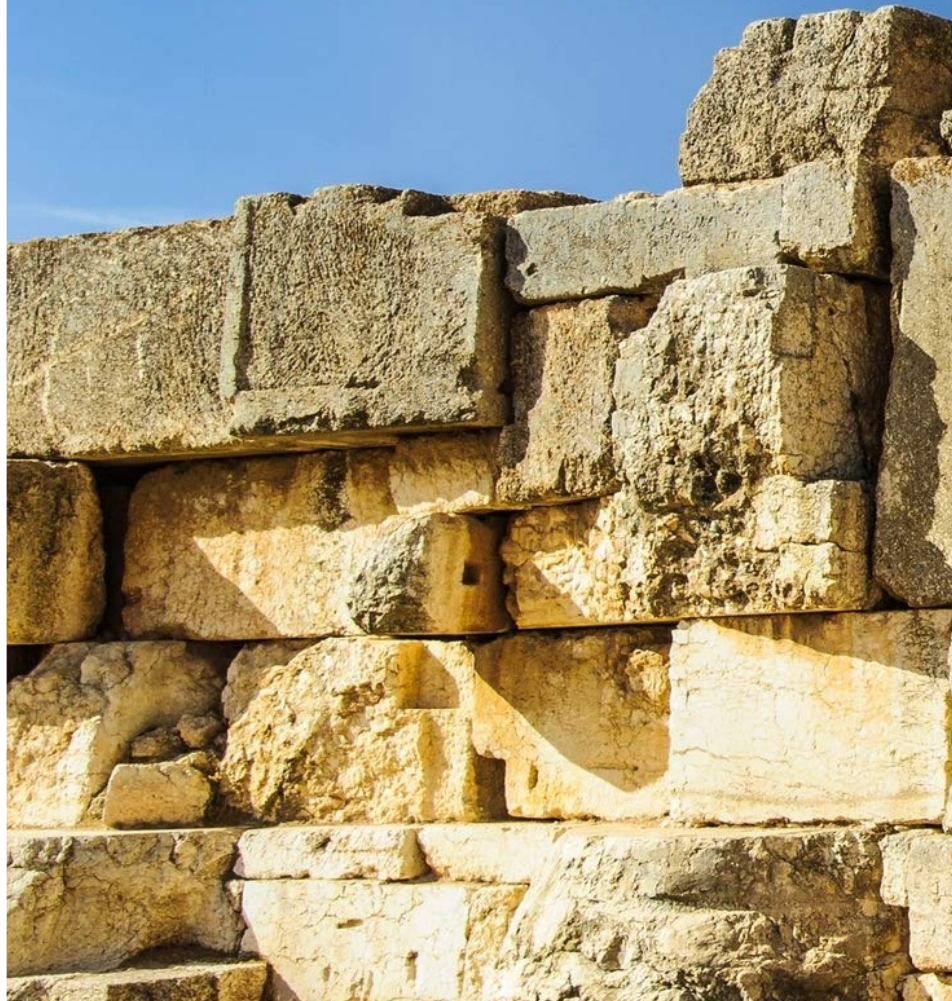


- The first 7 chapters of the book of Nehemiah deal with his return to the ancient site, and the rebuilding of the walls of the city.
- Chapters 8 - 12 deal with the reading of the law, and the efforts to restore a faithful observance of it.

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

Leadership Lessons from the Book of Nehemiah

NEHEMIAH — ON — LEADERSHIP



Nehemiah 13:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ So I contended with the rulers, and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” And I gathered them together and set them in their place.

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

Nehemiah 13:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ So I contended with the rulers, and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” And I gathered them together and set them in their place.



The question put forth by
Nehemiah is one which
needs to be asked today:
**“Why is the house of
God forsaken?”**

WHY IS "THE HOUSE OF GOD" FORSAKEN?

DISRESPECT

Musical Instruments

PRAISE TEAMS

Medical Missionaries

Construction Missionaries

Unlimited Benevolence

Youth Ministries

Gymnasiums

Day Care

Kindergarten

"Fellowship" Halls

Recreational Centers

Schools

Orphan Homes

Hospitals

WORSHIP LDERS

Ball Teams

Bus Ministries

Divorcee ministries

Elderly Ministries

Middle Age ministries

No wonder It's
Running Hot



WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

DISRESPECT FOR GOD’S HOUSE



MAKING APPLICATIONS

- We need Nehemiah’s & our Lord’s zeal towards God’s house! (John 2:13-17)
- The church needs to be cleansed from all things common, (human institutions, carnal activities, secular substitutes, social & political involvement, doctrines of men), (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1)
- The church’s spiritual worship & work restored! (1 Tim 3:15; Jn 4:24)



WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

WE MUST DEVELOP A DEEP & ABIDING

RESPECT FOR GOD'S HOUSE

EXPOSE THE ENEMIES of GOD'S HOUSE!

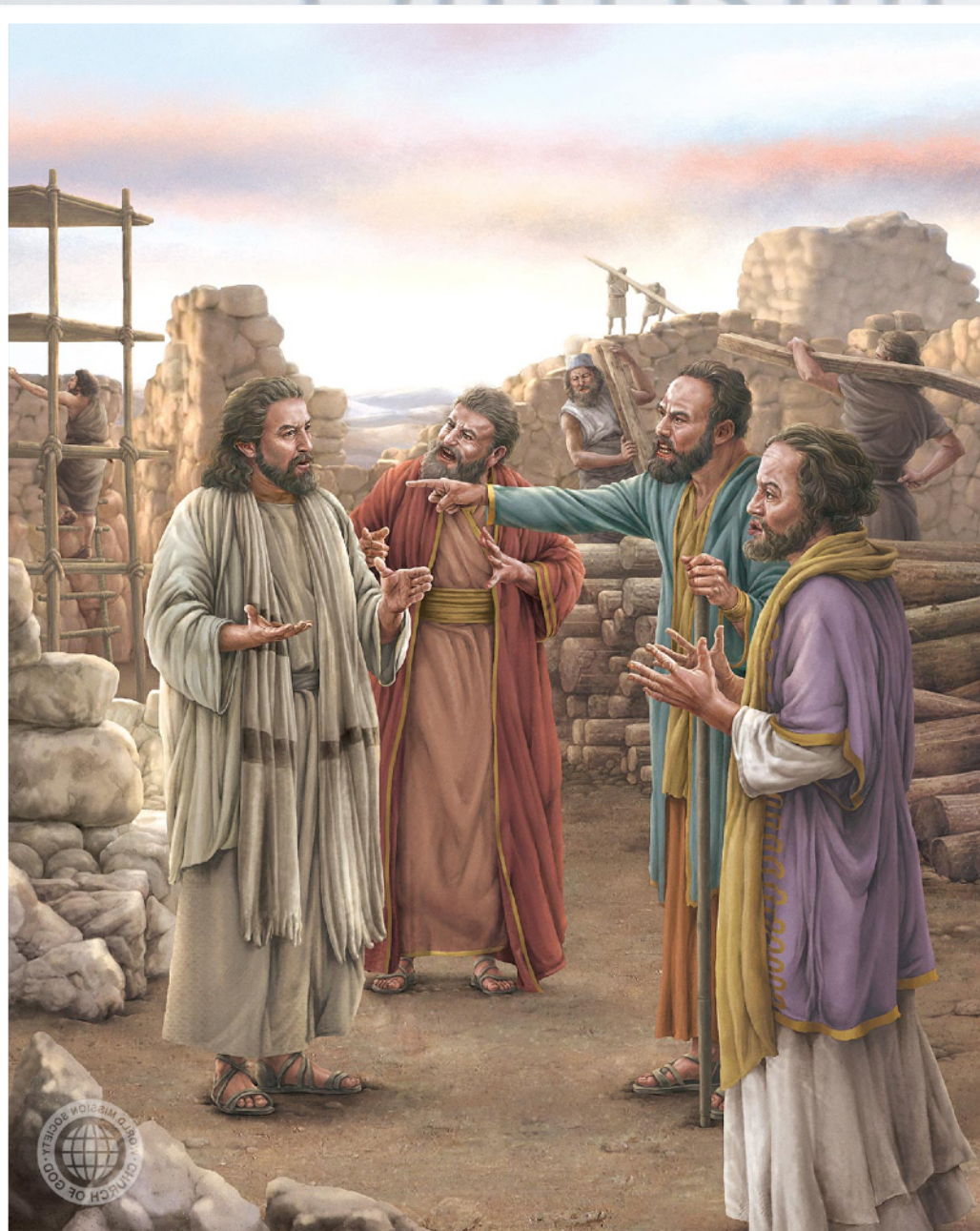
CAST OUT COMMON THINGS!

RESTORE N.T. WORSHIP & WORK

Nehemiah 13:4-31

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

MATERIALISTIC PRIORITIES



MAKING APPLICATIONS

When we have materialistic priorities, the support for those who serve is neglected (13:10-14)

When we have materialistic priorities both the purity and duty of our worship and service will be neglected (13:15-22)

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

WE WILL NOT FORSAKE GOD’S HOUSE IF WE GENUINELY

PRIORITIZE SPIRITUAL THINGS

SUPPORT GOD’S WORK & WORKERS

SET AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE

SEEK DAILY SPIRITUAL GROWTH

(Acts 17:11,12; 2 Peter 1:5-11)

Nehemiah 13:4-31

Nehemiah 13:23–31 (NKJV)

²³ In those days I also saw Jews *who* had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, *and* Moab. ²⁴ And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people. ²⁵ So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, *saying*, “You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves. ²⁶ Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin.

Nehemiah 13:23–31 (NKJV)

²⁷ Should we then hear of your doing all this great evil, transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women?” ²⁸ And *one* of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, *was* a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I drove him from me. ²⁹ Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites. ³⁰ Thus I cleansed them of everything pagan. I also assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service, ³¹ and *to bringing* the wood offering and the firstfruits at appointed times. Remember me, O my God, for good!

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD



MARRIED IDOLATROUS PEOPLE (13:23-29)

- The children of Israel had intermarried with the Philistines, Ammonites & Moabites, (23)
- ✎ *People they were specifically forbidden to marry (Ex. 34:12–16; Deut. 7:1–5))*
- Half the children spoke the language of Ashdod & not able to speak Hebrew (24)

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD



MARRIED IDOLATROUS PEOPLE (13:23-29)

- Nehemiah “struck them and pulled out their hair” & made them swear before God that they would not continue to commit this sin. (25)
- He reminded them of Solomon (26; cf. 1 Kings 11:1–8).
- This was wickedness - an act of unfaithfulness, for they had done “a great evil” (25-27)

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD



MARRIED IDOLATROUS PEOPLE (13:23-29)

- Eliashib's grandson had married a daughter of Sanballat – thus Nehemiah put him out (28)
- Nehemiah pleads with God to remember him for correcting those who had defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood (29)

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD



MAKING APPLICATIONS

- Beware of compromising companionships (Prov. 1:8ff; 4:14; Psa. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:33)
- Note – it is NOT a sin, in and of itself, to be married to an unbeliever - (2 Cor 6:14-7:1; 1 Cor. 7:12-16) - But - How can a Christian rationally justify marrying someone who is not?

WHY IS "THE HOUSE OF GOD" FORSAKEN?

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD

MAKING APPLICATIONS

■ Christians SHOULD NOT marry:

- ▶ An Atheist!
- ▶ An Idolator!
- ▶ A Muslim!
- ▶ A Jew!
- ▶ An unreligious person!
- ▶ A Denominational person!
- ▶ An unfaithful Christian!



WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD



MAKING APPLICATIONS

- It is vitally important for our children to be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:1-4)
- Too many children are not grounded in the scriptures - and are more familiar with the “worlds” language than God’s word (Eph 5:4-7; 1 Pet 4:11)

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD



MAKING APPLICATIONS

- Unbiblical speech reflects unbiblical beliefs (2 Tim. 2:16)
- ❌ “Salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone”
- ❌ “Baptism is **after** salvation”
- ❌ “Once saved, **always** saved”
- ❌ “We are born w/ a sinful nature”
- ❌ “Rapture / 7 yr. trib / Lit. 1k yr. reign”
- ❌ “Which church? Doesn’t matter”

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD



MAKING APPLICATIONS

- Many use Biblical terms but use them unbiblically (Rom 16:17,18)
- ❌ Pastor (preacher)
- ❌ Saving faith (no submission)
- ❌ Grace (excludes obedience)
- ❌ Fellowship (common meals)
- ❌ Christian (any professed believer)
- ❌ Baptism (spiritual / no water)

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD



MAKING APPLICATIONS

- Our speech **MUST** be authorized speech (Col. 3:17)
- ◆ Using Bible terms according to their contextual meaning (faith; works; Spirit; baptism; fellowship; pastor; church; etc.) (2 Pet. 4:11)
- ◆ Using terminology that accurately reflect the teaching of the scriptures (1 Ti. 6:3; Titus 2:8)

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD



MAKING APPLICATIONS

- HEARTS NEED TO BE PURIFIED BY THE WORD (Ep. 5:26,27)
 - ◆ Remain distinct from the world & error (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Pet 2:4-12)
 - ◆ By speaking as the oracles of God, i.e., preaching and teaching the word (2 Pet. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:1-4)
 - ◆ By believing, teaching and practicing only those things authorized by God's word (Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 1:13)



WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

BECAUSE OF:

DISRESPECT FOR GOD’S HOUSE

MATERIALISTIC PRIORITIES

HEARTS CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD

Nehemiah 13:4-31

¹¹ So I contended with the rulers, and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” And I gathered them together and set them in their place.



THE HOUSE OF THE LORD WILL NOT BE FORSAKEN

IF WE DEVELOP A DEEP & ABIDING

RESPECT FOR GOD'S HOUSE

EXPOSE THE ENEMIES of GOD'S HOUSE!

CAST OUT COMMON THINGS!

RESTORE N.T. WORSHIP & WORK

Nehemiah 13:4-31



THE HOUSE OF THE LORD WILL NOT BE FORSAKEN

IF WE GENUINELY

PRIORITIZE SPIRITUAL THINGS

SUPPORT GOD'S WORK & WORKERS

SET AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE

SEEK DAILY SPIRITUAL GROWTH

(Acts 17:11,12; 2 Peter 1:5-11)

Nehemiah 13:4-31



THE HOUSE OF THE LORD WILL NOT BE FORSAKEN

IF WE DO NOT ALLOW OUR
HEARTS TO BE CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD

RELATIONSHIPS THAT PROMOTE
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

LEARN & SPEAK WHAT THE
SCRIPTURES TEACH

REFUSE TO BE CONFORMED TO THE
WORLD (Romans 12:1,2)

Nehemiah 13:4-31

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD WILL NOT BE FORSAKEN

IF WE DO NOT ALLOW OUR

HEARTS TO BE CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Nehemiah 13:4-31

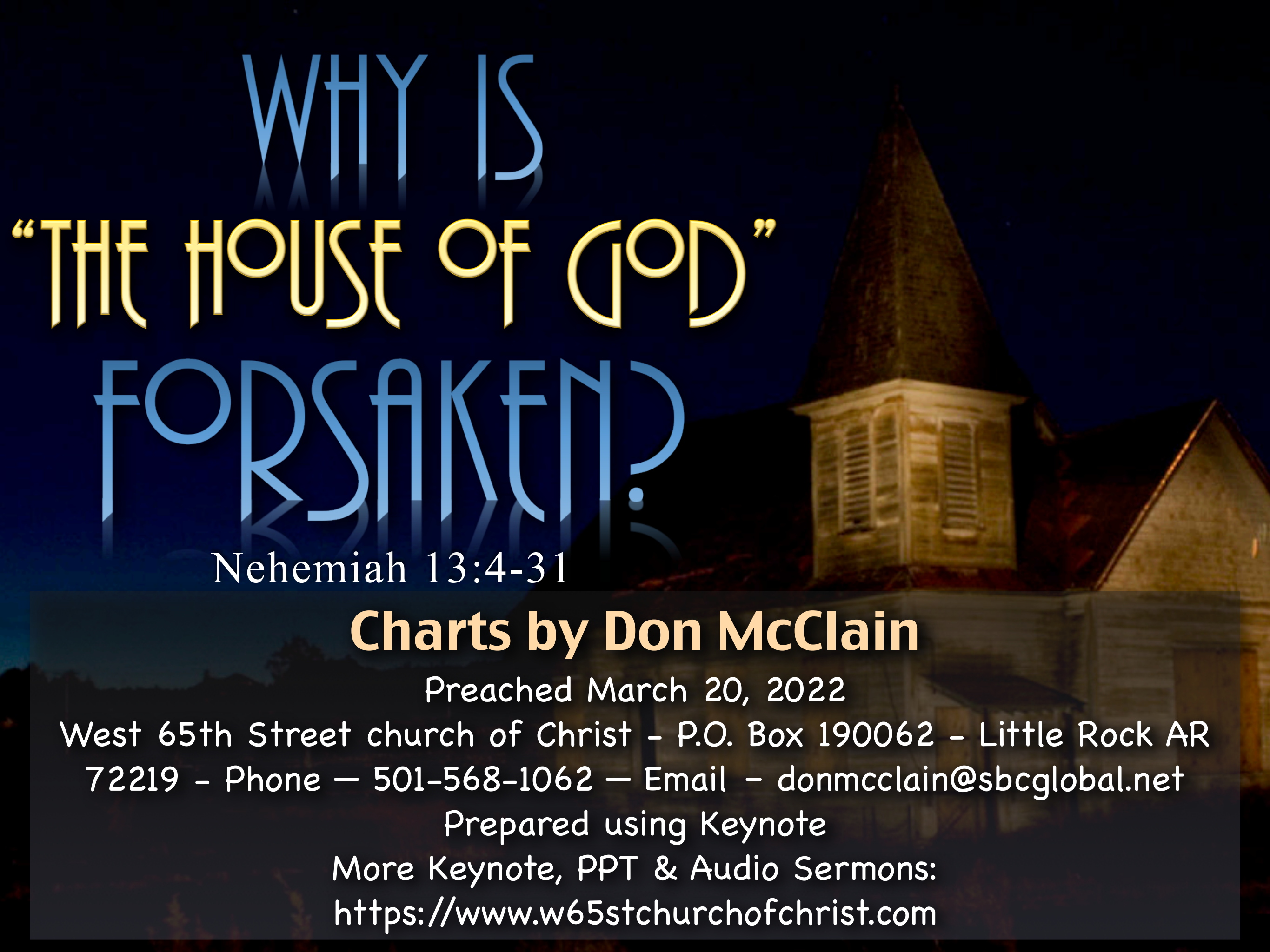
1 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

LET US NEVER BE QUILTY OF FORSAKING
“THE HOUSE OF GOD”

Nehemiah 13:4-31

¹¹ So I contended with the rulers, and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” And I gathered them together and set them in their place.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a church steeple at night. The steeple is illuminated from within, casting a warm glow against the dark blue night sky. The church building itself is partially visible, with its roof and some windows lit up. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

WHY IS “THE HOUSE OF GOD” FORSAKEN?

Nehemiah 13:4-31

Charts by Don McClain

Preached March 20, 2022

West 65th Street church of Christ – P.O. Box 190062 – Little Rock AR
72219 – Phone — 501-568-1062 — Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Prepared using Keynote

More Keynote, PPT & Audio Sermons:
<https://www.w65stchurchofchrist.com>

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: *“I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”* ¹⁷ Therefore *“Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”* ¹⁸ *“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”* 7:1 ¹ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.