

**BOOK OF NEHEMIAH  
THE COVENANT RENEWAL  
NEHEMIAH 10:1-39**

**Introduction**

**I. THE SIGNERS OF THE DOCUMENT. (10:1-27)**

The names in **Nehemiah 10:2-8** are those of **the heads of 21 priestly families** (cf. Nehemiah 12:12-21).

**Nehemiah 10:9-13** record **the names of 17 Levites**.

Then the writer gave **the names of 44 heads of other leading families**. (Nehemiah 10:14-27)

**II. THE RENEWED COMMITMENT OF THE PEOPLE.  
(10:28-39)**

Nehemiah explained in this chapter the agreement he had previously referred to in Nehemiah 9:38.

We saw how **Conviction of sin in Nehemiah 8** led to **Confession of sin in Nehemiah 9** and those together resulted in what we see in **Nehemiah 10—a renewal of the covenant with God**.

Nehemiah 10, despite opening with 27 verses of proper names, is in reality a small treasure house of interpretations of earlier Israelite law!

**We see the pledge to keep the Law 10:28-39!**

The rest of the restoration community joined those who signed their names pledging to obey the Mosaic Law ( **Nehemiah 10:28-29**).

The *"curse"* they took on themselves was submission to the curse that God promised would come on those who did not keep His Word! ( **Nehemiah 10:29; Deuteronomy 28:15-68**).

**"Law"** (Heb. torah) refers to all Gods instructions!

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*"Commandments"* are His rules!

*"Judgments"* are His judicial pronouncements! and

*"Statutes"* are His permanent decrees

(Nehemiah 10:29; cf. Deuteronomy 4:45).

**These Jews promised, specifically, not to intermarry with pagans!**  
(Nehemiah 10:30)

**They promised to keep the Sabbath day and the sabbatical year!**  
(Nehemiah 10:31).

**They further committed to support the temple service financially!**  
(Nehemiah 10:32-34)

**To give their firstfruits to God! (Nehemiah 10:35-37 a).**

**To pay their basic tithe tax! (Nehemiah 10:37-39).**

**The last sentence in Nehemiah 10:39 shows that the primary concern of the people was the worship that was the heart of their national life!** Their priorities were proper!

**The Law required Israelites 20 years old and older to pay one-half a shekel as a temple tax ( Exodus 30:11-16).**

**This particular congregation only promised one-third of a shekel (Nehemiah 10:32).**

Perhaps Nehemiah reduced the amount since the returned exiles were now poor (cf. Nehemiah 5:1-5). Another explanation may be that the people may have pledged this one-third shekel in addition to the other one-half. And even a third possibility is that a different system of evaluating the shekel had replaced the older one.

The text is not specific on this point.

In any case the people responded sacrificially!