



DEVOTION: June 4

Refresh Your Finances
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Babylonian captivity and the return to Jerusalem, accompanied by the rebuilding of the Temple and the wall, had created serious financial issues for many of the Israelites.

They were experience a “virtual” recession. Perhaps you can identify with their financial stress.

The specific commandments related to their finances were all driven by the central commitment to obey the commands, ordinances and statutes of the Lord our God. I have always been amazed that many Christians trust their eternal destiny to the integrity of God’s Word, but they remain unwilling to trust the reliability of God’s Word when it comes to their daily finances.

The key principle of Nehemiah 10:32-39 is found in the phrase, “we will bring ____ to the Lord year by year” (10:35). A form of this phrase is repeated four times in the span of three verses. The “refreshing of their finances” was first a reminder of their privilege to be stewards of all God created. Further, it was a celebration of God’s choice of Israel to join Him in His kingdom activity. A part of that kingdom activity involved he activities of worship, caring for the needy and expanding the kingdom to the ends of the earth — all of which require financial support.

What can we learn from this passage that can help us “refresh our finances?”

Everything begins with a renewed commitment to live by the financial principles taught in God’s Word.

We must understand we are stewards, not owners.

We must dedicate our money, possessions and children to serve the King.

Our kingdom commitment allows us to support pastors and missionaries who have committed their lives to the advance of God’s kingdom.

SCRIPTURES

Nehemiah 10:32-39