

Key words in Nehemiah

Confess: Hebrew *yadah*—1:6; 9:2, 3—literally, “to throw” or “to cast off.” This Hebrew verb conveys the act of “casting off” sin and acknowledging our rebellion against God’s commandments (Neh. 1:6; 9:2; Ps. 32:3; Prov. 28:13; Dan. 9:4). Confession also conveys thanksgiving for God’s greatness (1Kin. 8:33, 35). Confession of sin is thanksgiving because it recognizes the grace and goodness of God’s forgiveness (2 Chr. 30:22; Dan. 9:4).

Awesome: Hebrew *yare’*—1:5, 11; 4:14; 6:14, 19; 7:2—literally, “to fear.” This Hebrew word suggests the virtue that inspires reverence or godly fear. Godly fear is closely related to godly living and respect for God’s character (Lev. 19:14; 25:17; Deut. 17:19; 2 Kin. 17:34). Thus while ordinary fear paralyzes a person, godly fear leads to submission and obedience to God. The person who properly fears God follows the will of God (Ps. 128:1) and avoids evil (Job 1:1).

<https://sites.google.com/a/indubiblia.org/inductive-bible-study/nehemiah-1>