

REVIVAL AT WATER GATE

Nehemiah 8

THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

Chapter Twenty One

June 10, 2012



WEEK 21
REBUILDING THE WALLS

Revival at Water Gate

NEHEMIAH 8

Nehemiah 8:1-12

And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who *could* listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month.

Nehemiah 8:1-12

3 He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

Nehemiah 8:1-12

⁴ Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah *and* Meshullam on his left hand.

Nehemiah 8:1-12

⁵ Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.

Nehemiah 8:1-12

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people *remained* in their place. ⁸ They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

Nehemiah 8:1-12

9 Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.

Nehemiah 8:1-12

¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” ¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.” ¹² All the people went away to eat, to drink, to send portions and to celebrate a great festival, because they understood the words which had been made known to them.

Two Factors That Contribute to a Genuine Revival

1. The proclamation of the Bible
2. There is always the mobilization of God's people

The Feast of the Booth

Leviticus 23:42

The Jews would live in these booths for seven
days

The first day would be a day of reading the
Scriptures and the next several days would be a
day of reminding themselves that God had
preserved the people

It was to take place every 7th year the first day of
the month

Who was there?

Nehemiah 8:1-2

Nehemiah 8:1-2

And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the Law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who *could* listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month.

Ezra the Scribe read the Law of Moses to the People

A scribe had expertise in two areas

He was an expert in the realm of legal matters

He was an expert in the field of Scriptures

He is also called a Priest

What does it mean to sustain an expository ministry?

1. Reading the Scriptures

³ He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law

What does it mean to sustain an expository ministry?

2. They were attentive to the Book of the Law

3. They stood to their feet ⁴ Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah *and* Meshullam on his left hand.

What does it mean to sustain an expository ministry?

4. There was praise for the Scriptures

vs⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God

5. The people responded with an Amen, Amen

6. They lifted up their hands

What does it mean to sustain an expository ministry?

We Need to Avoid Two Extremes

The extreme of nothing but emotion

The extreme of nothing but teaching

What does it mean to sustain an expository ministry?

7. The Scriptures were explained

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people *remained* in their place.

What does it mean to sustain an expository ministry?

Vs.8 they read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

Amos 8:11-12

Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord
God,

“When I will send a famine on the land,
Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water,
But rather for hearing the words of the Lord.

Amos 8:11-12

¹² “People will stagger from sea to sea
And from the north even to the east;
They will go to and fro to seek the word of the
Lord,
But they will not find *it*.”

The Impact of God's Word

We are revived personally when we are
revived by the Word

Every ministry of teaching hangs on three wires

1. Is it accurate?
2. Is it clear?
3. Is it practical?

We are revived personally when we are
revived by the Word

Verse 9

Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.

We are revived personally when we are
revived by the Word

A Holy Day

¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” ¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.”

We are revived personally when we are
revived by the Word

The people are mobilized

¹² All the people went away to eat, to drink, to
send portions and to celebrate a great festival,
because they understood the words which had
been made known to them.

Practical Lessons from Nehemiah 8

1. No life is complete without the spiritual dimension
2. No spiritual dimension is complete without scriptural input
3. No scriptural input is complete with personal obedience
4. There is no personal obedience complete without great rejoicing

Practical Lessons from Nehemiah 8

Vs. 10

The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength