

CHARITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY, November 2, 2022
NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 8 – REVIVED BY GOD'S WORD

1. Who is Ezra?

ANSWER:

- Ezra is considered a scribe and a priest (vs 2)
- Ezra lead the remnants from Babylon and credited for having the temple rebuilt, and for returning God's people to worship (Ezra 5:1–6:15... Nehemiah 8:5-6).
- Ezra came up out of Babylon thirteen years before Nehemiah came.

2. What did Ezra read about? How long did Ezra read? How did the people respond to the reading?

ANSWER:

- A. Ezra read the book of the law as it was to be brought before the congregation and read to them in their own language (vs 1).
- B. Ezra read from early morning to midday (vs 3).
- C. They stood up and listen (vs 5). And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground (vs 6). For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law (vs 9).

3. What did the people do when Ezra started reading?

ANSWER: They stood up and listen (vs 5).

4. What do we learn from verse 8?

ANSWER: Ezra was not the only one reading. Others beside Ezra read the law. They read from the law and caused the people to understand the law (vs 7-8).

5. How did the people respond to the reading? What did the people prepare?

ANSWER:

- A) They stood up and listen (vs 5). And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with

CHARITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY, November 2, 2022
NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 8 – REVIVED BY GOD'S WORD

their faces to the ground (vs 6). For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. (vs 9).

B) The people prepared a wooden podium. This allowed everyone to see and hear Ezra (vs 4).

6. What was Ezra's goal beyond just reading?

ANSWER: To make God's Word clear. To cause the people to understand the reading (Vs 8).

- *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 NIV*
- *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Matthew 24:35 NIV*
- *My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. Proverbs 4:20-22 NIV*
- *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Colossians 3:16 NIV*
- *The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” Isaiah 40:8 NIV*
- *‘How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalms 119:103 NIV*
- *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Mark 13:31 NIV*
- *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation. 1 Peter 2:2 NIV*

7. Who beside Ezra read?

ANSWER: Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, Nehemiah, Tirshatha and the Levites read and instructed the people (vs 7 & 9).

8. Why were the people weeping? What does this show about the attitude of the people?

CHARITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY, November 2, 2022
NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 8 – REVIVED BY GOD'S WORD

ANSWER:

A) When the people heard the Law being read, they started weeping because they realized that they had been disobeying God's commands. They realized they fell short of God's standards (vs 9).

- *Matthew 5:3-4 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
- *2 Corinthians 7:10 – Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*
- *Revelation 21:4 – He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*

B) The people had a repentance heart.

9. What should the people do instead of weeping?

ANSWER:

- The people should go their way, eat the fat, drink the sweet and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared (vs 10).
- The people should be joyful. For the joy of the Lord is your strength (v 10)
- *Mourning about sin is good. But it is not good to remain in the state of weeping forever. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

10. Why were the people so happy in verse 12?

ANSWER: The people were happy because they understood the words that were declared unto them. When the people understood the words, they became excited and obeyed. Everything became clear about who they were and what they needed to do. They rejoiced because they had returned to the Promised Land as God had restored their land to them, the wall and gates were rebuilt, they were protected by God from their enemies.

11. What does this phrase "The joy of the Lord is your strength" mean?

CHARITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY, November 2, 2022
NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 8 – REVIVED BY GOD'S WORD

ANSWER: Nehemiah was sharing with the people that were helping to build the wall that they could gain strength and be re-energized from having joy in the Lord. Connect with God by joyfully worshipping Him.

- John 15:10-11- *If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*
- Matthew 25:21, 23 - *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord*

12. What was the name and purpose of the festival?

ANSWER: The name of the festival is the “Feast of Booths (Tabernacles)”.

- Leviticus 23:33-44. The feast was commanded of the Lord to be celebrated by the Israelites annually. It had been over eight hundred years since the Feast of Booths was celebrated by the people. The Kings hadn't obeyed the command of the Lord to continue the celebration.
 - The people began making preparation of the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) after the reading of the law as it was only two weeks away. The Israelites had not celebrated a Feast of Booths like this one since the time of Joshua!
 - During the seventh month of the feast, the Children of Israel were to dwell in booths.
 - The Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) was all about remembering how God blessed and provided for Israel in the wilderness during the Exodus. The children of Israel lived in temporary shelters while living in the wilderness.
 - The Feast of Booths lasted a full week, and each day consisted of more reading of God's law. In other words, there was great rejoicing along with reverential attention to God's Word.
-
- ❖ Leviticus 23:34 KJV - Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.
 - ❖ *Celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. ¹⁴ Be joyful at your festival-you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns. ¹⁵ For seven days celebrate the festival to the Lord your God at the place the Lord will choose. For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete. Deuteronomy 16:13-15*
 - ❖ James 4:17 –If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

CHARITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY, November 2, 2022
NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 8 – REVIVED BY GOD'S WORD

Spiritual Awareness (This section is for your purpose ONLY)

- Do you desire hearing God's Word?
- Do you choose to read the Bible during your spare time?
- Do you make God's Word the center of your meetings with other believers?
- How can you contribute to spreading God's Word?
- How do you respond to listening to God's Word and learning about the serious state of sin?