

STRENGTHENED

O GOD, STRENGTHEN MY HANDS

NEHEMIAH 6:9

Sunday Morning, April 6, 2025 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Bring the Book

Message Text: Nehemiah 8

Introduction: The walls around Jerusalem have been rebuilt under the bold, faith filled leadership of Nehemiah. However, the work of God was not merely stonework, it was people work. Nehemiah helped the people by appointing leaders, assessing the citizenship of Jerusalem to ensure and led the people in acts of personal worship to the Lord. The restoration continued with a widespread hunger for the Word of God. Truly, this is one of the most incredible moves of God among His people since their return from captivity. Today we will see that is only one book in all the world that can restore a people and guide them into holy and happy living — it is the Word of God.

1. They had an _____ for God's Word (1-6)

A. Their _____ (1-2)

Nehemiah 8:1-2 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel. 2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

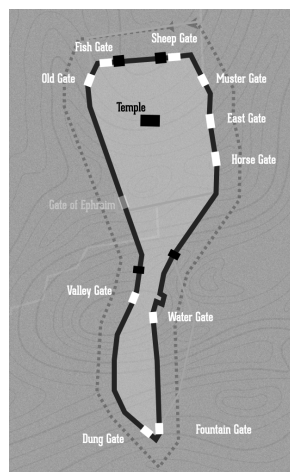
NOTE — These verses attest to the historicity of the Law of Moses which obviously existed at this point in written form. Thus, the Law of Moses could not have been a post-exilic development as some scholars suggest. — Mentor

THE BOOK OF THE LAW OF MOSES — first five books of the Bible

FIRST DAY OF SEVENTH MONTH — Tirshi - Oct/Nov

B. Their _____ (3-4)

READY LISTENERS (3)



Nehemiah 8:3–4a And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law. 4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose...
[Pulpit—platform]

Deuteronomy 31:12 Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:

READY LEADERS (4b)

Nehemiah 8:4b ...and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

Ezra 7:6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him.

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

C. Their _____ (5-6)

Nehemiah 8:5–6 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: 6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. 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.

DEFINITION—AMEN: so be it

DEFINITION—WORSHIP: conceived of as bowing down to a deity

Isaiah 66:2 ...But to this man will I look, Even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, And trembleth at my word.

QUOTE: If we want revivals, we must revive our reverence for the Word of God. — Charles H. Spurgeon

2. They were _____ by God's Word (7-12)

A. They were _____ (7-8)

Nehemiah 8:7–8 Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. 8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. [Twenty-six men plus the other Levites and priest engaged in teaching and proclaim the Word of God among the people.]

NOTE — God's Word held their attention, not gimmicks.

QUOTE: Ezra and his helpers were the first in a long line of expository preachers who explained the Bible. This method of preaching has been blessed by God down through the centuries and continues to be an effective instrument for bringing Christians to spiritual maturity. —Dr. Donald Campbell

Acts 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

Elements of Bible Preaching

Read
Distinctly

Explain
Fully

Apply
Practically

B. They were _____ (9)

Nehemiah 8:9 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

DEFINITION—HOLY: consecrated; devoted to service to the God of Israel or some religious ceremony or use.

DEFINITION—WEPT: to weep; to grieve bitterly

Isaiah 6:5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

QUOTE: Only one occasion for mourning and fasting was found among Israel's feasts, and that was the Day of Atonement. The rest of the feasts were to be kept with joy and celebration. —BBC

C. They were _____ (10-12)

Nehemiah 8:10-12 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength. 11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved. 12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

DEFINITION—GREAT MIRTH: joy; emotion of great happiness and pleasure.

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

QUOTE: Holiness and joy were to go together! —Getz

3. They _____ on God's Word (13-18)

A. The _____ Acted on It (13-15)

Nehemiah 8:13-15 And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law. 14 And they found written in the law which the Lord had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month: 15 And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.

THE FEAST OF BOOTHS (TABERNACLES) — This feast was a yearly feast beginning on the 15th day of Tishri. It celebrated God's provision of shelter during their forty year wilderness wandering.

B. The _____ Acted on It (16-18)

Nehemiah 8:16-18 So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim. 17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness. 18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

NOTE — Israel had not fully observed this feast since the days of Joshua.

QUOTE: A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God. — Charles Finney

Conclusion

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Questions to Consider

Do I have an appetite for God's Word? Am I seeking to hear more of it?

How does God's Word affect me? Am I troubled when I discover that I am not obeying Its instruction?

Do I act on the truth and instruction of God's Word immediately? Do I lead others to do the same?

