



January 31, 2021

Title: Rise Up & Build – Rise Up & Rejoice

Scriptures: Nehemiah 8:1-3; 9-12; 9:1-38

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Read Nehemiah 8:1-3; 9-12 and supporting scriptures

Introduction...

The temple, the repairing of the walls, houses and buildings are in place. God's plan for His people is complete and behold a new day has come. 52 days later what was seemingly impossible and unimaginable had been accomplished.

1. A Time to Understand – Nehemiah 8:1-3
 - a. All of the people come together as one, and ask to hear the word of God.
 - b. Ezra reads the book of the Law of Moses aloud from daybreak until noon.
 - c. The book of the Law of Moses points to the commandments of God, which demand obedience.
 - d. Ezra points the people to a time to understand that when we are obedient to God, we obtain results.
 - e. The people worshipped God through their obedience in doing the work God called them to. They put God first. (Deuteronomy 6:13)
 - f. The results were that walls were built up, families came together. When we are obedient to God, things that had fallen apart are put back in order.
 - g. One of the reasons we worship and celebrate God is because God's plan for us works; when we follow it. (Jeremiah 29:11) God has a successful plan for our lives.
2. A Time to Celebrate – Nehemiah 8:9-12
 - a. Ezra declares a time of celebration, because the day was holy to the Lord.
 - b. The celebration was for the whole community; they were to send portions to the poor who had nothing to prepare.
 - c. They greatly rejoiced because they had heard and understood God's words.

Read Nehemiah 9:1-38 and supporting scriptures

3. A Time to Fast – Nehemiah 9:1; the people fasted.



4. A Time to Separate – Nehemiah 9:2-3

- a. The people separated themselves from all foreigners, confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors.
- b. They spent the day hearing the word of God, confessing, and worshipping the Lord their God.

5. A Time to Confess – Nehemiah 9:4-37

- a. The Levites lead the people in biblical confession about the truths of God.
- b. They confessed God's glory and who God is. (9:5-6)
- c. They confessed what God did for Abram; how God was faithful and delivered them from Egypt; how God led them through the wilderness. (9:7-12)
- d. They confessed how God gave them the law on Mount Sinai; provided food and water in the wilderness; sustained them for 40 years and their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell. (9:13-21)
- e. And they confessed that though God had been faithful, the people had been unfaithful. They refused to obey God, but God remained faithful and subdued their enemies so they took possession of the land. (9:16-25)
- f. The people disobeyed God, killing his prophets and committing blasphemies. As a result of their disobedience, God allowed their sins to be their bondage. (9:26-28)
- g. As with us, this story demonstrates God's faithfulness and our unfaithfulness, and sometimes the worse thing that can happen to us happens; which is when our sins bind us.
- h. God allows us the freedom to choose him or not. When we go our way instead of God's way, we can become bound by something other than God.
- i. Sometimes fasting and praying is not enough. It takes acknowledging that when we turned away from God, there were consequences, and that the problem was not outside of us, but the problem was within us and due to the decisions, that we made. Confession is what is needed. (9:32)

6. A Time to Get Right – Nehemiah 9:38

- a. The people decided to get right with God; so, they made a covenant with God.
- b. The covenant was based on what God had done and sealed by the leaders and priests to create a record of the truth: that God had been and continued to be faithful.
- c. God has and continues to heal, to restore, to rebuild that which is broken. That always has been God's way and it always will be God's way. God's plan has always been for his people to prosper; it has never changed.



7. A Time to Rejoice – Habakkuk 3:18-19; Psalm 27:1

- a. We need to rejoice over the fact that we were not the ones who turned our lives around, built up our lives, or saved ourselves when we were lost; it was God who did it. The victory we have doesn't belong to us; it belongs to God.
- b. Our mess can be cleaned up, and our stumbles can lead us to step up into our ordained destiny, because God wants it to happen and God can do it.
- c. When we align ourselves with God's plan for our lives, the impossible becomes possible!
- d. Base your rejoicing on the fact that God did it!