



Much
EXPECTED

What will help us make the most of the opportunity in front of us and live up to the “much expected?”

1. Prayer
2. Risk
3. Surrender
4. Joy

Joy: gladness, delight; the feeling of
pleasure
and happiness



James 1:2

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

1 Thessalonians 5:16

Rejoice always.

Nehemiah 8:1-12

586 BC: Babylon attacks and destroys Jerusalem.

537 BC: the Jews return to Jerusalem

444 BC: Nehemiah oversees the rebuilding of the

walls of Jerusalem.

¹ And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel.

Nehemiah 8:1–12 (ESV)

² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month.

Nehemiah 8:1-12 (ESV)

³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:1-12 (ESV)

4 And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood (six men on his right side and 7 men on his left side).

Nehemiah 8:1-12 (ESV)

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood.

Nehemiah 8:1-12 (ESV)

⁶ And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

Nehemiah 8:1–12 (ESV)

⁷ Also (Levites) helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places.

Nehemiah 8:1-12 (ESV)

8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

Nehemiah 8:1-12 (ESV)

⁹ And 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 wept as they heard the words of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:1–12 (ESV)

10 Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:1–12 (ESV)

¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.”

Nehemiah 8:1–12 (ESV)

12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Nehemiah 8:1-12 (ESV)

We can choose joy.



We can choose joy.
Joy DOES give strength for the
journey.



17 Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the
olive fail and the fields yield no food, the
flock be cut off from the fold and there be
no herd in the stalls,

Habakkuk 3:17-18
(ESV)

18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:17-18
(ESV)