

Lesson 6, NEHEMIAH 7 & 8

Nehemiah had a calling on his life which was to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. He accomplished that goal even through intense persecution. Remember, the walls in our lives represent defenses against worldly pressures that can compromise our faith walk. With strategic walls in place, we are able to grow in our relationship with God and Jesus Christ. Chapter 7 is the longest chapter in Nehemiah. It seems full of names that are unpronounceable, but if you look closely there are nuggets of wisdom.

1. In Nehemiah 7:1-5, how did Nehemiah secure the wall defenses? If these words apply to the life of a church, what does it say to you?

2. Nehemiah 7:6-73 is an account of those who had pure ancestry to Israel. Interestingly, these are the same names recorded in Ezra 2. It was important for those who would lead the Hebrews to be true Israelites. This applies to us today. To be kingdom builders for God, we must be “true” Christians. What is the litmus test for that? See John 3:16-17; 6:29,40 or Matthew 17:20.

The reconstruction of Jerusalem, the Temple and the wall has taken place, now it is time for re-instruction. Remember, the ancient Israelites had been in captivity for 70 years. In many cases, they had adopted the ways of pagan Babylon.

3. Read Nehemiah 8:1-8. This is the first time we see Ezra stepping forward as priest. Describe the scene. From lesson 4, what does the Water Gate symbolize?

4. In Nehemiah 8:9-12, what is the reaction of the people? Why do you think they reacted the way they did? See 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Hebrews 4:12.

5. Nehemiah 8:13-18 describes an ancient feast established by God through Moses in Leviticus 23:34-44. When has God cared and provided for you? How does remembering those times help you in your life today?

Application: Chapter 8 is a lesson in the hunger God's people had for his Word. Write down what studying the Bible has meant to you and thank God for his Word. What do you hope to learn from the study of Nehemiah, Rebuilding the Walls?

Prayer: Almighty Father, thank you that you did not leave us as orphans. You gave us your Word and your Holy Spirit to lead us into all truths so that we could face the challenges of this world. Open our hearts and minds to learn the deep truths that are found in the Bible. Continue to put in our hearts a passion for your Word so that we will know you in a deeper way. Give our church courage to stand firm and not equivocate concerning your Word. We ask this in the name of Jesus who is the embodiment of Your Word (John 1:1). Amen.