

Message Study Guide/Outline

Title: Revival Ready – **Are You Thirsty for God?** - Teaching Pastor, David Jett

Text: Nehemiah 8

Date: October 11, 2026

Main Idea:

Revival happens when a person, famished for God, comes and drinks deeply from His life-giving fountain.

Opening Question:

Are you thirsty for God?

Key Scriptures:

Psalms 42:1

Psalms 63:1

Jeremiah 2:13

Nehemiah 8:1-12

John 7:37-39

Introduction:

We are all thirsty for God, but we often try to satisfy that thirst with things that cannot truly nourish our souls. Like drinking water without electrolytes during dehydration, we may think we are okay while our souls are still dangerously depleted.

God alone is the fountain of living water. Revival begins when we recognize our thirst and return to Him.

Background:

In Nehemiah, God empowered His people to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem in only 52 days. The walls were approximately 2.5 miles long, 8 feet thick, and 20 to 40 feet high. For years, the people had grown used to the brokenness around them, but God awakened them to their identity as His people.

God initiates revival, but His people must cooperate.

How Do We Become Revival Ready?

1. Rebuild the Protection of God's Salvation

Nehemiah 8:1 says the people gathered at the Water Gate and asked Ezra to bring the Book of the Law.

The gates of Jerusalem help illustrate the spiritual journey of God's people.

Gate 1: The Sheep Gate

This gate points to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away sin. Our journey begins with salvation through Christ.

Gate 2: The Fish Gate

This gate reminds us that Jesus calls His followers to become fishers of men. Salvation leads to mission.

Gate 3: The Old Gate

This gate represents returning to the ancient paths and walking in God's ways instead of the ways of the world.

Gate 4: The Valley Gate

This gate points to the humbling work of God. He exposes what needs to be removed from our lives, often through struggle.

Gate 5: The Dung Gate

This gate represents removing sin, spiritual garbage, and anything that slows us down in our walk with God.

Gate 6: The Fountain Gate

This gate points to the living water of the Holy Spirit. God gives His people an inner supply of life and strength.

2. Restore Your Purity Through Scripture

Nehemiah 8:2-3 tells us that Ezra read the Law to the people from early morning until midday, and all the people listened attentively.

At the Water Gate, the people heard God's Word clearly explained, and they understood it.

The Word of God:

Reveals the greatness of God

Reveals the seriousness of our sin

Breaks through pride and self-reliance

Brings truth that sets us free

Key Scriptures:

Jeremiah 23:29

Hebrews 4:12

John 8:32

Revival-ready people do not merely read the Bible; they listen for the voice of God through His Word.

3. Rejoice in the Power of God's Strength

When the people heard the Word, they wept. But Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites told them not to grieve because the day was holy.

Nehemiah 8:10 says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

God's Word brings conviction, but conviction is not meant to end in sorrow. It leads us to repentance, restoration, joy, and strength.

Because the people understood the Word, they responded with worship, generosity, celebration, and joy.

4. Reengage Your Pursuit Against Satan

Revival is not the end of the journey; it is the beginning of renewed spiritual engagement.

Gate 8: The Horse Gate

This gate represents spiritual battle. Believers must remember that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of evil.

Key Scripture:

Ephesians 6:12

Gate 9: The Eastern Gate

This gate points to the return of the Messiah. Jesus entered Jerusalem through this area as King, and believers look forward to His return as conquering King.

Gate 10: The Inspection Gate

This gate represents the day believers will stand before King Jesus and give an account of their faithfulness.

Key Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:10

Application:

To become revival ready, we must:

- Return to Jesus as our only Savior
- Embrace His mission to reach others
- Walk in the ancient paths of God's truth
- Allow God to expose and remove sin
- Depend on the Holy Spirit for life and strength
- Listen deeply to the Word of God
- Find strength in the joy of the Lord
- Reengage the spiritual battle with faithfulness
- Live ready for the return and reward of Christ

Final Question:

Are you thirsty enough to come to Jesus and drink deeply from His life-giving fountain?