

**Introduction:** Explain this:

I realize the Scripture in our reading this morning is not Directly related to a local N.T. church.

It is about a governor of a people who are a nation.

However, we DO need to recognize some things from this passage which are profitable for us to learn as N.T. Christians!

### **2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV)**

<sup>16</sup> All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

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We are supposed to learn the O.T. so we may benefit from it:

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### **Romans 15:4 (KJV)**

<sup>4</sup> For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

### **James 5:11 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

### **Matthew 22:29 (KJV)**

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said unto them, **Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.**

Our passage before us does not mention a N.T. church, but there are enough similarities, based upon what the N.T. SAYS about a N.T. church, that we will miss a blessing if we do not pay attention to those things!

I have a very simple message this morning consisting of just TWO points (but several sub-points haha)!

I want to preach on this **Subject:**  
**“The Preacher and His People!”**

This is how I feel about you all and my service to you! I could only wish that you will feel the same about me!

**Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:1—12**

**Key Verse: Vv. 5**

## **I. The Preacher.**

### **Nehemiah 8:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Ezra was called a “*scribe*” in V. 1 and a “*priest*” in V. 2

In the book of Ezra 7:6 – He is called a “ready scribe.”

But notice this:

### **Ezra 7:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> 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.

Thrn later he was called...”priest and scribe” together!

### **Ezra 7:11 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Now this *is* the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes

gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, *even* a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Israel.

So that made me see some important trues about this “preacher:”

#### A. **Notice his Preparation!**

Ezra 7:10 & 10:1

##### **Ezra 7:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> 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.

##### **Ezra 10:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore.

1. He *prepared* in **secret**.
2. He *prepared* in **supplication** and prayer.
3. He *prepared* in **study**.

#### B. **Notice his Pulpit!**

##### **Nehemiah 8:4 (KJV)**

<sup>4</sup> And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; 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 Mishaël, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam.

1. It was a place of **attention** (V. 5). He was elevated. What we call the “pulpit” was the “lectern.” The “pulpit” is the platform he stood upon.
2. It was a place of **assistants** (men stood by his side).
3. It was a place of **activity** (preaching!).

#### C. **Notice his Preaching!**

##### **Nehemiah 8:8 (KJV)**

<sup>8</sup> So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.

1. He preached the **scriptures**.
2. He preached the **sense** of the scriptures (in other words, he explained what the verses meant)!
3. He preached against **sin**:

##### **Ezra 10:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.

##### **2 Timothy 4:2 (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

So, “The Preacher” but then...

#### II. **The People** (Vv. 1, 3, 5)

##### **Nehemiah 8:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

- A. Notice their Request (8:1)
- B. Notice their Reception (8:3)
- C. Notice their Respect (8:5).

### 1 Timothy 5:17 (KJV)

<sup>17</sup> Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (KJV)

<sup>12</sup> And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

<sup>13</sup> And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.

### Psalms 138:2 (KJV)

<sup>2</sup> I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

### 2 Thessalonians 3:1 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

### D. Notice their Response (8:6).

1. They **participated** (*"amen, amen"*).
2. They **praised** and **prayed** (*"lifting up their hands"*).
3. They prostrated themselves (*"with their faces to the ground"*).

### E. Notice their Rejoicing (8:12)

1. They were glad to **comprehend** the Word!
2. They were glad to **conform** to the Word!

### Conclusion:

If a local church pulls together in unity and allows the "preacher" to lead and feed the "people," it is unimaginable what can be done there!

I solemnly promise to be a "**preacher**" of that description?

How about you? Will you be that kind of "**people**?"

### Invitation Hymn: "I Surrender All" (2-3 verses)

Bruce Beach, Th. B 2005

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