

# Read, Realize, & Rejoice

## Nehemiah 8

Trying to back a trailer right is left and left is right, depth perception becomes perplexing and the people trying to help usually have good intentions but don't actually know how to gesture what is actually going on back there.

**ELUL** [Nehemiah 6:15]

1<sup>st</sup> of Elul is when Moses received the Ten Commandments for the second time.

***The Holy One is more available***

- Ani
- Ldodi
- V'dodi
- Li

[Alef-Lamed-Vav-Lamed](#)

*Song of Songs 6:3 I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine*

**40 days of preparation** that lead up to the high holy days.

*(The accounting of our soul)*

- Mind
- Emotions
- Will (behavior)

**During this time key passages are read & specific kinds of prayers made.**

- The covenant God made with Abram
- Abraham and Isaac
- (Blessings and promises of) **Deuteronomy 28:1-7**

**Morning services and prayers asking God for forgiveness.**

*God reveals, we repent, and the relationship is restored.*

**Traditionally taught by sages [The King is in the field]**

- The king becomes a commoner
- More near than any other time of the year.
- Kingly garments are replaced by common clothing and he walks among the farm workers in the fields. If you are paying attention, he is right beside you

**Since common people cannot approach the kingdom.**

The Kingdom approached the common people.

**Anyone know a king who left His throne to walk among the commoners?**

A month of introspection, revelation, repentance, and restoration.

1. Assessment of self
2. Restoration of relationships
3. Repentance of sins
4. Daily Prayers (throwing bread into water – throwing away bad habits)
  - a. Shofar Blown after each morning service
5. Give to those who do not have, and bless those with little or nothing.

25<sup>th</sup> day of Elul is also day 1 of creation.

- 6 days later – completion of creation
- 6 days later is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month (Tishrei)

### **Tishrei**

All of this is a countdown to Rosh Hashanah and ultimately ends with Yom Kippur.

- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur
- Sukkot & Simchat Torah,

### **Rosh Hashanah**

Feast of Trumpets – Leviticus 23:24-25

2 days (taking inventory of the spirit)

Not regret and remorse, but revelation and repentance

Realignment of the spirit

In the hope of a good and sweet new year (Apples in honey, fruits)

### **Yom Kippur**

THE most holy day

25 hours in length

Day of Atonement - Afflict your soul (fasting but not an empty fast Isaiah 58:4)

Make a mend - Forgiveness from family and friends

- Scapegoat (Leviticus 16:21)
- Jonah (pitfalls and promises)

### **Simchat Torah**

Open the scrolls and read all 5 books of Moses

End and beginning of the year with a clean sleight and ready for a new season.

Making sure that the Lord is your first love. (return and do the first works)

Ezra, still very much alive and well, makes his first appearance in Nehemiah's account of the construction and community of Jerusalem. It's now 6 days from when the people were gathered together, registered by genealogy, the caravan that came with Zerubbabel was found and read, and everyone found their place.

## God's Word - Nehemiah 8:1-8

*You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make him drink*

**A rare response:** Gather as one man – continued unity and a unique desire.  
As one man means not manipulated or coerced but willfully gathered.  
When everyone is thinking the same thing.

There is an attentiveness we are about to see and a response that is so sincere it cannot be man-made. Nehemiah and Ezra got to be a part of what God was doing but they did not do it. It was a God thing.

In every genuine revival among God's people, the revealed Word of the Lord has had a large place. It was so in Josiah's day, and in the awakening under Hezekiah. It has been so throughout the church period.

It was the recovery of the Word that brought about the Reformation of the sixteenth century, and every true awakening since has been based upon Bible learning that would take root into Bible living.

The Great Awakening that happened in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, across Great Britain and Ireland

J. Edwin Orr

They asked vs. 1  
Bring out the book

It was the books of Moses, but not given by Moses. It was the books of Moses given by God...

**How much authority does Scripture have over your life?**

If someone could walk you through scripture in a way that would challenge a particular philosophy, lifestyle, or behavior, would you do away with your current view in order to adopt the Biblical view? Ignorance to Enlightenment

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Luke 10:16 "He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."

First day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month... Right in the middle of the high holy days.  
Rosh Hashana, The Feast of Tabernacles coming up, Yom Kippur

**The healthiest people are those with the highest view of Scripture**

**Vs. 3** *Ezra read from morning until midday in the square on the platform*

**The people were attentive: to observe, intelligent listening, to regard with care,**

Those able to hear with understanding (able – children's ministry)  
Attentive (willing)

(vs. 5) Respect – when he opened the sacred scroll, the people STOOD

R. Kent Hugs recounts being in Scotland where church began with a hymn and a young man carried the Bible out on a velvet pillow. It's not the Bible, is the author of the Bible and whom the Bible directs our attentions and affections towards.

### God's Word - Nehemiah 8:9-11

Read it to yourself and then read it to others...

*by now you should have been teachers.*

*"Mindless compliance and superstition is the mark of paganism."*

13 men on the platform with Ezra

13 men amongst the people in the gathering

All with one mission – to make God's Word plain to the people.

(N8:8) How it most likely functioned

1. Read Distinctly: *Pieces, segments, or portions with clarity*

2. Gave the sense: *Insight and clarity*

3. Helped them to understand: *Comprehend, Get It*

What does it say?

What does it mean?

What does it mean to me?

*A little excited: Blessing the Lord – AMEN & AMEN*

Same job, no matter where they were in the crowd. (Console and calm)

Conviction is a GOOD thing! *CUT TO THE HEART!*

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were *cut to the heart*, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Word caused emotion, not the leaders. If people motivate you be careful, if the Word of God motivates you, be joyful. *(create reason or inspiration for action)*

**This day is holy, not once, not twice, but three times.**

Yom Kippur – Fest of Trumpets Lev. 23

The day is holy (3x)

Do not mourn nor weep

Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength

- Go your way, eat and drink *the sweet*

- Send portions to the poor

*That which goes best with holiness is not a sour distortion of justice and righteousness but freedom, beauty, and joy.*

## to God's Word - Nehemiah 8:12

They went and did because they understood (Joy, not judgment)

Receive and give what you have received (Others need to know)

**Feast of Tabernacles – Like the fading paint on a house... one day it's just tiered.**

The Feast was originally given by God to the Israelites to remember the deliverance from Egypt, into the wilderness, and eventually to the promised land.

Deliverance & Provision

And now, imagine the scenery, dwelling on rooftops and all throughout the open squares as they, for a second time have been delivered from Babylon to Jerusalem. The wall up, the people gathered, being unified in God's Word.

*David Jackman "What is happening here was the Spirit of God taking the Word of God and creating the Community of God."*

### Attitude and Attention

- Respect the Word
- Read the Word
- Respond to the Word

If life feels like you are trying to back up a trailer the whole time, put it in drive and move forward towards Christ... He is not only the way but also the goal. (destination)

You and the Word

Your home and the Word

The time is now!!!

Realize, Repent, Restore