

## The Book of NEHEMIAH

### Chapters 7 & 8

#### *“Revival!”*

#### Chapter 7 – “Leadership for Revival”

##### I) Humble Delegation & Solid Organization (v1-4)

**Gatekeepers-** Watchers (Ushers); **Singers-** Worshippers; **Levites-** A distinctive title of that portion of the tribe that was set apart for the service of the sanctuary and subordinate to the priests (Num 8:6; Ezra 2:70; John 1:19). The **Citadel** was an edifice located next to the temple on the NW side and was a fortified building for the purpose of guarding the temple. It was subsequently rebuilt by Herod and named Antonia.

**Leadership Quality- Find faithful men- 2 Tim 2:1-2-** *You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

**Leadership Character- Find God fearing men- Deut 10:12-13 -** *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Josh 24:14-15* *“Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*

##### II) A Heart for God and His People (v5-73)

**Neh 7:5** *-Then my God put it into my heart to gather the nobles, the rulers, and the people, that they might be registered by genealogy. J. Vernon McGee* writes the following on this genealogical record, “God says, “You may not find these names interesting, but I do. These are My folk.” This genealogy is just a leaf out of God’s memorial book. There are quite a few genealogies found in Scripture. In Genesis 49 the twelve tribes are listed. In 2 Samuel 23 we find the list of David’s mighty men. The first few chapters of 1 Chronicles are lists of names. Nehemiah 3 gives us another listing. Romans 16 is made up of a roster of names. Hebrews 11 also lists those who were faithful. These are just names to us but God remembers each person and records his name in the **Lamb’s Book of Life.**” Let’s not forget about the genealogies of our Lord in Matthew and Luke. In **Psalm 112:6** God says, “. . . the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.”

#### Chapter 8 – “Revival Means Re-Bible”

**Chuck Swindoll** brings insight to revival, “In every genuine revival in history, two major thrusts have always appeared. First, there has always been proclamation of the Bible, **God’s Word**; second, there has always been the responsive mobilization of the believers, **God’s people**. Strange as it may sound, a revival does not relate directly to the unsaved. You cannot revive the lost. You can revive the saved. Revival occurs as God ignites the fire of His Word and mobilizes His people to go and win the lost.”

##### DISCOVER EIGHT KEYS TO REVIVAL:

**Key #1 – (v1) Revival begins with UNITY (“the people gathered as one man”)** – Seven times in the Book of Acts God moved mightily through His people when they were in “one accord” (Acts 1:14; 2:1, 46; 4:24; 5:12; 8:6; 15:25).

**Key #2 – (v1) Revival begins at the WATER GATE– Jesus is the “water gate” of revival - John 7:37-39 -** *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

**Key #3 – (v2-5) Revival begins with RE-BIBLE** - Notice that the reading of God’s Word is delivered age appropriate (*before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding* (v2, 3)). **The Birth of the Church- Acts 2:42-** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. The Teaching of the Church- 2 Tim 3:16-17-* *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (what is right), for reproof (what is not right), for correction (how to get right), for instruction in righteousness (how to stay right), that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

**Key #4 – (v6) Revival begins with the WORSHIP or our GREAT GOD! AMEN, AMEN!**

**Key #5 – (v7-8) Revival begins with DISCIPLESHIP – Observe Eight Principles for Spiritual Growth by Porter Barrington** – (1) Study for a biblical foundation on which to grow. (2) Study for spiritual strength and power for this life in a world under the curse of sin. (3) Study that you may grow in Bible knowledge. (4) Study that you may be a success to the glory of God. (5) Study and give the Holy Spirit the opportunity to motivate you to greater things for the Lord. (6) Study that you may know God’s perfect will for your life. (7) Study that you may be an effective soul winner. (8) Study so that you may “sanctify (set apart) the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” (1 Peter 3:15). When you fail to study God’s Word you stop growing. When you cease to grow spiritually you start deteriorating immediately. When you stop climbing you start slipping. You can never arrive spiritually in this life; there is always a higher plateau to be reached.

**Key # 6 – (v9-12) Revival begins when the day is HOLY TO THE LORD** – God’s holiness is unattainable, but His mercies through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us with the holiness of God and thus we can go to the holiness of heaven everyday and forever! We’ve gone from grieve to glory!

**Key #7 – (v9-12) Revival begins when the JOY of the LORD is our STRENGTH – (1) Joy is found in following His commandments - John 15:11-17 - *"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another. (2) Joy is strengthened through prayer - John 16:24 - Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.***

**Key #8 – (v13-18) Revival flourishes through OBEDIENCE** - There are three great feasts that commemorate the HISTORICAL progress of Israel. (1) The Passover commemorated the deliverance out of Egypt when Jehovah passed over Israel, protecting them from the angel of death and sparing them, and so achieving for them the first step of independent national life as God's covenant people. (2) Pentecost marked the giving of the law on Sinai, the second grand era in the history of the elect nation. God solemnly covenanted, *"If ye will obey My voice indeed and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people, and ye shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex 19:5).* (3) All the nation now wanted was a home. The feast of tabernacles commemorates the establishment of God's people in the land of promise, their pleasant and peaceful home, after the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, living in shifting tents. They took boughs of palm and willows of the brook, and made temporary huts of branches and sat under the booths.

**Every Christian celebrates these three feasts-** (1) **Christ is our Passover**, death has passed over us because of HIS DEATH & RESURRECTION (Rom 6:23 - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*) (2) **On the Day of Pentecost** the church was filled with the HOLY SPIRIT and now we can live for God according to His Word! (3) **The Feast of Tabernacles** is our moving from these temporary tents into our promise land, HEAVEN! - *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body (Phil 3:20-21)*