

NEHEMIAH

Chapter 8 & 9

CHAPTER 8 - RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT THROUGH EZRA

- Chapters 1- 7 deal with rebuilding a city, Chapter 8-13 is renewal of a nation
- The desire of not top down but the bottom up, the people wanted the readings
- This chapter is referenced in the making of a Christian service
- The water gate area was large enough to hold the men, women and children
- Ezra read and explained the law for about 6 hours
- Ezra was elevated and stood behind a wooden pulpit
- The temple construction with Ezra allowed for all the necessary sacrifices
- The service was not a religious ceremony but a voluntary desirous renewal
- It is not enough just to read the word but have it explained and applied (clarity)
- The people responded is conviction with weeping and sorrow
- They stood at the reading of the law and its explanation
- Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is our strength
- Joy makes obedience a blessing, fuels our obedience
- Our faith is primarily one of joy and praise, broken tender hearts need mending
- The law showed them their sin, they repented and then celebrated/thanksgiving
- They said, 'amen, amen' a liturgical response, active prayer
- It was explained in Hebrew and Aramaic, they heard those long lost words
- The Bible is not a burden to bear, opportunity for genuine joy and spiritual fulfillment
- Feast of tabernacles had not been administered since Joshua's days

CHAPTER 9 - REAFFIRMATION OF THE COVENANT (REVIVAL)

- "People of Israel" did not make excuse for themselves or their fathers, humility
- The separated themselves from those who kept the one true God out of their lives
- 3 actions - no intermarriage, no commerce on sabbath, faithfully observing 7th year
- The covenant is retold and renewed in verse 8-10
- God's providence in cloud by day and fire by night in the wilderness
- God's merciful actions and forgiveness with steadfast love in verse 18 & 19
- God gave them buildings and nevertheless, our fathers were disobedient and rebels
- Verse 33, faithful with all of the covenant (Galatians)
- This chapter is a lot like Psalm 106
- God bore with His people for a long time
- Now we are slaves to Persia
- God's mercy "There is more mercy in God, than sin in us." The Bruised Reed
- In this chapter, every good thing came from God
- Verse 38 is the public commitment signifying what took place spiritually
- This chapter reminds me of Stephen's sermon before his stoning
- Someone stopped talking about God had done, now they needed reminding
- Moses in Deut. 8:10-20 'Lest you forget'