



The Bible and Revival Part II  
Nehemiah 8:1-10  
April 15, 2018

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. The Bible, Holy Spirit, and a few hot-hearted men and women are all that God needs in order to have revival.

Seven questions to ask ourselves about our Bible reading:

1. Am I reading my Bible regularly?
2. Am I reading my Bible carefully or cautiously?
3. What role is the Word of God playing in my daily conversations?
4. What is my attitude toward scripture?
5. Has my Bible reading pattern caused me to have a desire to memorize scripture?
6. At the end of each day, can I explain in my own words what I read that same morning in my personal devotion? Why?
7. Has my Bible reading and daily devotional reading resulted in a changed life?

Two things happened to ensure that the walls were put to proper use:

1. A Change in Personnel

*Nehemiah 8:1b (NKJV) ...and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel.*

**Takeaway:**

God has different roles for different people. It was Nehemiah's job to build, and it now becomes Ezra's job to preach.

God sometimes changes workers, but His work always goes on.

2. A Charge to Preach the Book

*Nehemiah points out four things about true revival:*

- A. The reading of the Word (8:2-4)

**John Baker:**

"Standing above the people was for the purpose of sound and sight—not for the purpose of exalting Ezra. Ezra's standing above the people permitted the audience to hear better and to focus their attention on Ezra better."

## B. The respect for the Word (8:5-6)

### **Takeaway:**

The best way for us to show respect for the Word of God today is not to simply stand when it's read, but to obey it as we live.

Notice three things the congregation did...

1. They said amen aloud.
2. They raised their hands in public.
3. They bowed their heads and worshipped God with their faces down.

## C. The reasoning of the Word (8:8)

As a pastor, my job is not to just see truth and show it to you, the devil can do that for his own devilish reasons. Rather, my job is to do what the devil cannot do, namely to see the glory of the truth and to savor every moment of it. Preaching is not something we do after worship; the sermon is the worship. God has ordained that the church flourish under worshipful preaching.

*2 Timothy 4:1-2 (NKJV) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom <sup>2</sup>Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

### **Food for thought:**

If you are a person who likes a short, relaxed, non-confrontational 20-minute talk every Sunday, then what Ezra did for his people isn't for you! And consequently, the pulpit ministry of this church will always frustrate you as well. Preaching not only encourages, it also convicts. I feel as if there are people on the edge of hell every time I preach. Therefore, I come to this pulpit every Sunday with the goal of preaching people out of hell, and into heaven.

## D. The response to the Word (8:9-10)

Sometimes, guilt is an excellent motivational factor. ***Not all guilt is wrong.*** Guilt is often what God uses to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The sorrow of the people revealed the true repentance of the people. It indicated that the gospel could clean a person up.

The Word of God brings conviction, and that leads to repentance, but it also brings us joy; for the same Word that wounds also heals.