

IMPACT

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A Weekly Publication of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church Containing
Life-Changing Sunday School Lessons and BMA's Preaching Materials

Our Memory Verse

"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 unto Israel."

—Nehemiah 8:1—



STRAIGHT FROM THE
BELOVED PASTOR'S HEART

NEHEMIAH THE BUILDER

LESSON NO. 8 THE GREAT AWAKENING CHAPTER 8

EZRA WHOSE NAME MEANS

"GOD HELPS," was the priest and scribe who led the spiritual revival and political reforms of the returned exiles in Jeru-

salem. He was the co-worker of Nehemiah. While Nehemiah built the walls, Ezra re-established the worship of Jehovah. It must be recalled that the Jews were scattered throughout the world at the beginning of the times of the Gentiles and the worship of Jehovah was almost forgotten except for a few like Daniel and the three Hebrew children. Why do we call this chapter the great awakening?

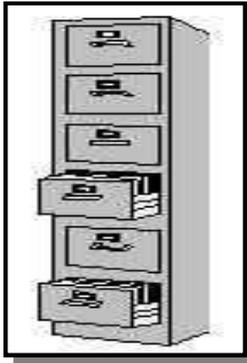
1. When the people recognized that God was with Nehemiah, they asked for the book of the Law of Moses to be read and expounded among them (v.1). It is the same thing for us, pastors and preachers (teachers), before anything else, know first that the Lord is with us.

2. Ezra being the priest and the scribe brought the Law before the congregation (v. 2). The only way for pastors and teachers to know, love and obey God is through His Word. We are commanded to "search the Scriptures" and "study to show ourselves approved unto God" (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2:15) that we may handle and teach God's Word accurately to His people.

3. The people were attentive when Ezra stood before them (v.3). Should we not also be attentive and serious when the Word of God is brought before us? With our hearts all open to God's Word, we welcome His loving correction, encouragement and instruction.

4. Ezra called his men to stand with him and when it was time for him to read the Word of God, the people stood up (vv. 4-5). They had great respect for the Word. The way believers view and value the Word of God reflect the kind of life they lead and pursue before God and men.

5. They worshipped the Lord and wept (vv.6-9). Israel for a long time has never heard the Word of God declared before them. And when they heard it preached and taught among them, they wept. This shows that their hearts were still tender. They realized how they offended God with many sins and backslidings they have committed against Him and that in spite of all these, God remained merciful toward them. We see today believers who spent many years without God and His Word in their lives melt in tears out of true repentance and joy. God's Word brought them healing and restoration. The great awakening is not only a time of weeping but also a time of rejoicing - "...for the joy of the Lord is



The BMA

Dr. Benny M. Abante's
PREACHING MATERIALS

**NOTHING SHALL OUR MOUTH SPEAK
BUT THE BLESSING OF THE WORD
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.**



**THROUGH THE BIBLE
IN A YEAR**

CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:

FEBRUARY 28	JOHN 4:7-14
FEBRUARY 29	PHILS 3:12-17
MARCH 01	EPH 5:1-17
MARCH 02	DEUT 8:1-3
MARCH 03	DEUT 8:11-16
MARCH 04	JOHN 14:1-11
MARCH 05	DEUT 32:7-12

To memorize one (1) verse in every chapter, tokens shall be awarded to those who can recite all memory verses after

Contd. from p. 1

6. This is a celebration of God's goodness and salvation and a time of praises and singing (vv. 11-14). They celebrated God for the whole seven days having all the people gather there in public to show that spiritual revival is not short-lived.

7. They did not keep this celebration to themselves alone but proclaimed and published it throughout the land (v. 15). Should we not also proclaim and publish the goodness and the grace of God throughout the land?

CONCLUSION

"And there was very great gladness" (v.17). The psalmist in Psalm 100:2 exhorts us to "serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing." This is what each one of us, our ekklesia and our country need today.

—BMA's Messages 02.28.16

Nehemiah Chapter 8

Commentary By Matthew Henry

We have here an account of a solemn religious assembly, and the good work that was done in that assembly, to the honour of God and the edification of the church.

I. The time of it was the first day of the seventh month, Neh. 8:2. That was the day of the feast of trumpets, which is

called a sabbath, and on which they were to have a holy convocation, Lev. 23:24; Num. 29:1. But that was not all: it was one that day that the altar was set up, and they began to offer their burnt-offerings after their return out of captivity, a recent mercy in the memory of many then living; in a thankful remembrance of that, it is likely, they had kept this feast ever since with more than ordinary solemnity. Divine favours which are fresh in mind, and which we ourselves have been witnesses of, should be, and usually are, most affecting.

II. The place was in the street that was before the water-gate (Neh. 8:1), a spacious broad street, able to contain so great a multitude, which the court of the temple was not; for probably it was not now built nearly so large as it had been in Solomon's time. Sacrifices were to be offered only at the door of the temple, but praying, and praising, and preaching, were, and are, services of religion as acceptably performed in one place as in another. When this congregation thus met in the street of the city no doubt God was with them.

III. The persons that met were all the people, who were not compelled to come, but voluntarily gathered themselves together by common agreement, as one man: not only men came, but women and children, even as many as were capable of understanding what they heard. Masters of families should bring their families with them to the public worship of God. Women and children have souls to save, and are therefore concerned to acquaint themselves with the word of God and attend on the means of knowledge and grace. Little ones, as they come to the exercise of reason, must be trained up in the exercises of religion.

IV. The master of this assembly was Ezra the priest; he presided in this service. None so fit to expound and preach as he who was such a ready scribe in the law of his God. 1. His call to the service was very clear; for being in office as a priest, and qualified as a scribe, the people