

Remembrance Sunday ~ Sunday, November 8, 2015
“A Time to Build: Lessons From the Book of Nehemiah ~
Restoration & Revival”
Nehemiah 8:1-12

The emphasis of the Book of Nehemiah shifts in Chapter 8, from the rebuilding the _____ to rebuilding the _____.

Chapters 1-7 deal with the _____ restoration of Jerusalem; however, Chapters 8-10 are much more important because they deal with the _____ restoration of God’s people and the _____ of the nation.

RESTORATION AND REVIVAL IN NEHEMIAH 8

“When the seventh month came, all the people assembled with a unified purpose at the square just inside the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had given for Israel to obey. So on October 8 Ezra the priest brought the Book of the Law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand.” (Nehemiah 8:1-2)

Feast of Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah =

Water Gate =

“As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God.” (Psalm 42:1-2)

“For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.” (Ezra 7:10)

“He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.” (Nehemiah 8:3)

‘Bin’ = understand =

God’s Word must be _____ and _____ before it can enter the heart and release its life-changing power.

“‘The time is surely coming,’ says the Sovereign Lord, ‘when I will send a

famine on the land—not a famine of bread or water but of hearing the words of the Lord.’” (Amos 8:11)

A _____ for God’s Word—a desire to hear it, read it, and understand it—is a central part of spiritual restoration and revival.

How hungry are you for God’s Word?

“Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, Don’t mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the Lord your God.’ For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.” (Nehemiah 8:9)

Nehemiah tells us that upon hearing the Word of God, the people were _____ of their sin, and there was much weeping and mourning.

“For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.” (Romans 3:20)

“Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance; for you felt a godly grief, so that you were not harmed in any way by us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death.” (2Corinthians 7:9-10)

‘Metanoeo’ = repentance =

“And Nehemiah continued, ‘Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!’” (Nehemiah 8:10)

The proclamation of God’s Word combined with genuine repentance is meant to produce _____.

“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of sin.” (Romans 4:7-8)

God’s word always requires a _____. The conviction of sin, repentance, and experiencing the joy of the Lord is a central part of spiritual restoration and revival.

Is the joy of the Lord your strength?

Is there anything that you need to bring to Lord and repent of?

“As they studied the Law, they discovered that the Lord had commanded through Moses that the Israelites should live in shelters during the festival to be held that month...So everyone who had returned from captivity lived in these shelters during the festival, and they were all filled with great joy!The Israelites had not celebrated like this since the days of Joshua son of Nun.” (Neh 8:14-17)

Although the proclamation of God’s word can bring us to confession, repentance, and joy, it can have no lasting effect unless it affects our _____–unless it is _____ in our lives.

A clear teaching of God’s Word should wet our appetite for _____ and call us to reflect on 2 important questions:

Feast of Tabernacles or Booths =

Seeking to live God’s word out in our lives–allowing it to be the _____ on which we _____ all our decisions and priorities is a central part of spiritual restoration and revival.

What role does God’s Word play in your life?

5 WAYS GOD’S WORD CAN CHANGE US AND BRING REVIVAL

#1. God’s Word changes us by _____.

2 images from Scripture that describe this process:

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“He chose to give us birth through the word of truth...” (James 1:8)

“From a child you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise unto salvation. (2 Timothy 3:15)

•

“You have been born, again not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23)

“Humbly accept the Word planted in you, which can save you.” (James 1:21)

#2. God’s Word changes us by _____.

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom 1:8)

“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word.” (Ephesians 5:25)

“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.” (John 15:3)

#3. God’s Word changes us by _____.

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

“These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life.” (John 20:31)

#4. God’s Word changes us by _____.

“... just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7)

• **God’s Word helps us grow by providing:** _____

“...Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields their fruit in its season and their leaves does not wither. In all they do, they prosper.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

• **God’s Word helps us grow by providing:** _____

“All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness...” (2 Timothy 3:16)

#5. God’s Word changes us by _____.

“Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15: 4)

“I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground...” (Psalm 40:1-3)

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12)