

QUESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Tell your story. Describe a time when you read the Word of God and were so moved by it that you changed an area of your life.
2. What are some excuses people make for *not* reading the Bible? How would you respond to those excuses?
3. Read the following passages and note what the Bible says about the importance of Scripture:
 - a) Joshua 1:8
 - b) Psalm 119:11
 - c) Ecclesiastes 12:13
 - d) John 17:17
 - e) Romans 10:17
 - f) II Timothy 2:15
 - g) II Timothy 3:16-17
4. Why was the date of this passage, “the first day of the seventh month,” a significant time for the Jewish people?
5. What practical application are you going to make from this week’s message? (*Share your decision with another person.*)
 - I am going to establish a plan for regularly reading the Bible.
 - I am going to read through the book of Nehemiah this week.
 - I am going to memorize II Timothy 3:16-17.

Cornerstone Church
Nehemiah 8:1-8

March 6, 2022
Study Series #16

Ezra Reads from the Law: Understanding the Word

I. Introduction

A. Starving for the Word

(See Amos 8:11)

B. An Overview of Nehemiah

- ✓ The Rebuilding of the Wall (Chapters 1-6)
- ✓ The Organization of the People (Chapter 7)
- ✓ The Instruction of the People (Chapter 8)
- ✓ The Confession of Sin (Chapter 9)
- ✓ The Dedication of the Walls (Chapter 10-12)
- ✓ The Cleansing of the People (Chapter 13)

C. A Day of New Beginnings

(See Nehemiah 8:2; Leviticus 23:23-44; II Corinthians 6:2; Isaiah 49:8; Luke 12:16-21)

II. Ezra Reads from the Law

A. The People of God Gather

(See Nehemiah 8:1-2; Psalm 133:1; John 17:23; Ephesians 4:3; Ephesians 4:13; Colossians 3:14; Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3; John 4:4:13-14; John 7:37-39; Matthew 5:6; John 6:35; Nehemiah 8:1; Ezra 7:6; 7:11; Nehemiah 8:2-3,7-8,12-13)

B. The Priest of God Reads

(See Nehemiah 8:3; Deuteronomy 31:11)

C. The People of God Listen

(See Nehemiah 8:4-5; I Thessalonians 2:13; Nehemiah 8:7; Nehemiah 8:18)

D. The People of God Worship

(See Nehemiah 8:6; Psalm 119:18; Nehemiah 8:6)

E. The Law of God Explained

(See Nehemiah 8:7-8; Deuteronomy 33:10; Malachi 2:7; Genesis 9:20; Matthew 11:28-29)

“Alle ye that traueilen & teen chargid come to me & I schal fulfille you. Take ye my yok on you & lerne ye of me for I am mylde and meke in herte; and ye schulen finde rest to youre soulis / for my yok is softe & my charge liyt.”

Wycliffe Translation – 1382

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

New American Standard Bible - 2020

III. Conclusion

IV. Communion

Communion at Cornerstone Church is open for all who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. You do not have to be a member of Cornerstone or a member of a Southern Baptist Church to observe Communion with us. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you are welcome to take Communion. If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, Scripture commands that you refrain taking Communion. (I Cor 11:26-31)

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian, or if you would like to talk with someone or have someone pray for you, please contact the church office and the pastor will contact you.

Passage of Study

Nehemiah 8:1-8

¹ And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who *could* listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴ Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishaël, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah *and* Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵ Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with *their* faces to the ground. ⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people *remained* in their place. ⁸ They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

All quotations are taken from the New American Standard unless otherwise noted. NASB. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers 1985. A free PDF of this note sheet is available at: www.cssbchurch.org/sermons-2. © 2022.