

Nehemiah 8 Israel Returns to Worship God

Introduction: The last time we met was on March 15th. Who knew at that time it would be two months before another assembly here at Lilac Road? A lot has happened during this time and many more sermons will be preached on lessons learned during this time but I want us to think about the events in Nehemiah 8.

I) Background.

A) God punished _____ for her unfaithfulness.

1. _____ BC Babylon comes and conquers Jerusalem, the 1st captivity
2. _____ BC Judah rebels against Babylon, Jerusalem conquered 2nd time
3. _____ BC Judah again rebels and is destroyed by Babylon.

B) God promises a remnant would return

1. _____ would be punished by God. **Jeremiah 25:11.**
- b. The _____ would return from captivity, **Jeremiah 29:10**
2. During those seventy years their worship was different.

C) The return

1. _____ BC Cyrus, King of Persia allows the Jews to return. **Ezra 1:1-3**
2. To rebuild was a big task. Eventually they rebuilt the temple. **Ezra 3:11-12,**
3. Then around _____ BC Nehemiah returns with a group to Canaan.

II) The Revival in Nehemiah 8

A) The _____ came together, Nehemiah 8:1

1. Notice this was not a meeting called together by the leaders but by the people.
2. One thing that last two months has proved is how much we miss each other.

B) They read from the _____, Nehemiah 8:1b-2.

1. If their ancestors had been as interested in God's word as they were, the captivity might have been averted.
2. We must always be centered on God's word, **2 Timothy 2:15**

C) They _____ with _____ Ephesians 3:4

1. They helped them understand the reading. **Nehemiah 8:8**

D) They _____ together. Nehemiah 8:6

1. There is an important attitude in worship- _____.
2. Worship is God centered activity.
3. Worship can get side tracked by concentrating too much on what we want, entertainment, or be useless because of an improper attitude.
4. Emphasis in religion has been less of God and more of man
5. Jesus often criticized the Pharisees because they did things to be seen by men,
6. We need to make sure we are not guilty of those same things.

E) They _____, Nehemiah 8:11-12.

1. Serving and worshipping God should never be some tiresome task or sad occasion.

Psalms 122:1."

2. We get to stand in the presence of deity.
3. Obedience to God's word should cause us to rejoice. **Acts 8:39**