

NEHEMIAH 7&8

GIVE SHORT RECAP ON 1-6

CHAPTERS 1-6 SHOW US HOW NEHEMIAH ACCOMPLISHED HIS FIRST OBJECTIVE, BUILDING THE WALL. CHAPTER SEVEN IS TRANSITIONAL AND RECORDS THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD CONSOLIDATING THE WORK. THIS MOVE TOWARD CONSOLIDATION WILL SOON BE INTERRUPTED BY A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN CHAPTER 8

THE FIRST THING WE WILL LOOK AT IS THE NEW LEADERSHIP NEHEMIAH PROVIDES FOR THE CITY

Nehemiah 7:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

7 After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers, the musicians and the Levites were appointed. ² I put in charge of Jerusalem my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah the commander of the citadel, because he was a man of integrity and feared God more than most people do. ³ I said to them, “The gates of Jerusalem are not to be opened until the sun is hot. While the gatekeepers are still on duty, have them shut the doors and bar them. Also appoint residents of Jerusalem as guards, some at their posts and some near their own houses.”

NEHEMIAH PUT HANANI IN CHARGE OF JERUSALEM BECAUSE HE WAS A MAN OF INTEGRITY AND FEARED GOD----GREAT CHARACTER TRAITS FOR A LEADER

HANANIAH WAS ALREADY A COMMANDER OF THE CITADEL, SO HE HAD EXPERIENCE AT BEING A LEADER

HANANI WAS PICKED FOR HIS CHARACTER ALONE

SHARE ABOUT CHARACTER, WHEN NOBODY'S LOOKING

ALEXANDER HAMILTON SAID “ THE AIM OF EVERY POLITICAL CONSTITUTION IS, OR OUGHT TO BE, FIRST TO OBTAIN FOR RULERS, MEN WHO POSSESS THE MOST WISDOM TO DISCERN, AND THE MOST VIRTUE TO PURSUE THE COMMON GOOD OF SOCIETY; AND IN THE NEXT PLACE, TO TAKE THE MOST EFFECTUAL PRECAUTIONS FOR KEEPING THEM VIRTUOUS”

VERSE TWO PUTS FORTH THE TWO BASIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR A POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE, FAITHFULNESS AND FEAR OF GOD. THE LEADER MUST HAVE THE DISCERNMENT AND ABILITY TO CHOOSE ABLE MEN OR WOMEN WHO WILL BE “PROBLEM SOLVERS” NOT “PROBLEM MAKERS”. THE LEADER MUST ALSO BE WILLING TO EXAMINE HIS/HER WEAKNESSES AND EMPLOY PEOPLE WHO WILL TAKE UP SOME OF THE SLACK

THEODORE ROOSEVELT ONCE SAID “THE BEST EXECUTIVE IS THE ONE WHO HAS SENSE ENOUGH TO PICK GOOD MEN TO DO WHAT HE WANTS DONE, AND SELF RESTRAINT ENOUGH TO KEEP FROM MEDDLING WITH THEM WHILE THEY DO IT.”

A GOOD LEADER TRAINS OTHERS WELL, THEN LETS THEM HAVE THE FREEDOM TO MAKE MISTAKES, GROW, AND SUCCEED

Nehemiah 7:4-6 New International Version (NIV)

⁴Now the city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt. ⁵So my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials and the common people for registration by families. I found the genealogical record of those who had been the first to return. This is what I found written there:

⁶These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town,

NEHEMIAH REALIZED HOW IMPORTANT AN INVENTORY OF THE PEOPLE WOULD BE DURING THE FOUNDATIONAL REBUILDING OF JERUSALEM

ATTENTION TO DETAILS AND ORGANIZATION ARE KEY TO SUCCESS

NOW HE NEW WHO WAS OF PURE PRIESTHOOD GENEALOGY AND WHO HAD INTERMARRIED WITH GENTILES

NOW NEHEMIAH INSURES THAT THOSE WHO WORK IN THE TEMPLE WILL BE ADEQUATELY CARED FOR AND ALL THOSE IN CHARGE OF GOD'S HOUSE WERE BROUGHT BACK TO PROMINENCE IN THE COMMUNITY.

THEY HAD LONG BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY RULERS
THAT RULED OVER THEM

CHAPTER SUMMARY:

1. THE LEADER SHOULD BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN
THE TRAINING OF HIS/HER PEOPLE FOR
LEADERSHIP POSITIONS
2. FAITHFULNESS AND FEAR OF GOD ARE THE TWO
PRIMARY QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL
LEADERSHIP
3. THE LEADER NEEDS TO GIVE HIS/HER PEOPLE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THEIR OWN
POTENTIAL BY STRIVING TO CREATE NEW
POSSIBILITIES FOR THEMSELVES AND OTHERS
4. THE LEADER, BY EXAMPLE, MUST SHOW THOSE
HE/SHE IS RESPONSIBLE TO AND FOR, WHAT
GIVING IS ALL ABOUT. GIVING IS MORE CAUGHT
THAN TAUGHT. ATTITUDES ARE HARD TO TEACH,
THEY'RE CONTAGIOUS

CHAPTER 8

WE TRANSITION FROM CHAPTER 7 AND WORKING
TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO GETTING RIGHT
WITH GOD AS A COMMUNITY AND PERSONALLY

REVIVAL.....GOD'S PEOPLE HAD BEEN GETTING THEIR BUTTS KICKED FOR AWHILE, NOT TO MENTION DOING EACH OTHER DIRTY AT THE SAME TIME. NEHEMIAH IS NOT JUST REBUILDING THE CITY, HE (THROUGH GOD'S WORD) IS REBUILDING THE PEOPLE

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL TAKES PLACE IN A PERSON'S LIFE WHEN THEY SET THEIR HEART TOWARDS DISCOVERING WHO GOD IS....AND WHO GOD IS, IS IN HIS WORD

REVIVE MEANS "TO LIVE AGAIN" ANYONE HERE RELATE TO THAT? I KNOW THERE ARE SOME HERE TODAY THAT ARE STARTING OVER, YOU ARE LAYING A NEW FOUNDATION TO BUILD ON.

I ALSO KNOW THERE ARE SOME OF US IN HERE TODAY JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS, WE HAVEN'T FELT THE FIRE IN A WHILE AND WE NEED A PERSONAL REVIVAL

CHAPTER 8 GIVES US SOME VITAL INGREDIENTS THAT GO INTO TRUE REVIVAL

CERTAINLY MUCH OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM THUS FAR HAS GREATLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE ATMOSPHERE PRECEDING THIS HIGHLIGHT OF JEWISH HISTORY

THE REVIVAL WAS A PRODUCT OF STRONG LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION. IT WAS A PRODUCT OF A UNITED EFFORT. THESE WERE TESTED PEOPLE, PROVEN UNDER PRESSURES AND OBSTACLES THEY HAD ALREADY SEEN AND OVERCOME. THERE WAS A GENUINE DESIRE AND CAUSE TO WORK.

Nehemiah 8:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

8 ¹ all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

THERE WERE NO BOOKS, THERE WAS NO “PERSONAL BIBLE” FIRST ORDER OF BUISNESS WHEN IT COMES TO REVIVAL IS GETTING THE WORD OF GOD INTO HIS PEOPLE

NEHEMIAH KNEW NOW THAT THE WALL WAS BUILT AND THE PEOPLE OF CITY WERE TREATING EACH OTHER FAIRLY, IT WAS TIME TO REVIVE THE SPIRITUAL HEALTH OF THE CITY

THIS IS KEY....SPIRITUAL HEALTH IS FOUNDATIONAL TO A HEALTHY LIFE

EZRA HAD ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM 14 YEARS BEFORE NEHEMIAH AND HAD DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO STUDYING THE LAW

Ezra 7:6 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.

Ezra 7:10 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ 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.

SET YOUR HEART TOWARD STUDYING THE WORD,
THEN LIVE WHAT YOU KNOW, THEN TEACH OTHERS
WHAT YOU LIVE

Nehemiah 8:5-6 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

AS EZRA PREACHED THE WORD, THE ISREALITES ENGAGED, THE WORD OF GOD WAS MOVING THEM, HEALING THEM, CONVICTING THEM, AND FILLING THEM

AMEN MEANS "SO BE IT" , IT IS AN AGREEMENT NOT JUST PHYSICALLY BUT SPIRITUALLY...THEY BOWED AND BEGAN TO WORSHIP....REVIVAL !!

BOWING BEFORE GOD IS AN APPROPRIATE POSTURE THAT SHOWS YOUR HUMBLENESS BEFORE GOD BUT IT IS NOT THE ONLY WAY TO SHOW HIM HONOR

IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAT YOUR SPIRIT, YOUR HEART, WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, BOWS TO HIS GLORY...HE IS WORTHY

Nehemiah 8:7 New International Version (NIV)

Nehemiah 8:7-8 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—
instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear^[a] and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

DISCIPLESHIP IS SO IMPORTANT, THOSE WHO UNDERSTOOD MADE SURE THE OTHERS BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND

Nehemiah 8:9-12 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

THE PEOPLE WERE ENGAGED, THE WORD OF GOD WAS DELIVERED, THE HOLY SPIRIT WRECKED THEM

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.”

¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

THIS WAS THE TIME TO CELEBRATE, A FRESH START
WITH A FRESH FIRE

FORGIVE YOURSELF, FORGIVE OTHERS, MAKE PEACE
WITH YOUR PAST, AND MOVE FORWARD WITH JOY

HAVE CONGREGATION READ

Psalm 118:1-7 New International Version (NIV)

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

² Let Israel say:
“His love endures forever.”

³ Let the house of Aaron say:
“His love endures forever.”

⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say:
“His love endures forever.”

⁵ When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD;
he brought me into a spacious place.

⁶ The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?

⁷ The LORD is with me; he is my helper.
I look in triumph on my enemies.

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE, I WILL REJOICE
AND BE GLAD IN IT !!

TRUE REVIVAL, PERSONALLY, OR CORPORATELY,
COMES WHEN WE SUBMIT OURSELVES TOTALLY TO THE
AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD

SEARCH YOUR HEART TODAY, ARE YOU DRY?
STAIL? DO YOU FEEL LOST? BROKEN? ALONE?

YOU NEED A TOUCH FROM GOD...YOU NEED REVIVAL
CLOSE WITH ALTER CALL