

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

NEHEMIAH 9

Nehemiah 9

Nehemiah nine is the result of what happened in chapter eight. Let's go back to chapter eight to make sure we did not miss the primary teaching of this great event. **"He (Ezra) 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. Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose..."**

Nehemiah 8:3-4. Ezra read the Law of Moses for hours and the people stood, and not only did they stand there, but they listened. When Ezra stood before them on a "Pulpit" of wood, that is a platform made of wood so he could and would be seen, all the people stood in honor and reverence of the public reading for the sacred scriptures.

A side note, the pulpit of wood was what he stood on and not behind. We often call a pulpit what should be called a podium. The pulpit is the stage or platform, not what a speaker stands behind to speak. When the people stood up, Ezra blessed the LORD, the God of Israel and all the people answered, AMEN! AMEN! and lifted their hands to

God and bowed their heads! The people affirmed the blessing of God by Ezra, and there was response to the reading of the Words of God. This is the pattern of Scripture; the Word of God is read, and the people praise the LORD and worship Him. Verse eight describes what Ezra did in greater detail,

"They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading. Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people, said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep...' Then he said to them, 'Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'" Nehemiah 8:8-10

Prayer and Action Steps

Notice the leaders gave the "sense" of the reading so the people could "understand" the Word of God! Lord, please give us leaders that will help us "understand" your Word, so we can obey. Amen

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____

