***Nehemiah #11** **11/09/08**

GOD'S WORD*: Life's Greatest Treasure!*

Nehemiah 8:1-18

I. Honoring the Word- (vs. 1-3)

The people gathered together in an open square in the city to hear Ezra the scribe read the Scriptures to them.

A. They honored the Word with their attendance!-8:1

The people gathered together in the public square to hear the reading of God's Word! When you faithfully attend services where the Word is being preached you honor the Word! You are saying that everything else on your agenda takes second place to God and His Word! *Heb 10:24-25

B. They honored the Word with their attention!- 8:3

When you sit in church make sure and give full attention to the Word that is being preached! Don't let distractions pull you away.

The Bible in 50 Words—"God made, Adam bit, Noah arked, Abraham split, Joseph ruled, Jacob fooled, bush talked, Moses balked, Pharaoh plagued, people walked, sea divided, tablets guided, promise landed, Saul freaked, David peeked, prophets warned, Jesus born, God walked, Love talked, anger crucified, hope died, Love rose, Spirit flamed, Word spread, God remained."

C. They honored the Word with their attitude

When the Word was read, they responded- 8:6

Say, Amen!, Lifted Hands, Bowed heads, with Faces to the ground!

II. Seeking to understand the Word- (vs. 4-8)

A. They understood through public proclamation ****1 Timothy 4:11-16***

This is like our "preaching service." This is important for the people to gather together corporately and worship God. Understand that the common man didn't have a copy of the Bible. This was his only way of hearing the Scriptures read.

B. They understood through personal instruction *Colossians 3:16

Today most emphasis is put on the preaching service. But there are some things that you will only learn in a smaller group setting with more personal instruction!

III. Rejoicing in the Word- (vs. 9-12) **John 7:37-39*

***Jeremiah 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And *Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;* For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.**

IV. Obeying the Word- (vs. 13-18)

***THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES For this feast they built booths of branches, usually on top of their house. This was a time of:**

A. Looking back- to their days of wandering through the wilderness

B. Looking around- at all the blessings that God had bestowed upon them.

C. Looking ahead- to the coming glory of the Lord

"To Do God's Will is Life's Greatest Pleasure!"

Jesus Christ Fulfills Israel's Feasts	
The Feasts (Lv 23)	**Jesus Christ's Fulfillment**
Passover (March/April)	Death of Christ (1Cor 5:7)
Unleavened Bread (March/April)	Sinlessness of Christ (1Cor 5:8)
Firstfruits (March/April)	Resurrection of Christ (1Cor 15:23)
Pentecost (May/June)	Outpouring of Spirit of Christ (Acts 1:5; 2:4)
Trumpets (Sept./Oct.)	Israel's Regathering by Christ (Mt 24:31)
Atonement (Sept./Oct.)	Substitutionary Sacrifice by Christ (Rom 11:26)
Tabernacles (Sept./Oct.)	**Rest and Reunion with Christ** (Zech 14:16–19) **At His Second Coming!**

The Feast of Tabernacles

1. Held after harvest and vintage. De 16:13.
2. Began fifteenth of seventh month. Le 23:34,39.
3. Lasted seven days. Le 23:34,41; De 16:13,15.
4. Called the feast of ingathering. Ex 23:16,17.
5. All males obliged to appear at. Ex 23:16,17.
6. First and last days of, holy convocations. Le 23:35,39; Nu 29:12,35.
7. Sacrifices during. Le 23:36,37; Nu 29:13-39.
8. To be observed
    a. With rejoicing. De 16:14,15.
    b. Perpetually. Le 23:41.
9. The people dwelt in booths during. Le 23:42; Ne 8:15,16.
10. The law publicly read every seventh year at. De 31:10-12; Ne 8:18.
11. Customs observed at
    a. Bearing branches of palms. Le 23:40; Re 7:9.
    b. Drawing water from the pool of Siloam. Isa 12:3; Joh 7:2,37-39.
    c. Singing hosannas. Ps 118:24-29; Mt 21:8,9.
12. To commemorate the sojourn of Israel in the desert. Le 23:43.
13. Remarkable celebrations of
    a. At the dedication of Solomon's temple. 1Ki 8:2,65.
    b. After the captivity. Ex 3:4; Ne 8:17.

Torrey, R. (1995, c1897). ***The new topical text book***