



RISE UP AND BUILD

A STUDY IN NEHEMIAH

God's People Receive God's Word

Nehemiah 8:1-12

**God's people devote their attention to God's Word
and live by the faith it produces in them.**



Demands Attention - v.1-4

1 And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. 2 So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. 3 And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. Nehemiah 8:1–3, ESV



Produces a Response - v.5-9

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. 6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Nehemiah 8:5–6, ESV



Reveals God's Joy - v. 10-12

- ***“God is happiness. Joy is fundamental to his triune nature. To find God is to find the fountain of all joy.”***
Tony Reinke
- **in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. 1 Timothy 1:11, ESV**



Reveals God's Joy - v. 10-12

10 ...And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them. Nehemiah 8:10b-12, ESV



looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2, ESV



For Reflection and Repentance

- **What prevents me from giving God's Word my full attention?**
- **What internal responses am I experiencing *right now* to the preaching of God's Word?**
- **What am I looking to for strength? If it isn't God's joy, why do I think it will sustain me?**
- **Since Jesus joyfully endured the cross—how should I worship and repent?**

