

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH



6. The Power of the Word

Introduction

The walls and the gates of the city had been completed. Nehemiah acknowledged that this had only been possible with the help of their God. Then gatekeepers, singers and Levites were appointed, along with men to be in charge of the city. When the 7th month came the people celebrated the Feast of the Seventh Month, which was the Feast of Tabernacles.

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-18

- ✿ Describe what happened on the first day of the 7th month in Nehemiah 8:2-12.
- ✿ What did they discover on the second day of the feast? See verses 13-15
- ✿ Each day Ezra the Scribe read from the Book of the Law. How did the people respond? See verses 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16

- (i. The people listened attentively from daybreak till midday as the Book was read.*
- ii. The people responded by bowing and worshipping the Lord.*
- iii. The people wept as they heard God's Word.*
- iv. They began to understand God's Word.*
- v. They obeyed what God had told them to do.)*

- ✿ What can God's Word do in our lives according to the following verses? Psalm 119:9, 11, John 6:63, Romans 10:17, Ephesians 5:26, 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

(God's Word guards us from sin, gives us life, produces faith, washes us clean, teaches, rebukes, corrects and trains us.)

- ✿ God's Word changed the lives of the people in the time of Nehemiah. Why did it have such an impact? What can we learn from this? Also see Psalm 119:12-16, Matthew 5:6

(When we truly value God's Word, think about it and follow it, our lives are changed. In the time of Nehemiah the people were hungry to hear God's Word and as a result they responded to what God was saying to them.)

- ✿ What has encouraged or challenged you from this story? Share.

Conclusion

As we have read through the Book of Nehemiah we have seen how the walls and gates of the city were rebuilt, even though there were obstacles and opposition. This is a picture of our lives. God is at work in us, to rebuild and restore our lives. We too will face obstacles and opposition! However God has given us his Word – we need to read it, understand it, meditate on it and obey it. As it says in 1 Peter 2:2, 'crave spiritual milk, so that by it you will grow up.'