

Ebenezer Youth Fellowship
Text: Nehemiah 8: 1-8
Message 8: The Book of Nehemiah – Chapter 8

Revision:

1. Chapter 1: Nehemiah's concern and prayer. Learn to pray rightly
2. Chapter 2: Petition to the king; journey to Jerusalem; rally the people to build
3. Chapter 3: Division of labour to do God's work – orderly and properly organised
4. Chapter 4: Opposition by mockery, conspiracy and discouragement
5. Chapter 5: Internal strife and Nehemiah's response and personal conduct
6. Chapter 6: Opposition by compromise, slander & betrayal yet wall was completed
7. Chapter 7: No complacency after wall was completed and spontaneous giving

1. Bible Reading at the Water Gate (8:1-4)

- (a) Building the people to be spiritually strong is very important. God's Word has not been heard and taught for a long time since the captivity.
- (b) Hunger and thirst for God's Word:
 - i) the people asked for it (v.1)
 - ii) the people heard it (v.2)
 - iii) the people were attentive for long period (v.3)
 - iv) the people were willing learners (v.4)

2. Spiritual Revival (8:5-18) – 6 characteristics

- (a) Reverence for Scriptures (v.5) – the people stood up.
- (b) Worship of God (v.6) – In spirit and in truth. What is meaning of Amen? In worship, we should say Amen together as expression of our agreement to the prayer.
- (c) Understand Scriptures (v.7-8) – expository preaching.
- (d) Remorse for sins (v.9) – true repentance with sincere tears (cf. 2 Cor 7:10).
- (e) Rejoicing in fellowship (v.10-12) - Joy comes after weeping.
- (f) Obedience to God's Word (v.13-18) – Reading of God's Word continued in 2nd day. Feast of Tabernacles was kept. How long has it been stopped? Note v.18 that God's Word continued to be read for 7 days.

Nehemiah: Man of Concern; Man of Prayer; Man who waited upon God; Man of Action; Man of Planning; Man of Teamwork; Man of Courage; Man who fear God; Man who reverence God's Word.

Memory Verse: Nehemiah 8:10b “for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”