Sunday, March 29, 2020

# Finding Joy Beyond Our Struggles

## Nehemiah 8:1-18

David H. McKinley

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|---|---|---|
| 586 B.C. | Babylonians | Nebuchadnezzar |
| 539 B.C. | Persians | Artaxerxes |
| 450 B.C. | Jews | Nehemiah |

*Overview*
Nehemiah **learned** about Jerusalem.
Nehemiah **prayed** for Jerusalem.
Nehemiah **returned** to Jerusalem.
Nehemiah **gathered** people to rebuild Jerusalem.
Nehemiah **faced** challenges in Jerusalem.
Nehemiah **rebuilt** the walls of Jerusalem. (52 days)

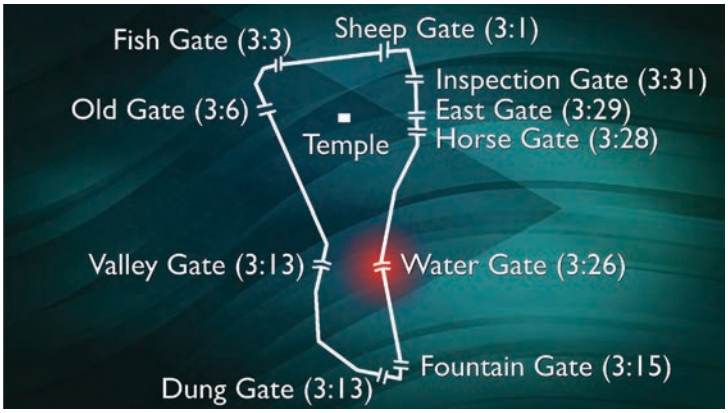
[1]And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. [2]So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they 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. [4]And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose… [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, 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… [8]They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. —Nehemiah 8:1-6, 8

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 8:12

**How does God's Word bring joy and hope to us today?**

**1. The Bible Reveals the _____ of God**

Notes:



[23]Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, [24]but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."
—Jeremiah 9:23-24

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ. —Philippians 3:8

"Knowledge of God's Word is intended to focus us on knowing the God of the Word."

[1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was in the beginning with God. [3]All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. [4]In Him was life, and the life was the light of men… [14]And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. —John 1:1-4, 14

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**2. The Bible Reflects God's _____ and _____**

[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… [9]And 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." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law.
—Nehemiah 8:5, 9

**3. The Bible Affirms the _____ of God**

…that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. —Lev. 23:43

[4]For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope… [13]May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
—Romans 15:4, 13

**4. The Bible Fuels Our _____ with _____**

These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. —John 15:11

But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.
—John 17:13

"Holy joy will be oils to the wheels of obedience."
—Matthew Henry

Notes:

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