### Nehemiah

## Chapter 8

1By the 7th month, all the sons of IsraEl had had returned to their cities.  
  
Then all the people came and gathered as a single man in the wide area in front of the Then all the people came and gathered as a single man in the wide area in front of the <span class="placename">Water GateThen all the people came and gathered as a single man in the wide area in front of the <span class="placename">Water Gate</span>, and they asked the Scribe Ezra to bring out the scroll of the Law of Moses that gave Jehovah’s instructions to IsraEl.  
  
2So on the 1st day of the 7th month, the Priest Ezra carried the Law before the gathering, because everyone (both the men and the women) wanted to hear what it said.  
  
3Then from sunrise until about noon, Ezra read it to them there in the square in front of the Then from sunrise until about noon, Ezra read it to them there in the square in front of the <span class="placename">Water GateThen from sunrise until about noon, Ezra read it to them there in the square in front of the <span class="placename">Water Gate</span>, and everyone paid very close attention to what was written in the scroll of the Law.  
  
4Ezra did this as he was standing on a wooden podium that he’d made for such public speaking, while to his right were standing:  
  
 • MatTithiJah,  
 • ShemaiAh,  
 • AnaiJah,  
 • UriAh,  
 • HilkiAh, and   
 • MaAseJah.  
  
And on his left were standing:  
  
 • PedaiJah,  
 • MishaEl,  
 • MelchiJah,  
 • Hashum,  
 • HashBadana,  
 • ZechariAh, and   
 • MeshulLam.  
  
5So Ezra opened the scroll before all the people as he stood above everyone who was gathered there, 6and he praised their great God Jehovah.  
  
And the people said:  
  
 ‘May it be so, may it be so,’  
  
As they were raising their arms and bowing low before Jehovah with their faces to the ground.  
  
7Well, after that, the Levites along with...  
  
 • JeShua,  
 • Bani,  
 • SherebiJah,  
 • JaMin,  
 • AkKub,  
 • ShabbethAi,  
 • HodiJah,  
 • MaAseJah,  
 • Kelita,  
 • AzariAh,  
 • JoZabad,  
 • Hanan, and   
 • PelaiJah  
  
...explained the Law to the people, as they were all standing in their places.  
  
8And as he read from the scroll of the Law of God, Ezra taught and instructed them in order to give them a deeper knowledge of Jehovah… And the people understood!  
  
9Then NehemiAh (who was also known as AtarSatha) stood up next to the Scribe and Priest Ezra and the Levites (who’d been explaining things to the people) and said:  
  
 ‘Because this is a holy day to our God Jehovah, you must stop being sad and crying’ (because all the people had been crying as they were listening to the words of the Law).  
  
10He continued:  
  
 ‘Rather, you should each [sit down] and eat the fatness and drink the sweetness, then share what you have with those who have nothing, because, this is a holy day to our God Jehovah!  
  
 ‘Don’t be shy before our God, because the joy of Jehovah is what will make us strong!’  
  
11Well thereafter, the Levites had to settle the people down.  
  
They shouted:  
  
 ‘You have to be quiet, because this is a holy day… You must stop falling to the ground!’  
  
12So at that, all the people started eating, drinking, and sharing whatever they had... For they were all very joyful after learning of the things that they’d just been told.  
  
  
13Then on the 2nd day, the governor gathered all the family heads, along with all the people, the Priests, and the Levites, before the Scribe Ezra, so that they could listen to the [reading of] more of the words of the Law.  
  
14That’s when they found that it was written in the Law that God gave to Moses, that the sons of IsraEl were to live in temporary dwellings during the holiday of the 7th month, and that this was to be announced by the blowing of trumpets throughout all their cities and in JeruSalem.  
  
15So Ezra said:  
  
 ‘Everyone should go into the mountains and gather olive branches, along with the branches of cypress trees, myrtle trees, palms, and branches from bushes (as we were told to do in the writing) to make temporary dwellings for ourselves.’  
  
16So all the people went out and gathered whatever they needed to make the temporary dwellings, and they erected them on their roofs, in their courtyards, in the courtyards of the Temple of God, in the square by the So all the people went out and gathered whatever they needed to make the temporary dwellings, and they erected them on their roofs, in their courtyards, in the courtyards of the Temple of God, in the square by the <span class="placename">Water GateSo all the people went out and gathered whatever they needed to make the temporary dwellings, and they erected them on their roofs, in their courtyards, in the courtyards of the Temple of God, in the square by the <span class="placename">Water Gate</span>, and in the square by the So all the people went out and gathered whatever they needed to make the temporary dwellings, and they erected them on their roofs, in their courtyards, in the courtyards of the Temple of God, in the square by the <span class="placename">Water Gate</span>, and in the square by the <span class="placename">Gate of EphraimSo all the people went out and gathered whatever they needed to make the temporary dwellings, and they erected them on their roofs, in their courtyards, in the courtyards of the Temple of God, in the square by the <span class="placename">Water Gate</span>, and in the square by the <span class="placename">Gate of Ephraim</span>.  
  
17Then everyone who had returned from captivity spent time living in the temporary dwellings, which is something that the sons of IsraEl hadn’t done from the time of JoShua (son of NaWeh) until that day, and everyone was extremely happy!  
  
18Thereafter, [Ezra] continued to read from the scroll of the Law of God from the 1st day to the last of the 7 days of the holiday.  
  
Then they ended it on the 8th day, just as they were told.