



**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

Week 4

Nehemiah 7-10

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Day 1- Nehemiah 7-10

Read Nehemiah 7-10 in your Bible.

- Pray as you read, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in understanding, praise, confession, thanksgiving, and petition in light of the truth you are reading.
- Underline/highlight key words, phrases, and verses that stand out to you.

Day 2- Nehemiah 7

In this chapter the focus shifts from building the wall to building the people.

1. From verse 4, describe the city that the wall is now surrounding.

2. Whose idea was it according to verse 5, to enroll the people according to their genealogy?

Scholar's Note: "This list is virtually identical to the one in Ezra 2. Therefore, its purpose is not to give new information but to highlight Nehemiah's next concern after completing the walls, namely, to repopulate Jerusalem." ESV Study Notes

Digging Deeper: Read Isaiah 62:4, 12. This chapter is a prophecy for the future of Jerusalem. What names in verse 12 highlight God's grace to his people? Who are the people that can live in God's holy city?



Spend time meditating on the fact that as a believer you are *sought out, saved, set apart* and *delighted in*. Let these stunning truths ignite your heart with love for God and draw you to him in grateful prayer!

Day 3- Nehemiah 8

3. According to verses 3 and 9, how receptive were the people to God's Word?

4. What is the emphasis in verses 2, 3, 7, 8, and 12?

Scholar's Note: What is strikingly apparent is the royal reception given to the Word of God. This day was to prove a turning point. From now on, the Jews would be predominantly 'the people of a book'. -Derek Kidner

5. In verse 6, how do Ezra and the people exemplify what the reading of God's Word should lead to?



The prayerful reading of God's Word should move us to worship with all that worship includes- adoration, thanksgiving, confession and obedience.

If reading God's Word is a lifeless task to you, begin with preparing your heart by **praying God's Word** back to him using this approach by John Piper he calls IOUS.

I- Incline! Psalm 119:36 teaches us to pray "*Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!*" With this prayer we are asking God to help us want to know God and read his Word and draw near to him.

O- Open! Psalm 119:18 teaches us to pray "*Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.*" With this prayer we are asking God to help us understand his Word and what is showing us about him.

U- Unite! Psalm 86:11 teaches us to pray, *“Unite my heart to fear your name.”* With this prayer we are asking God to make our whole heart devoted to him not just part of it.

S- Satisfy! Psalm 90:14 teaches us to ask God to, *“Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love.”* With this prayer we are asking that our hearts be satisfied with God and not the world.

As we pray God’s Word back to him we can be sure that God will answer those prayers, as we trust him to work in our hearts.

6. How was the emphasis on Scripture intensified on the second day according to verse 13?

7. What had obedience to God’s Word brought in verse 17?

Day 4- Nehemiah 9

8. Again in verse 3, we see the effect the reading of God’s Word produces, what is it?

9. Verse 5b begins the prayer that is the rest of chapter 9. The beginning of the prayer is filled with praise for who God is and what he has done. From verses 5b-15 make a list of all they praised God for.

10. What pattern do you see repeated again and again in this prayer, from verses 16-31?

11. What is the value in contemplating the seriousness and immensity of your accumulated sins?

-What is the danger in doing so?

-What is the danger in never doing so?¹

Picture and Ponder: The people know that God is right in his judgment of them. (v.33) They understand that they are living the consequences of their own sin. (vs.36-37) But they still cry out to God because he is merciful! It doesn't matter if you are in the predicament you are in because of your own sin; God wants you to cry out to him! (v.32)



Spend time now...

Praising God for who he is and for the great work he has done in your life.

Admit your sin to him, confessing that you don't always love God the way you ought or worship him the way he deserves.

Thank him for his mercy and grace in sending Jesus to do for us everything we fail to do.

Ask God to help you rest in the work of Jesus on your behalf, to delight in the beauty of God displayed in Jesus and to understand the depth of his love for you.

¹ James M. Hamilton

Day 5- Nehemiah 10

12. What had the people been called away from and what had they been called to, in verse 28? How does this play out in our lives today?

13. What are the people promising to do in verse 29? What hope do you have for their commitment after seeing their 1,000-year cycle of failure in chapter 9?

Digging Deeper: Look up Ezekiel 36:26-27. Ezekiel is prophesying about the new covenant that God would make through the blood of Jesus (Luke 22:20). What do we have that the people in Nehemiah's day did not? What hope does this new covenant bring us?

14. Three aspects of the covenant are emphasized in this chapter. How did each of these commitments serve to facilitate their relationship with God?

-They will not intermarry with pagan people.

-They will keep the Sabbath.

-They will support the ministry of the temple.

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?