

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 29
Nehemiah 8

INTRODUCTION: The children of Israel had been in bondage for 70 years in Babylon. Under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah, they had returned to the Promised Land and rebuilt the temple and the wall around the city of Jerusalem. After a building program, after a long, hard time of reestablishing themselves and rebuilding the city, they find themselves with secular minds in need of a real revival. In Nehemiah 8 and 9 they have that revival. Let us notice the ingredients of such a moving of the Holy Spirit.

- I. THE PEOPLE WERE AS ONE. In Nehemiah 8:1a, notice the words, “And all the people gathered themselves together as one man.” Ah, this is the secret! When God’s people can become one, God can work. On the day of Pentecost, the Bible says, “...they were all with one accord in one place,” Acts 2:1b. Real revival comes when God’s people are together. (Teacher, take a big book. Tear out one page. Tear that one page to shreds. Then put all the pages together and try to tear the entire book. Show the pupils how important it is that we stick together as God’s people.)
- II. THE PEOPLE MAGNIFIED THE WORD OF GOD. Notice in Nehemiah 8:1b the words, “Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses.” Notice in verse 2 that all that could understand heard the Word of God. Notice in verse 3 that they stayed from the morning until midday. Real revival is built around the Word of God. When a church has revival, it is because the church centers itself around the Word of God. For an individual to have revival, the Word of God must be magnified in his life. (Teacher, stress how important it is for Christians to read the Bible, carry the Bible, love the Bible, teach the Bible, learn the Bible, etc.)
- III. THE PEOPLE CENTERED THEMSELVES AROUND PREACHING. Notice in Nehemiah 8:4 the words, “And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood.” Real revival is built around the pulpit. Every great revival has been preceded by great preaching of the Word of God. (Teacher, stress to the pupils the importance of hearing the Bible preached. Teach them to stay for the preaching services and hear the Word of God as it is preached.)
- IV. THE PEOPLE SHOWED THEIR REVIVAL WITH EMOTION. Notice in Nehemiah 8:5, 6 that they stood up when the Word of God was read. Notice in verse 6, “...And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.” There is no way to separate real revival from emotion. There was joy, delight, and excitement. It was a thrilling time. (Teacher, take a while to show the pupils that they should become excited by the Bible and the things of God.)
- V. THE PEOPLE SEPARATED THEMSELVES FROM WRONG AND WRONGDOERS. Notice Nehemiah 9:2. Here is an important, necessary part in revival--separation from the world and from worldly things. There is no way to have great revival unless God’s people are separated from the world. (Teacher, stress the importance of running with the right crowd and doing the right things. Stress the danger of sinful habits, sinful places, and close association with sinful people.)
- VI. THE PEOPLE REPENTED AND CONFESSED THEIR SIN. See Nehemiah 9:1-3. Repentance and confession are vital for revival. Here are the people repenting and confessing their sins before the Lord. To confess is to admit one’s sins; to repent is to turn from one’s sin. There is no revival without turning from sin, repenting, and confessing. These are necessary to revival in a church, a country, or in the heart of an individual.
- VII. THE PEOPLE WEPT. Several times throughout these passages weeping is mentioned. As the people rejoiced, as they confessed, as they separated themselves from wrong, as the Word of God was read, etc., weeping was prevalent. In every great revival are tears, and there is weeping. May God give it to us.

CONCLUSION: The people are now back to the Promised Land from Babylon. They have a job to do. Much has been done, but much is yet to be done. It must be done in the energy of the Holy Spirit. There must be revival, not only collectively but individually. Each individual Jew must have revival in his own heart, and the

nation must find revival as a people. Each of us should seek to have revival in his heart, using the aforementioned ingredients which are necessary. Let us each take care to have revival in our own hearts!