



FRESH ENCOUNTER

## THE PEOPLE OF THE WORD

MARCH 5, 2025 | DAN JESSUP

"And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel. 2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. 3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law. 4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: 6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. 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. 7 Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. 8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." (Nehemiah 8:1-8)

### INTRODUCTION

- Nehemiah mention Ezra 12 times
- \* both men contemporaries
- \* both leaders leaders in Jews returning to Jerusalem

## 1. THE CONGREGATION Required ITS READING

- A. They requested a Reading  
by Leadership

*"And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people; and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient." (Exodus 24:7)*

*"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." (1 Timothy 4:13)*

- B. They unified Themselves for  
the Purpose

*"And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." (Acts 13:44)*

- C. They attended the  
Reading Faithfully - both men & women

*"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)*

## 2. THE CONGREGATION Respected ITS PRE-EMINENCE

- A. The Elevated position of the Bible

*"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." (Psalm 12:6-7)*

*"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." (Psalm 138:2)*

- B. The Expectant heart of  
the Congregation

*"Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God." (Acts 10:33)*

C. The Expressions of the  
Congregation's

- respect
- people listened carefully to Ezra's  
reading the law  
\* from morning to midday
  - people worshiped the Lord

### 3. THE LEADERS Revealed ITS TRUTH

- A. They Were Prepared as a team
- B. They Read distinctly - easy to understand
- C. They Interpreted correctly
- D. They Taught for understanding

*"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached  
in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."  
(Luke 24:47)*

*"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three  
sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,  
3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered,  
and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I  
preach unto you, is Christ." (Acts 17:2-3)*

### 4. THE CONGREGATION Responded TO ITS COMMANDS

- A. They Exhibited emotion  
Because of Repentance

*"For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent,  
though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath  
made you sorry, though it were but for a season. 9 Now I rejoice,  
not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance:  
for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might  
receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh  
repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of  
the world worketh death." (2 Corinthians 7:8-10)*

B. Their Repentance Led to obedience

*"And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:10-11)*

C. Their Obedience Led to Great joy

*"Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight." (Psalm 119:35)*

*"Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight." (Psalm 119:77)*

*"Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights." (Psalm 119:143)*

*"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." (Psalm 119:165)*

## CONCLUSION

## PRAYER LIST

### CHURCH PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor and Family

Spiritual Leadership Conference Asia

Leadership Team and Ministry Staff

### CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

Worship Center Remodel

College Dining Facility Remodel

### SPECIAL REQUESTS

President Trump

Laborers for the Harvest

Armed Forces

Law Enforcement

Firefighters

Medical Personnel



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