

INSTRUCTING THE PEOPLE
(Nehemiah 7:73*b* – 8:18)

- I. The People’s ASSEMBLY (Neh. 7:73*b* – 8:8)
 - A. They were UNIFIED (8:1*a*)
 - B. They asked Ezra to bring the “BOOK of MOSES” (8:1*b*-2)
 - 1. It was VALUED as God’s INSTRUCTIONS for His people
 - 2. It was READ in the presence of ALL the people
 - 3. They had built an ELEVATED PLATFORM for the reading
 - C. Ezra read from DAYLIGHT till MIDDAY (8:3-6)
 - 1. The people STOOD for the reading
 - 2. Ezra “BLESSED the LORD, the GREAT GOD”
 - 3. The people cried “AMEN, AMEN!” while lifting their HANDS
 - 4. They BOWED in WORSHIP
 - D. The Levites EXPLAINED the Law “so they UNDERSTOOD”
- II. The People’s RESPONSE (Neh. 8:9-12)
 - A. They WEPT “when they heard the words of the law” (8:9*b*)
 - B. The leaders commanded them to stop MOURNING (8:9*a*, 10-11)

1. The day was intended for FEASTING to HONOR GOD
 2. They would be STRENGTHENED by REJOICING
- C. The people DEPARTED to CELEBRATE the festival (8:12)

III. The People's OBEDIENCE (Neh. 8:13-18)

- A. The LEADERS gathered for further INSTRUCTION (8:13)
- B. They discovered they had not celebrated the Feast of Booths PROPERLY (8:14)
- C. They circulated a proclamation explaining what the people MUST DO (8:15)
- D. The people OBEYED (8:16-18)
1. They built BOOTHS on their ROOFS or COURTYARDS
 2. "There was GREAT REJOICING"
 3. The week ended with a SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

IV. Lessons

- A. REVIVALS are always related to a return to SCRIPTURE
1. The emphasis was on the WORD of GOD, not the PLACE of WORSHIP
 2. It involved ALL the PEOPLE
- B. God's Word must be TRANSLATED and EXPLAINED to be understood
- C. God's Word brings CONVICTION
- D. We must not omit emphasis on JOY in God's LOVE and MERCY