

Hebrews 13:6 (a quote from Psalm 118:6) says, “The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?” You do not need to fear man when you fear God. When you know God and believe His Word, you can stand in His strength, knowing that as your covenant partner, He will fight the battles that are before you. You are in His hands.

Nehemiah teaches us that. Let’s see what more we can learn about him this week.

DAY ONE

This week we are going to focus on the power of God in Nehemiah’s life. It will be a lesson that will deepen your love, reverence, and awe for God. If you fear (stand in awe) God, you will no longer stand in fear of man. This is why Scripture says that perfect love casts out fear (I John 4:18). God doesn’t give us a spirit of timidity (fear) but of power, love, and discipline or sound mind (II Timothy 1:7). Fear comes from Satan. Fear comes when we doubt God’s love and power. Let’s learn from Nehemiah!

1. As you begin this day of study pray that God will give you a teachable spirit and that you will grow in your awe of Him.
2. Read through Nehemiah 7:73-8:18. Mark any key words as you read and take note of any new ones that you may find (there is one specifically that should stand out). If you find one(some), add (it) them to your Keyword Bookmark and mark them. Hint: there may only be one. What was it?
3. Read through Nehemiah 8 again. As you do, pretend that you are standing there with the people. You’re part of the crowd as you hear what Nehemiah is saying. What is the atmosphere like? Do you think the people were tired? Didn’t care? Were they excited?

4. Add these words to your Bookmark, read through Nehemiah 8 once again, and make sure that these words were marked.
 - a. *Ezra* (you will see how their two lives intersected with each other in this study)
 - b. *book of the law of Moses* (synonyms and pronouns)
 - c. References to the *feasts*
5. Summarize the paragraphs of this chapter. Don't forget to add these to your Observation Worksheets.
 - a. Verses 1-8
 - b. Verses 9-12
 - c. Verses 13-18
6. Record a theme for Nehemiah 8 on your *At a Glance Chart* and your Observation Worksheet.

DAY TWO

1. Start the day in prayer and then read Nehemiah aloud and feel the events of the day. You are standing in the presence of true revival that comes when people hear and understand the Word of God. Revival comes to the hearts of the people who truly stand in awe of the Lord!
2. Let's step back from the book a little and see how we have come to this point. Look at your Nehemiah At a Glance Chart and review the events of each chapter.
 - a. What was the focus of chapters 1-6? How long did it take? What was the atmosphere surrounding these chapters?
 - b. What happens in chapter 7?
 - c. What was the timing of these events? Look at Nehemiah 7:73.
 - d. Now look at the timing of Nehemiah 8.

3. What was the first day of the seventh month like according to Nehemiah 8?
 - a. What kind of day was it according to Nehemiah?
 - b. The people heard the Word of God as it was read to them. How did they respond and why do you think they responded in that way?
 - c. What did the Levites have to do and what does that tell you about the people?
 - d. What instruction was given by Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites?
4. Now it is time for some application.
 - a. What is the response by people broken by their sin?
 - b. If someone wasn't broken of their sin, would they have the same results? Why?
 - c. What caused the people to be broken?
 - d. Can you see any parallel to the making of disciples in Matthew 28:18-20? What is important about discipling people?

5. You have been introduced to Ezra in chapter 8. We have talked about him in class, but since he is a contemporary of Nehemiah, you should know a little bit more about this man.
 - a. Make a list of what you learned about Ezra. You can make that list here or in the column of your Observation Worksheet.
 - b. You have seen what is said about Ezra in Nehemiah, now let's go back to the book of Ezra. Read Ezra 7:1-10 and list what you learn about Ezra. You can record that with the list you made above.
 - c. Is there anything in Ezra's life that you could apply to your own life?
6. You should have marked the *book of the law* as you read through chapter 8.
 - a. Make a list of what you learned by making the the book of the law.
 - b. What can you learn about the Word of God from this chapter? What did the people want to know? How does that compare with what you are doing with this study?
 - c. What do they discover and how do they respond?

7. Now back to Nehemiah 8. Look for what happened on the second day of the seventh month, the month of Tishri. The Law that Ezra read mentioned feasts they were to celebrate in the seventh month. There is a chart on page OWS 58. Refer to that chart and read through the feasts that are being referred to.
 - a. Read Leviticus 23:33-44 and record what you learn.
 - b. Now read Deuteronomy 16:13-17 and record any addition information you see about this feast.

The people rejoiced because they heard and understood the Law of God, God's Word. Rejoice as you rest in God's Word. You can take your sorrows and hurts to Him and He can take them from you and send you away rejoicing. Isn't God AWESOME! Therefore, stand firm!

DAY THREE AND DAY FOUR

Over the next two days, you are going to be dealing with Nehemiah 9. This is a treasure trove of information as you look back over Israel's history. It is not an overly long chapter, but I want you to use it to enhance your knowledge of Old Testament history. You could do all this work in a day, but I encourage you to take your time and spend time thinking, meditating, praying, and rejoicing in who God is. So hang on tight.

1. Carefully and slowly read through Nehemiah 9 aloud. Ask God to help you see the beauty of this passage and reveal His great love for His people.
2. Begin your observations of this chapter. Be thorough. As you read mark everything on your Keyword Bookmark.
3. If you did not do this, read through the chapter again and mark every reference to God and make a list of what you learn about Him from this chapter.

4. Read through Nehemiah 9 again, and this time watch and mark every use of the word *but* and then note what happens after that word. In the margin of your Observation Worksheets, list the contrasts that you observe.
5. Read through the passage again, this time looking for the *therefore* and *however*s. Again list what you learn in the margin of the Observation Worksheets.
6. Read through the chapter one more time, this time you are watching the pronoun usage. You will notice that pronouns switch from third-person pronouns like *they*, *their*, *them* (the ancestors of Israel) to first person pronouns like *I*, *we*, *our*, *us* (Israel as a nation now). Note whenever and wherever these changes occur in the passage.
7. Record the themes for the paragraphs in Nehemiah 9 both here and on your Observation Worksheets.
 - a. Verses 1-4
 - b. Verses 5-8
 - c. Verses 9-15
 - d. Verses 16-25
 - e. Verses 26-31
 - f. Verses 32-37
 - g. Verse 38 (In the Hebrew Bible, this verse is actually 10:1)

8. Record a theme for Nehemiah 9 on the *At a Glance Chart* and on the theme line on the Observation Worksheets.
9. You can use your Nehemiah 9 Observation Worksheets for this assignment, but I pray that you will take the time to do this. Walk through Old Testament history for a moment. Write the major people and events that occurred. Once you get to the nation of Israel, this chapter will help you fill in some of the details. This should become part of you that when someone asks you a question about Israel, who they are and where they came from, you should be able to give an account - an accurate complete account. If you need more space, you can begin on your computer or another piece of paper.

- ## DAY FIVE

- 40

3. Record the themes for each paragraph. By now, you should know where to write these.
 - a. Verses 1-27
 - b. Verses 28-33
 - c. Verses 34-39
4. Record a theme for Nehemiah 10 on the *At a Glance Chart* and the Observation Worksheets.
5. Look at what the people committed to do in this chapter. By agreeing to this document, what do the signers now need to do?
6. What place does the house of God have in their lives?
7. Do you see any application to your life?
8. If you have time, you can take time to look at what the commentaries say about Nehemiah 8-10.

