

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Snow Mountain (\$28) or Winter Jam (\$10) — Saturday, Feb. 6th** - Tonight we will vote if you prefer to go either to Winter Jam or Snow Mountain. Choose Wisely!

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

“Bring out the Holy Bible!”

Nehemiah 8:1-12

1. **The PEOPLE Call for Ezra to read the Law (v.1-2)**
God was working in the midst of the people.
Did they really even know what they were asking?
Revivals start when individuals seek out the Lord, not just leaders.
2. **The Setting of Ezra Reading the Law (v.3-5)**
Look at the posture of the people:
They **STOOD** while it was read.

Look at the time that was devoted:
“from **DAYBREAK** to **NOON**” v.3

What does their posture and time say about their view of the Word?
How do we view God’s Word?
3. **The People Respond to the Law (v.6-9)**
The People **WORSHIPED** when they heard it.
“**lifted their hands**” & “**bowed down and worshipped**” v.6

The People **WEEPED** after it was explained.
After it was taught/explained conviction came.
“**for all the people had been weeping as they listened**” v.9

Are you in the Word enough to be convicted?
4. **The People CELEBRATE the Law (v.10-12)**
Why would Nehemiah tell them to celebrate?
“**REPENTENCE** is a positive word” - Pastor Ben
“**because they now understood the words that had been made known to them**” v.12

When we understand God’s Word, Repent, and Obey
it will bring a attitude of Celebration in our lives.

THE BIG PICTURE

January 21 - January 27, 2016

Read: Isaiah 1 – 7

Understanding What You Are Reading

This week you will start reading the book of Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet to the nation of Judah. He proclaimed that salvation is from the Lord, both physical and spiritual. Isaiah has several themes that discuss the eternal things of God. His strength (26:4), His judgment (33:14), joy (35:10), salvation (45:17), kindness (54:8), covenant (55:3), and light (60:19). Isaiah served as a prophet for about 60 years. **Chapters 1-39** were probably written near the middle of his life and the last **chapters 40-66** were probably written near the end of his life. Many of the verses in Isaiah speak of a awaited deliverer (9:6, 53:5-6).

Chapter 1 opens describing the nation of Israel as a rebellious nation, comparing it to a mule that needs to be beaten for it to obey (1:5). God tells the people through Isaiah to stop bringing meaningless sacrifices and stop doing evil and to do right (1:13-17). There are many metaphors and images that are used to describe the nation like a harlot, tainted treasures, and more.

In **Chapters 2– 4** God speaks against Israel’s lazy leadership and their prideful attitude thinking that they know God but they do not. God will pronounce judgment of Israel’s leaders just like he will on anyone else (3:12-15). God also states that the women of rich men who love to party will be judged also (3:16-25). **Chapter 5** is a “vineyard song” where God warns Israel that Judgment is coming through foreign nations around them.

Isaiah 6 is famously known as Isaiah’s commission, his call from God to be a prophet to the nation of Judah and speak for the Lord. It describes a vision that he had with six-winged seraphs, a heavenly throne scene, and thunderous shaking of the earth. The seraphs call out “**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory**” (6:3). **Isaiah 7** is also known well because it gives a prophetic message from the LORD about one born of a virgin who will be called Immanuel (7:14).

THE BIG PICTURE is to see that God’s chosen Israel is not excluded from being disciplined and judged for their sins. In the same way, God will also discipline us when we need correction. (**Hebrews 12:7-11**)

Journal Ideas: (Some suggestions) Write a one sentence summary of each chapter. Make a list of the sins you struggle with and ask God to help you repent of them. What metaphors or images can you find in these chapters? What verses can you find that point to Christ?

Pray: (Some suggestions) Review and revise your weekly prayer lit in your journals. Pray for Westside its leaders. Pray for yourself to walk closely with the Lord. Ask God to give you a burden for the unchurched. Ask God to start a revival with you first before anyone else. Repent from anything that would keep God from moving in your life.

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