

# Nehemiah 8:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:

## Analysis

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**And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:**

This verse within Nehemiah 8 addresses themes of Scripture centrality, teaching, understanding, worship. The public Scripture reading demonstrates how spiritual renewal requires understanding God's Word, not mere ritual observance. This passage demonstrates biblical principles applicable across both testaments—God's sovereignty combined with human responsibility, faith expressed through obedient action, and the necessity of both individual and corporate commitment to covenant faithfulness. Nehemiah models leadership that combines vision, prayer, courage, integrity, and perseverance amid sustained opposition.

## Historical Context

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Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. The spiritual reforms under Ezra and Nehemiah shaped Judaism for centuries, establishing Scripture's centrality and patterns of worship continuing into the intertestamental period and beyond. The Persian period was crucial transitional time when Jewish identity shifted from monarchical nationalism to Torah-centered covenantal community. Without political independence, the people's cohesion depended on shared scripture,

temple worship, and covenant obedience. This established patterns persisting through the Second Temple period into New Testament times. Understanding this context illuminates Jesus's ministry among a people shaped by these reforms and challenges.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does regular engagement with Scripture transform understanding of God and His will for your life?
2. What specific commitments do you need to make (or renew) regarding Bible reading, worship, and obedience?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּמְצְאוּ	כָּתוּב	בְּתוֹךְ הַ	אֲשֶׁר	צִוָּה	יְהוָה
And they found	written	in the law	H834	had commanded	which the LORD
H4672	H3789	H8451		H6680	H3068
בְּיַד	מֹשֶׁה	אֲשֶׁר	יָשָׁב	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל
by	Moses	H834	should dwell	that the children	of Israel
H3027	H4872		H3427	H1121	H3478
					יָשָׁבוּ
					H5521
בְּחַג	בְּחַדָּשׁ	הַשְּׁבִיעִי			
in the feast	month	of the seventh			
H2282	H2320	H7637			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 23:34** (References Lord): Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

**John 7:2** (Parallel theme): Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.

**Genesis 33:17** (Parallel theme): And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

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