

# Nehemiah 8:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.

## Analysis

**And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.**

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

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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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**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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וְאֶשְׁר ר

H834

וְשָׂמֵחַ יְהוָה  
And that they should publish and proclaim

H8085

בְּכָל כְּאֵל מִשְׁבֵּת יְהוָה

H6963

H3605

בְּכָל כְּאֵל מִשְׁבֵּת יְהוָה

in all their cities

and in Jerusalem

H5892

H3389

לְאמֹר וּבִירוּשָׁלָם מִעֲרִיכָם

saying

H559

צָא וְגַם כְּרָבָר

Go forth

H3318

עַל הַר מִזְרָחָה

H2022

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

and fetch

and branches

H935

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

and branches

H5929

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

olive

H2132

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

and branches

H5929

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

branches

H6086

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

and pine

H8081

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

and branches

H5929

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

and myrtle

H1918

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

and branches

H5929

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

and palm

H8558

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

and branches

H5929

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

branches

H6086

וְאֶל כָּל יְהוָה יְמִינָה

סֶכֶת לְעֵשֶׂת עֵבֶת

of thick

to make

booths

as it is written

H5687

H6213

H5521

H3789

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 23:40** (Parallel theme): And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

**Deuteronomy 16:16** (Parallel theme): Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

**Leviticus 23:4** (Parallel theme): These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.