

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

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

וְאָשְׁרָ	וְשָׁמַר יְעֹזֵר	וְיַעֲבֹד יְהוָה	קִלְ	בְּכֹל	
H834	And that they should publish	and proclaim	H6963	H3605	
	H8085	H5674			
עֲרֵיהֶם	וּבִירוּשָׁלַם	לֵאמֹר	צֵא וְ	הָרֵר	
in all their cities	and in Jerusalem	saying	Go forth	unto the mount	
H5892	H3389	H559	H3318	H2022	
וְהָבִיאוּ	וְעֵלֵי י	זֵית	וְעֵלֵי י	עֵץ	שֵׁן מִן
and fetch	and branches	olive	and branches	branches	and pine
H935	H5929	H2132	H5929	H6086	H8081
וְעֵלֵי י	הַדָּס	וְעֵלֵי י	תְּמָרִים	וְעֵלֵי י	עֵץ
and branches	and myrtle	and branches	and palm	and branches	branches
H5929	H1918	H5929	H8558	H5929	H6086
עֲבֵת	לַעֲשֹׂת	סֹכֵת	כַּכְתּוּב:		
of thick	to make	booths	as it is written		
H5687	H6213	H5521	H3789		

Additional Cross-References

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.