

Nehemiah 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

Analysis

And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day 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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

בָּאתָל	לִפְנֵי	פְּתֻוםָה	אֶת	בְּכָהּ	עִזָּתָא	לִפְנֵי	אָ
brought	And Ezra	the priest	H853	the law		before	the congregation
H935	H5830	H3548		H8451		H6440	H6951
וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ
לְשֹׁמֶן	עַ	מִבְּ	יְ	אֲשֶׁר	וְ	וְ	לְשֹׁמֶן
both of men	H5704	and women	H3605	with understanding		and all that could hear	
H376		H802		H995		H8085	
וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ
לְחַדְשָׁה	אַפְתָּה	לְחַדְשָׁה	לְחַדְשָׁה	לְשִׁבְיעִי			
day	upon the first	month	of the seventh				
H3117	H259	H2320	H7637				

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 23:24 (Parallel theme): Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

Malachi 2:7 (Word): For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

Numbers 29:1 (Parallel theme): And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you.

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